



Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
11 a.m. worship, Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully-devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.



Christ our Peace

The Words of Preparation

The peace of God is the presence of God—life reconciled, restored, made whole in Him.

Jürgen Moltmann

THE WELCOME

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a Get Connected card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates, and fellowship opportunities.

THE INTROIT

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

arr. Gretchen Bashforth

Gloria Women's Choir; Gretchen Bashforth, director

Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over." For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (2) Peace

Moses Mwangi and Charity Nyingi and Mitchele and Alvin Mwangi

The candle of hope is burning, reminding us that the Hope of the world is Jesus. Today, on the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace, as a sign of the coming light of Christ, our Prince of Peace.

In this season, we prepare ourselves for the time when Christ shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; for the day when they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Even so, come Emmanuel. Come and establish Your righteous rule. Come, and bring Your peace to our broken world.

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

◆ THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

Laura Tham

THE FIRST READING

John 14:23-31

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the wilderness of our worry, in the waiting rooms of our lives, Jesus says: "My peace I give to you." This day, we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Prince of Peace by confessing our sins. In our confession, we come with longing on our lips, echoing the ancient cry: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*. Come, Lord Jesus, and ransom us from fear, from chaos, from all that steals our peace. Holy God, receive our humble hearts. Return us to Christ and to his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. In your mercy, hear our prayers ... *(in silence)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel, that there is indeed forgiveness for anyone who calls upon the name of Christ Jesus. Receive this good news and be at peace. **Alleluia! Amen!**

THE SOLO

Every Valley, from *Messiah*
Brad Morgan, soloist

G. F. Handel

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. Isaiah 40:4

◆ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

◆ THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **AMEN.**

◆ THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES**THE HYMN OF PREPARATION 36**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

THE SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

THE SERMON

Christ our Peace

Rev. Julia Metcalf

THE OFFERING**Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes**

Hal Hopson

Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums, nor the manner of His airs, nor by anything He wears; thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or His gown, but His coming known shall be by the holy harmony which His coming makes in thee. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN 8****Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

TRURO

THE MINUTE FOR MISSION**Celebrating Christmas Together**

Lisa Berry

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION****THE POSTLUDE****Improvisation on the tune VENI EMMANUEL**◆ *Please stand*

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Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship! We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you; if this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a *Welcome Guest Card*, or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Advent Sermon Series (Promise Fulfilled): This Advent season, we explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through the prophetic writings of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah stands at a crossroads, looking back at the unfolding story of God's redemption that we have explored this fall, and looking ahead to the promise of God's coming Kingdom and the Advent of His great salvation. Join us as we consider how the words of Isaiah find their fulfillment in Christ and how they speak to us today as we await the return of our once and future King.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Gary Casteel, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, B. J. Dollahon, Debi Foster, Janice Garbart, Jim Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Patricia Hall, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Amy Lesh, Barbara Mace, Margaret Martinson, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Barbara Mugge, David Osterholt, David Perkins, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, Carolyn Perryman, Joe Robson, Mary Ruddle, Bob Shipman, Vanda Simmons, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Sally Stewart, Marcia Tromp, Ralph Veatch, Gene Vickery, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, and Norma Wallace.

The Joy of New Life! We Welcome: Joanna Lynn Evans, daughter of Katie and Brandon Evans, who was born on November 25.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Karen Jones on the death of her father, Tom Swatek, on November 23.

WORSHIP NOTES

Services are broadcast on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Gene Vickery.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry Hall, Heather Davis and Armenta and George Davis, by Patricia Hall and family.

Please notify the church if you have a pastoral need, change of address, phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically in lieu of the offering plates at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code.



FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive a weekly prayer prompt, please text @pastorfpc to "81010".

Prayer in the Chapel: Join together from 10:40 - 10:55 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone whom you know is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-201-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

Young Adults: First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Instagram at @fpcyoungadults or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

HAPPENING TODAY

2026 Stewardship Campaign - Live Gratefully. Give Intentionally: For 140 years, First Church has been blessed by the faithful gifts of those who came before us—laying a foundation of ministry, mission, and worship that continues to shape lives today. As we look ahead, we embrace the call to grateful living and intentional giving, recognizing that every gift is an expression of gratitude to God and a commitment to His work. This year, our goal is to welcome 40 new givers who will join in building upon this legacy, ensuring that the next generation experiences the same grace and generosity that have sustained us for more than a century. Every gift counts, no matter the amount. Together, we honor the past and invest in the future. Will you join us? Make your pledge today at FirstChurchTulsa.org/Stewardship26 or scan the QR code provided. Your intentional gift helps us continue this story of faith and generosity.



Interested in joining a Sunday School class? For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at edevore@firstchurchtulsa.org or click the QR code.



First Friends in the Pews: Meet at the Atrium coffee bar 15 minutes before each worship service.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Men's Monday Bible Study: Mondays, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., E103, an informal fellowship of men who want to grow in their understanding and application of God's word. During lunch they will read a book of the Bible followed by a Bible study.

Precept Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., E100, led by Denise Rounds; what does it mean to be holy and to know and love God deeply? They will study 1, 2 and 3 John and explore answers to these questions as they consider the fundamentals of Christian beliefs.

Women of First Church are invited to the annual Christmas Luncheon, hosted by the First Ladies Council. Following the 11:00 Worship services in the Miller Library on Sunday, December 14, join us for food, Christmas music and fellowship. While there is no cost for this event, a reservation is needed. To register contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029/kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or click the QR code.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Study Series at First Church: During this Advent season, our church family is invited to prepare our hearts through a four-week study called, “Promise Fulfilled” centered on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Sunday School classes will explore weekly video teachings from our pastors, and these presentations, as well as downloadable materials, will also be available on our website for small groups and independent study.

Packets of Advent study cards to be used as you light your wreath will be available beginning today. These will contain scripture and discussion questions and are suitable for all ages. We look forward to walking together through this meaningful season as we anticipate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, December 28 at 9:30 a.m. in the atrium and Stephenson Hall.

Epiphany Bonfire and Plunge: Sunday, January 4, at 5:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. Bring your greens for the bonfire and plunge into the water of the lake. The event will include a brief liturgy, cookies, and hot cider/cocoa by Lake Parthenia. Greenery drop-off will begin on Wednesday, January 1 in the designated area by the Glass Cabin at Camp Loughridge.

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

- December 21 **Christmas Music Sunday**
- December 24 **Christmas Eve Services**
(all are candle-lighting)
 - 2:00 Carols and Communion
 - 5:00 Children’s Nativity
 - 8:00 Lessons and Carols
 - 11:00 Communion
- December 25 **Christmas Day Service, 11:00, Kerr Chapel**
- December 28 9:30 a.m., **Pancake Breakfast** and
11:00 a.m., **Worship in the Sanctuary**
- December 31 **New Year’s Eve Watchnight**

USE YOUR TALENTS

Join our TV Ministry Team: Gain valuable video and broadcast experience while helping us reach thousands of TV and internet viewers each week. We’re looking for students and adults to volunteer in this ministry. For more information, contact Alex Pennell, TV/Video Manager, at 314-607-1032.

The Presbyterian Women’s December Mission is the Emergency Infant Services. Please consider donating funds to purchase diapers, which are the most needed items distributed by EIS. Cash or checks may be placed in the acrylic donation box located at the welcome desk in the atrium throughout the month of December.

Become a mentor to new First Church members: Help new members feel welcomed and connected to First Church! We have launched a mentorship program, pairing each new member with someone to walk alongside them for six months. As a mentor, you will greet them on Sundays and connect with them once a month. Contact Emma Myatt at emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org to sign up.



Sing with the Choir for Christmas! You are invited to add your voice to the Chancel Choir for the worship services on Christmas Music Sunday, December 21, and Christmas Eve. Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. on December 10, and 17. For details contact Ron Pearson at rpearson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1013.

Flowers and Christmas Greenery: Every December you will notice the greenery that decorates the church; this greenery is given in memory of loved ones. Each Sunday of the year, families give flowers honoring their loved ones. If you would like to give flowers in 2026, please email your information to Dionna Schooley at dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Job Opportunity: Ministry Assistant for Mission, Outreach and TIF, this position provides administrative and logistical support for FPC mission and outreach ministries, the Tulsa International Fellowship and new member integration. If you are interested, please go to the First Church website for more information.

SERMON NOTES

Come, Grow Your Faith!**TODAY 12/7**

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:45 am	Rejoice Ringers, 309
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:15 am	First Church Choristers, 308
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 12/8

12:00 pm	Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm	Overtone Rehearsal, 309

Tuesday 12/9

9:30 am	Precept Bible Study, E100
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Wednesday 12/10

11:30 am	Courage, Dear Heart, E102
5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Praise Band, and Celebration Singers, Powerhouse
5:45 pm	Gloria Women's Choir, 308
6:00 pm	POW, Amass Exodus
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday 12/11

10:00 am	Hearts for the Lord, E313
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Saturday 12/13

8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows
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Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., December 14

Cornerstone	<i>Advent Series</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Advent Series</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Advent Series</i>	206
Foundations	<i>Advent Series</i>	E104
Harbingers	<i>Advent Series</i>	E202
Morning Glory	<i>Advent Series</i>	B318
Reflections	<i>Advent Series</i>	E103
Shepherds	R. C. Sproul Teachings	E203
Sojourners	<i>Revelation</i>	E204
Sowers	<i>Advent Series</i>	E205
The Vine	<i>Advent Series</i>	E100
UKirk/Young Adults	<i>Advent Series</i>	E201
Westminster Forum	<i>Incarnation</i>	E200

THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS AND ORGANIST

Daniel Hutchinson, *Interim Senior Pastor*, James Estes, *Associate Pastor*
 Rev. Julia Metcalf, *Associate Pastor* Wambugu Gachungi, *Associate Pastor*
 Ron Pearson, *Organist and Music Director*