



The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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 Love

The Words of Preparation

Man's maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

Saint Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 191.1

THE PRELUDE

Shepherd's Song

Worship Team and Celebration Singers

THE WELCOME

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out the "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

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel

(Choir only)

*Veni, veni Emmanuel, captivum solve Israel. Qui gemit in exilio, privatus Dei Filio.
Gaudete, gaudete, Emmanuel nasceretur pro te, Israel.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Congregation joins)

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 Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; 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 discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (4) Love*The Austin Family*

The candles of hope, peace, and joy are burning. Today, we light the candle of Love, remembering the words of Jesus: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

This is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger.

Alleluia, Amen!

◆ **THE CAROL 41****O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELES

◆ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Rev. James Estes

THE ANTHEM**Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven**

Keith and Kristyn Getty

*First Church Choristers, Gretchen Bashforth and Carol Tipton, directors
Celebrations Singers, Breana McIntosh and Hannah Johnson, directors*

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star. Like us, crying He takes His first breath, held by His mother helpless close to her beating heart. Jesus laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers; come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God. Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take His first steps that He might bring us life. Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right. Jesus, take away every darkness, steady my simple footsteps that I might, in Your goodness, live as a child of God.

THE FIRST READING**John 1:14-18****THE ANTHEM****And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah)**

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. *Isaiah 40:5*

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have seen Your glory, and yet we have hardened our hearts and turned from You. Lord, according to Your great mercy, we ask that You would forgive us our sin, and remove any obstacle to Your coming. By Your Spirit's power, may we welcome Christ, born in a manger, our Lord, and our Savior. Hear us now, as we pray... (in silence)

THE CONFESSORIAL RESPONSE**What Child Is This**

GREENSLEEVES

Worship Team; Eric Baird, director

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spears shall pierce Him through, the cross be born for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the proclamation of the Angel to the shepherds: "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."

The good news of the gospel is this: Christ our Savior has come! And there is true forgiveness and fulness of joy for everyone who calls upon his name! **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

◆ **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 ANTHEM****There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob**

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, with might destroying princes and cities. (Numbers 24:17) As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation. Thy Word, O Lord, radiance glowing, truth bestowing, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!

THE SECOND READING**Isaiah 53****THE SERMON****Christ Our Love**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

THE OFFERING**Run, Ye Shepherds, to the Light**

Michael Haydn

Run, ye shepherds, to the light! For joyous news I carry. Joy fills all the starry night. Come quickly, do not tarry. In lowly manger bare come see the infant there, a child, the King of Glory! With all your might, rush toward the light, the star of ancient story.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**THE ANTHEM****What is This Lovely Fragrance?**

French carol, arr. Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring! Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling? What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring. What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wondering eyes? Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies. What is this light so fair, so tender, breaking upon our wondering eyes? Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Savior, born today. Low at His feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN****Sing We the Song of Emmanuel**

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold. Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold. God most high in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim: Great and glorious, Love has come to us, join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne. Helpless He lay, the invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son. O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before Him fall. Grace and majesty, what humility; come on bended knee, adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel; joy and peace for the weary heart. Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the light overwhelms the dark. Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the Gospel ring. God has made a way, He will have the praise; tell the world His name is Jesus. Gloria!

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE 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.*

◆ Please stand

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Leading in Worship:

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

Violin: Gina Davis, Michelle Sherman, Rachel Hay, Nick Bashforth, and Angelica Hilst

Viola: Ethan Landis and Kiersten Moser

Cello: Kari Caldwell

Flute: Elizabeth Potts

Oboe: Lise Glaser

Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship on this Christmas Music Sunday! 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.

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, Sally McCoy, 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.

The Joy of New Life! We Welcome: James Hunter Holstein, son of Whitney and Jonathan Holstein, was born on November 29.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Jim Turner on the death of his father, Bobby Turner, on December 8; and to Mary Anne Marberry on the death of her sister, Sandy Coe, on December 15.

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 Letters of Blessing today go to Nelda Brown, Mary Anne Marberry and Janie Long.

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. Thanks to this years “Greens Team: Edie Allen, Judy Brill, Minnie Casteel, Sandy Curtis, Will, Laura, Bevan and Katie Keith, Mary Anne Marberry, Teresa and David Raybourn, Amy Tate, Carol Tipton 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; 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@firstchurctulsa.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 firstchurctulsa.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 @pastorfp 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.

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.



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Christmas at First Church

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**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Save the date: WNDT classes and programming for all ages start back on January 7. Watch for more information to come.

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.

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.

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 12/21

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

Wednesday 12/24

2:00 pm	Carols and Communion, Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Children's Nativity, Sanctuary
8:00 pm	Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary
11:00 pm	Communion, Sanctuary

Thursday 12/25

11:00 am	Worship Service, Kerr Chapel
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No Adult Sunday School Classes on December 28

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*