



***The People  
of  
God in Worship***

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*Called to make fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ:  
Inwardly Strong  
and  
Outwardly Focused.*

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**DECEMBER 13, 2020  
11:00 AM  
SANCTUARY**

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa  
Born by grace in 1885*

# Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

## The Words of Preparation

It is the Holy Spirit and not human initiative that brings Jesus into personal life. When Jesus comes to anyone in history, even in His advent coming to Mary, it is always the work of the Spirit, not of human preparation or enterprise. Every conversion is a virgin birth. F. Dale Bruner

## The Prelude

Fantasy on the tune HYFRYDOL arr. Hal H. Hopson  
*Overtones Bell Choir; Gretchen Bashforth, director*

## The Welcome

## The Lighting of the Advent Candle (3) Joy

*Steve and Laura Krohn; Alex, Sarah, Elijah and Judah Smith*

Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Make His paths straight!**

For in Jesus the Messiah, joy meets us in our sadness and fear.

In Him, there is always cause for joy!

**As You have come, Emmanuel, so come again! Alleluia! Amen!**

## ◆ The Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## **The Prayer of Confession, Thanksgiving and Adoration**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

### **The First Reading**

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

Dr. Paul Maxwell

When your children ask you in time to come, "What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?" then you shall say to your children:

"We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household.

He brought us out from there in order to bring us in --to give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors.

Then the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case.

If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right."

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

Elder Gary Mathews

Sophia Grace Miller, daughter of Brett and Abigail Miller

## The Carol

**Lord, bless this dear child and wrap her in love; as we pray for her, we pray the same for each other...Lord, hear our prayers:**

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and ever, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

## The Young Disciples' Blessing

*Pipes, Shepherds, and God's Idea of Who's Important.*

(Ron Pearson, Courtney Miller, Julia Metcalf)

### ◆ **The Hymn** 58 While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks WINCHESTER OLD

While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

"Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

All glory be to God on high, and to the Earth be peace; good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!"

### ◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** (The Apostles' Creed) Rev. James Estes

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 Gospel Reading**      Matthew 1:18-25

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic sermon to full term:

*Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; they will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").*

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

## **The Sermon**                      Joseph's Dilemma                      Dr. Jim Miller *While Joseph was trying to figure a way out... Matthew 18:20*

## **The Anthem**                      An Advent Acclamation                      arr. Stacey Nordmeyer *Chancel Choir Ensemble*

Look to the light, prepare the way. Turn from night, embrace the day. Let all creation praise with singing; set every bell in heaven ringing. Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon! Look to the dawn, prepare your heart. Waken your song, let worship start. This is a day of celebration; join in the music of jubilation. Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon! Look to the star that gilds the East, golden of heart and burning with peace. See now the torch is rising yonder, lifting our hearts with glorious wonder. Raise every candle, shine the news; Christ, the Light, is coming soon! Prepare the way!

## The Joys and Concerns of the Church

### The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Carol** 31      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing      MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the  
angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased  
in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in  
His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may  
die. Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

### The Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting and Report

Sunday, December 13, 2020:

*Gary Mathews, Clerk of Session*

- Prayer of Thanksgiving

- The Clerk’s Report:

The Call of the corporate and Congregational Meeting

Announcement of First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa Corporation for 2020

Approval of the Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting and the congregational meeting on November 17, 2019.

- The Treasurer’s Report Elder Vic Morgan  
Presentation of the 2019 financial Results and the 2020 Budget

- Election of Officers

Each year a committee is charged with nominating persons to serve in leadership positions throughout the life of this congregation. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of this task. It is one of the most significant responsibilities delegated to any committee.

We are grateful for the special and prayerful consideration that the 2020 Nominating Committee brought to this task and we offer to the congregation the following persons whom we believe God is calling into specific leadership positions within First Church:

**ELDERS – 2023**

Maxwell Asare  
Dacia Bird  
Janine Burlin  
Debbie Favell  
Rusty Gaddy  
Angela Garrett  
Patrick Kirunda  
Elisa Mangesho  
Ann McCoy  
Amy Russell  
Jim Scheiper

**DEACONS - 2020**

Sheri Allen  
Michael Homan  
Cindy Johnson  
Lucy Kamande  
Clint McQueen  
Dylan Seibert  
Ed Slier  
Julie Steiner

## **Trustees - 2023**

Dr. Eric Olson  
Robert Pielsticker  
Amy Tingleaf

### **With gratitude to the 2020 Nominating Committee**

Ara Jacobson, *Chair*, Dru McQueen, *Vice-Chair*, Matthew Bristow, Kelly Brown, Elizabeth DeVore, Larry Ewing, Pam Hillis, Holbrook Lawson, Jan Miller, Carolyn Neely, Scott Rodehaver, Sheldon Waeger, John Woolman.

*“All ministry in the church is a gift from Jesus Christ. Members and officers alike serve mutually under the mandate of Christ who is the Chief Minister of all. His ministry is the basis of all ministries: the standard for all offices is the pattern of the One who came ‘not to be served, but to serve.’” (The Confession of 1967)*

## ◆ **The Hymn**      To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He hath done!*

## ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

## ◆ **The Postlude**      Improvisation on the tune VENI EMMANUEL

◆ Please Stand

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## Worship Notes

**The Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary** are given to the glory of God by the Halliburton family --with gratitude for the “Greens Teams” past and present, who have beautified the season over the past fifty years.

**The festive exterior wreaths are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:**

- George and Daphne Matson, Geordie Matson, Mark Matson, and Michael and Janice Dorndorfer by Laurie, Andy and Laura Beth Matson, Erin and Adam Lawson, and Bridget Matson.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.
- Duncan Fuller by his family, Ellen, Lindsey, and Emily Fuller, Sophia and Connor Dunaway and Duncan Dougall.

**Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord** may be given electronically at [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org) or text 405-276-4141.

**For those who need assistance** in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

**Please notify the church if there** is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or [kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## First Church Update

**Our annual congregational meeting** has been called by the Session and set for today, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary.

**We're grateful for a congregation that continues to give generously** in ways that further the ministries of Christ. The Session is putting together the 2021 budget. Thank you for returning your “estimate-of-giving” cards, which will enable the Session to do its best work.

**“Let the little children come to me!”** During this season when many are not able to serve in children’s Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., would you be willing to wrap the arms of Jesus around these little ones –perhaps once a month? Please contact Courtney Miller at 918-301-1009 or [cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Vespers – Carols Sing Along** - Join us for Vespers tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Courtyard for a time of beautiful worship and carols. Outdoor heaters will keep you warm!

**The Joy of Christmas Music Sunday** is ahead: next Sunday, December 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Lift up your hearts!

**Our annual *Christmas Joy Offering*** will be received next Sunday. Your gift goes to the PCUSA Board of Pensions and supports those who have served as missionaries, pastors, and Christian educators.

**FPC University Ministries:** (Follow us at [@ukirktulsa](https://twitter.com/ukirktulsa) for updates)

**“Gather”** is fellowship and worship for 18-24 year-olds, whether University students or not. We meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Miller Library.

**“Grow”** is Sunday School for 18-24 year-olds, whether University students or not. We meet every Sunday after worship from 12:15-1:30 in the Miller Library. Lunch will be served!

**UKirk and Exodus Alumni *Modified* Christmas Party**, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 6:30-8:30pm, Miller Library, First Church

**Exodus Alumni Lunch**, Sunday, December 20, 2020, 12:15-2:00pm, First Presbyterian Church, Kirkland Reception Room, Bernsen Center

**Presbyterian Women’s** mission for December is Emergency Infant Services, we will be collecting funds to purchase food, diapers and formula. Also, gently used clean clothing, blankets, socks, coats, sweaters and of course toys will be greatly appreciated. The container will be in the atrium.

**Considering First Church as your spiritual home?** We'd love to welcome you to our "no-strings-attached" Inquirers Class. We'll join together in room E104, Sundays, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, at 9:15 a.m. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918 301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**The January Series**, a free 15-day lecture series from Calvin College continues, but will look different in 2021. This year the Series will be completely virtual. Each presentation will be available January 6 – 26, from 11:30 to 12:30 and can be viewed on your own device. You will need to register, and can find the link at <https://calvin.edu/january-series/>. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Faith Partners Addiction Ministry** is available for confidential conversation and support during these difficult days. If you or a loved one are struggling with the effects of addiction we are here for you. We have either walked in your shoes or have specialized training. You're encouraged to call the staff liaison, Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028, for more information.

**First Church is a praying community!** You'll find a prayer request card in the sanctuary pew or the Friendship Register. Place it in the offering plate at the doors of the sanctuary, or in the prayer request box at the *Welcome Center* in the Miller Atrium. Pastors and members of the Guild of Intercessors will uphold your concerns in prayer.

**Serve the Master and love on His children!** The Masterwork Academy welcomes you! Perhaps you can give an hour, perhaps a day. Leaders are needed from noon-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you'd like to know more about how you can be a part of this beautiful ministry, email Kelly Brown at [kbrown@masterworkacademy.org](mailto:kbrown@masterworkacademy.org) or call 918-370-0207.

**Director of Operations** - FPC is searching for a full time Executive Director of Operations to fill Bruce Blackman's position, who is retiring. This position provides oversight and leadership for all the business-related operations of the Church. Key areas of accountability include management and maintenance of Church facilities and grounds; management of human resources and benefits; oversight of accounting, information technology

and food services. Requirements include: a Bachelor's degree in business or equivalent, strong communication skills, problem solving and analytical skills and commitment of Christian faith. If you are interested, email your resume to Tonye Briscoe at [tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org) .

## **PARISH REGISTER**

**Prayers for Healing:** Jane Azlin, MaryAnn Blackburn, Billy Boyd, Roy Cail, Joan Hastings Camp, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Donna Gilliam, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Dottie and Walt MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Jan Miller, Pamela Neumann, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Janie Quint, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Ben Thomas, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Calvin Swindell, a member since 1934, died on December 9.

Dear First Church families and friends,

We're all aware of the increasing transmission of this COVID virus. And we all want to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here. As we make our way into our Christmas celebrations the First Church Session has enacted a "mask-always" protocol for events here at First Church, including worship.

It will be a great day when we can lift these protocols --but for now we ask you to abide by these expectations-- that we hope and pray will serve the common good.

## **COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

*Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30*

Faith and Family	204
Sojourners (All Ages)	E204
The Vine ( <i>Singles/couples</i> )	E100
Young Adults ( <i>20's and 30's</i> )	E201
Pastor's Class	Stephenson Hall

### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Today** 12/13/20

#### **Worship and Events**

- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and Great Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Vespers Evening Worship – Courtyard

**Monday** 12/14/20

Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103

**Tuesday** 12/15/20

Precept Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Room E100

**Wednesday** 12/16/20

Downtown Theological  
Roundtable 11:00 a.m., Miller Library  
Gloria Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m., Choir Room  
Ensemble Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m., Choir Room

**Saturday** 12/19/20

Before the Rooster Crows 8:45 a.m., Room E103



***Let every heart prepare Him room; O Come, let us adore Him!***

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC: NEXT SUNDAY**

December 20

A morning of joyful carols and rich choral ensemble music

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

*(all are candlelighting services)*

- 2:00 p.m. Carols and Communion
- 4:00 p.m. A Family Christmas
- 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
- 11:00 p.m. Watch-night Christmas and Communion

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 11:00 a.m. The Joy of Christmas! (Kerr Chapel)

**FESTIVAL SUNDAY**

December 29

- 9:30 a.m. Waffle Breakfast (Stephenson Hall)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
  - One service only
  - No Sunday School

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Thursday, December 31

- 11:00 p.m. Watch-night Service (Sanctuary)

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program on the pew as you leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ or Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: [bit.ly/fpcregister](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



*December 13, 2020, Sanctuary*

## **THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS**

James D. Miller, Ph.D., *Pastor*

Daniel Hutchinson, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

James Estes, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

Wambugu Gachungi, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*



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