



The Work of Christ... And His Church

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

DECEMBER 17, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Joy is not the requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence. It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ; it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience. We come to God (and the revelation of God's ways) because none of us have it within ourselves, except momentarily, to be joyous. Joy is the product of abundance; it is the overflow of vitality...Inadequate sinners as we are, none of us can manage that for very long...But there is something we can do. We can decide to live in response to the abundance of God, and not under the dictatorship of our own poor needs. Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

Joy is the serious business of heaven. C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*

The Prelude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Overtones Bells

arr. Lloyd Larson

The Welcome

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register.)

The Processional Hymn

9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Choir sings after stanza 3)

VENI EMMANUEL

Veni, veni Emmanuel, captivum solve Israel. Qui gemit in exilio, privatus Dei Filio. Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Light the Candle

Carl Schalk

First Church Choristers

Light the candle of joy today, the Giver of joy is here! Welcome the joy we crave and pray for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you. Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you.

Bill and Harriet Derrevere

The candles of hope and peace are burning. This morning, we light the candle of joy, proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel, God with us!

The prophet Isaiah puts it this way: the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Even so, may we open wide our hearts and rejoice in our Savior's birth! For He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, born in a lowly manger, born to conquer sin and death!

The Introit

Joy to the World

arr. John Rutter

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rock, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessing flow far as the curse is found. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

◆ **The Call to Worship**

Luke 1:46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

For he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

So come, let us join our voices, sing for joy,

And let us worship God!

◆ **The Response of Gratitude** 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith**

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 Anthem Away in a Manger arr. John Rutter

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

The Second Reading John 15:5-11

The Sermon Christ Our Joy Rev. Dan Hutchinson

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)

The Offertory Mary, Did You Know? Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you. Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again; the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb. Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding, is the great
"I AM!"

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Anthem

The Infant King

Basque carol, arr. David Willcocks

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, *sing lullaby.* Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying: *sing lullaby.* *Sing lullaby!* Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, *sing lullaby.* Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping: *sing lullaby.* *Sing lullaby!* Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, *sing lullaby.* Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing: *sing lullaby.* *Sing lullaby!* Lullaby! Is the babe awaking? *Sing lullaby.* Hush, do not stir the Infant King, dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering death, its bondage breaking: *sing lullaby!*

◆ **The Hymn** 40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

The Charge and Benediction

The Benediction Response Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Mack Wilberg

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. *Gloria in excelsis deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain.*
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. *Refrain.* See Him in the manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain.*

+ + +

We welcome and thank these instrumentalists for their musical contribution to our service today:

Violin Ronnamarie Jensen, Rachel Hay, Nick Bashforth
Viola Jeff Cowen
Cello Pete Peterson
Flute Janet Baird
Oboe Lise Glaser

+ + +

We welcome you on this third Sunday of Advent; the Sunday of Joy! Advent is a word that means “*coming near*”. During this season, we remember that Christ has come, that Christ comes to us today, and that Christ will come again. Whatever you bring with you here today, we pray that you will sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving in His name.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you! For information, contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring,

Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Jo Carolyn Rushing, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

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*.

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*.

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.

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 55 years.

We give special thanks to the Greens Decorating Committee: Edie Allen, Minnie and Gary Casteel, Sandy Curtis, Laura and Will Keith, Bevan Keith, Jill and Steve Metcalf, Amy Tate, and Sherye Halliburton.

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

- George, Daphne, Geordie, and Mark Matson, and Michael and Janice Dorndorfer, and Bill and Peg Templeton by the Matson family.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.
- Vivienne and Allan J. Edwards, Jr., and Duncan Fuller by their family
- Jimmie Mathews by the Gary Mathews family.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Jenni Dollahon and Gretchen Bashforth.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



First Church Updates

It is Stewardship Season! Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Our Mission Study Team was commissioned this past Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin the process of looking at where we have been and how God is calling us today. For information regarding the ongoing transition and the future of pastoral leadership, check out the website at firstchurchtulsa.org and look for the highlighted word “transition”.

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you’re interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text *@pastorfpc* to “81010”.

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 Facebook, Instagram at *@fpcyoungadults* or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Intercessory Prayer – Please let us know if you would like the Guild of Intercessors to pray for you, your family members, or your friends. Pastors and members of the Guild will pray over your request. All prayer requests will be treated in a confidential manner. If you have a prayer request, call Paula Peterson, Chair, at 918-296-5548 or 918-688-2163 or email at mandppeterson@msn.com.

Presbyterian Women’s December Mission Project is Emergency Infant Services. EIS provides help for children 5 and under. They will be collecting funds for diapers in the collection box in the atrium.

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. Contact Steve Wilson at swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

The Gift Back Mission Market is open today in the atrium. Honor your family and friends with the gift of music. First Church is helping our partner school in Nairobi launch a music education program. All gifts will be used to establish this program for local students. For more information visit us at the table in the atrium.

Events This Week

Nativity musical special performance – Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to a special performance of the nativity musical prior to the service on Christmas Eve. There will be dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. You can prepay for dinner by going online.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24:

(all are candle-lighting)

11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary and Great Hall
5:00 p.m.	Children’s Nativity Musical	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
11:00 p.m.	Watchnight and Communion	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25: *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel

Sunday, December 31, 2023: *New Year’s Eve*

9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, Atrium and Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Mark Your Calendar

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the atrium and Stephenson Hall. Cost is \$5 (children 12 and under are free). To pre-pay go online or click the QR code below.



Epiphany Bonfire and Plunge - Sunday, January 7, 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 homily, cookies, and hot cider/cocoa by Lake Parthenia. Greenery drop-off will begin on Wednesday, January 3 at the designated area by the Glass Cabin at Camp Loughridge.

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

January 7	Burning of the Greens and Epiphany Plunge
January 10	WNDR Kickoff
Jan. 15 – Feb. 22	January Series
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4 & 11	Inquirers Class

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 12/17

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary
11:00 am	Stephenson Hall and Great Hall combined in the Great Hall

Monday 12/18

10:00 am	Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:45 am	Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Wednesday 12/20

5:15 pm	Worship Family Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm	Nativity Play, Sanctuary

No Adult Sunday School Classes for **NEXT Sunday, 12/24 and 31**