



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
8 a.m. worship, Kerr Chapel

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

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



Christ Our Joy

The Words of Preparation

If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

THE WELCOME

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Nancy Walters

Lezleigh Holloway, soloist

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King. Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, joy of every longing heart.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (3) Joy

June and Porter Shults

The candles of hope and peace are burning. This morning we light the candle of joy, remembering the words of the Angel, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

So come, let us join our voices and joyfully proclaim the coming of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us!

Alleluia, Amen!

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

◆ THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

Elder Jessica Bowman

THE FIRST READING

Luke 1:46-56

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, our souls magnify You, and we rejoice in You, our God and Savior. We come before You, mindful of our sin. We admit that we have been proud in our hearts instead of humble before You. We admit that we have sought to fill our lives with the riches of this world instead of the fulness of Your presence. We admit that we have not had Your heart for the poor and the destitute. Lord, in Your great mercy, pardon those who truly repent and so work in our hearts that we might truly glorify You and magnify Your Holy Name. Through Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray... *(in silence)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel, that in Christ Jesus there is full forgiveness of sins for everyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **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 SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE OFFERING 15**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LANCASHIRE

THE SECOND READING

Isaiah 55:1-12

THE SERMON

Christ Our Joy

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN 40**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION****THE POSTLUDE****Flourish on Joy to The World**

Michael Dell

◆ *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): During 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, Nelda Brown, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Gary Casteel, 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, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Sally Stewart, Marcia Tromp, Ralph Veatch, Gene Vickery, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, and Norma Wallace.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Rick Drisko, a member since 1990, died on December 4; Scott Lewis, a member since 2022, died on December 7; Vanda Simmons, a member since 1977, died on December 8.

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 Bill Cordell.

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-eight years.

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

- George, Daphne, Geordie, and Mark Matson; Michael and Janice Dorndorfer; and Bill and Peg Templeton by the Matson and Lawson families.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe, Pam Hawes and family.

- Vivienne and Allan J. Edwards, Jr., and Duncan Fuller by their family, Ellen, Lindsey and Emily Fuller, Sophia and Connor Dunnaway and Duncan Dougall.
- Jane Siverson Price and Katherine Perry Bowman by Frances and Chuck Bowman and family.
- Art Birchall by Bob and Cathy Laird, and Paddy and Eric Sanderfur.

In honor of:

- Jane Mulkey by Jim Mulkey and the Simon 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.



Young Adult Christmas party: Join us tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Kate Swan's home. There will be caroling, cocoa and cookies. Please bring cookies or a treat to share. For more information contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org.

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

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.

Volunteers needed: Join the Deacons on Tuesday, December 16, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Bernsen lobby to fill Christmas gift bags for the Anderson Christmas Party. All are welcome to come serve and share Christ's love in a tangible way.

Celebrating Christmas Together: Join us on Friday, December 19, as we bring Christmas joy to Anderson Elementary. Volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. to load and unload gift bags, at noon to help set up, and at 1:00 p.m. to host the party at Anderson School. Volunteers will serve alongside the Deacons in sharing Christ's love with these wonderful students.

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.

Advent and Christmas

December 21 **Christmas Music Sunday**

8:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel

8:30 a.m., Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m., Great Hall

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

December 24 **Christmas Eve Services**

(Candle-lighting at all Services)

2:00 p.m., Carols and Communion

5:00 p.m., Children's Nativity

8:00 p.m., Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m., Communion

December 25 **Christmas Day Service**, 11:00, Kerr Chapel

December 28 **First Sunday After Christmas**

9:30 a.m., Pancake Breakfast

11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary

December 31 **New Year's Eve Watchnight**

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, December 28 at 9:30 a.m. in the atrium and Stephenson Hall. The cost is \$5 for adults and children eat free. Click the QR code to register.



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.

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.



Internship Opportunity: Are you a college student who loves God and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program! You can go to the employment tab on the First church website for more information and an application.

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.

SERMON NOTES

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 12/14

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| 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 12/15

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

Tuesday 12/16

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| 9:30 am | Precept Bible Study, E102 |
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Wednesday 12/17

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| 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 12/18

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| 10:00 am | Hearts for the Lord, E313 |
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Saturday 12/20

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| 8:45 am | Before the Rooster Crows |
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Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., December 21

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| 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*