

*And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son,
wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger --because there
was no room for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:7



A Celebration of Christmas

*Five o'clock in the Afternoon
December 24, 2023*

Sanctuary

*First Presbyterian Church
Tulsa, OK*

A Celebration of Christmas

December 24, 2022

Five o'clock in the Afternoon

The Words of Preparation

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

The Prelude

Miniatures for Christmas

Dale Wood

Ron Pearson, organist

The Welcome

Rev. Julia Metcalf

◆ **The Carol 9**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Light of the World Prologue

Mark Patterson

*Narrators: Jacob Hand, Justice McIntosh, Lucy Doverspike
Candle Lighters: Addisyn Chaney and Athena John-Bowman*

The Anthem

Jesus, Light of the World

Mark Patterson

Jesus, light of the world, hope and salvation for all the earth; Jesus, light of the world, from every nation we come to celebrate your birth. *Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.* For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, the Prince of Peace. Jesus, light of the world, hope and salvation for all the earth; Jesus, light of the world, from every nation we come to celebrate your birth. (*Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis. Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*) Jesus, light of the world, we come to celebrate your birth.

SCENE 1: THE PROPHECY

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Narrators: James Donohue, Abigail Kanyeki, Caroline Austin
Prophets: Charlotte Foon and Helen Harrington

The Anthem

Will You Be Ready?

Mark Patterson

People who walk in darkness have seen a great light. The light will shine upon them; may it shine brightly tonight. *Will you be ready for the light, ready for the light to shine upon you? Will you be ready for the light, ready for the light to shine?* Will you be watching? Will you be listening? Will you hear the angels sing? Will you be waiting? Will you be searching for a Savior and a King? *Refrain.* People keep watching, true light is coming, look for a bright star in the East. Look for the Christ Child, born in a manger, there you will find the Prince of Peace. *Refrain.* Will you be ready, ready for the light to shine? Ready for the light to shine, shine? Will you be ready?

SCENE 2: THE ANGEL APPEARS TO MARY AND TO JOSEPH

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

Luke 1:30-31

....an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20-21

Narrators: Michael Shelton, Lucy Donohue, Jacob Case
Angel Gabriel: Caleb Shelton
Mary: Molly McCracken
Joseph: James McQueen
Donkey: Luke McCracken

The Carol 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE STABLE

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:4-5

Innkeeper: Samson Denby

Cows: Barnabas Estes, Magnolia Perceful, Olivia Seibert, Randall Trozduk

The Carol

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Joy Baird, soloist; Eric Baird, guitar

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Congregation joins:

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.

SCENE 3: THE ANGEL APPEARS TO THE SHEPHERDS

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

Luke 2:9

Narrators: Bradly Delozier, Simeon Estes, Elias Donohue

Shepherds: Heston Hawkins, Will Marshall, Colin McCracken, Ellie Williams

Sheep: Amiria Bowman, Janessa Ebil, Obadiah Estes, Mary Nell Foon, Samantha Garrett, Abigail Gitau, Joanna Kirunda, Carol Matson, Georgia Matson, Luke Olson, Henry Seibert, Samwel Usigbe, Chloe Wilson

Angels: Joy Baird, Brady Barnhart, James Case, Addisyn Chaney, Molly Dollahon, Samuel Doverspike, Jessica Ebil, Abigail Estes, Athena John-Bowman, Juliette John-Bowman, Allie Lewandowski, Hannah McQueen, Gabriella Mungai, Allie Olson, Cora Seibert, Kynlee Wilberforce

SCENE 4: THE SHEPHERDS SEARCH

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. *Luke 2:16*

Narrators: James Donohue, Samuel Donohue, Nora Marshall

The Anthem

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow arr. Mark Patterson
Abigail Kanyeki and Jacob Hand, soloists

Rise up, rise up, rise up, shepherd and follow. Rise up, rise up, rise up, shepherd and follow. Rise up, rise up, rise up and follow that star. There's a star in the East on Christmas morn. *Rise up, shepherd and follow.* It will lead to the place where Christ was born. *Rise up, shepherd and follow.* Follow, follow, *rise up, shepherd and follow.* Follow the star of Bethlehem, *rise up, shepherd and follow.* Leave your sheep and leave your lambs. *Rise up, shepherd and follow.* Leave your ewes and leave your rams. *Rise up, shepherd and follow.* Follow, follow, *rise up, shepherd and follow.* Follow the star of Bethlehem, *rise up, shepherd and follow.* *Rise up, shepherd and follow.* Rise up, rise up, rise up, follow that star!

SCENE 5: THE MAGI

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." *Matthew 2:1-2*

Narrators: Kamryn Chaney, Joy Ebil, Caroline Austin

Wise Men: Emerson Austin, Ephraim Garrett, Reaves Hawkins

Camels: Hank Foon, Campbell Seibert, Harrison Smith

Stars: Sam Barnhart, Edmund Hutchinson, Georgia Seibert, Hattie Seibert, Reid Shipley

The Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we travel so far, field
and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice, Alleluia,
Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain.*

SCENE 6: LET HIS LIGHT SHINE

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand,
and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light
shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.* *Matthew 5:14-16*

Narrators: Lucy Donohue, James Donohue, Jacob Hand

The Time for Children

Rev. Julia Metcalf

(Children are invited to come forward if they wish.)

The Offertory Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

Keith & Kristyn Getty

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 Sharing of the Light

Rev. Julia Metcalf

The Anthem

Peace, Peace

Sylvia Powell

Lucy Donohue, soloist

Celebration Singers Youth Choir: Caroline Austin, Jacob Case, Kamryn Chaney, Bradly Delozier, Elias Donohue, James Donohue, Lucy Donohue, Samuel Donohue, James Doverspike, Lucy Doverspike, Joy Ebil, Simeon Estes, Jacob Hand, Abigail Kanyeki, Jayden Lombardo-Grosso, Nora Marshall, Laurencia Masabarakiza, Justice McIntosh, Michael Shelton, Knox Smith

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all. This is a time for joy, this is a time for love. Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

The Carol

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

◆ **The Carol** 40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

The Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Please extinguish candles and return them to the receptacles at the doors of the sanctuary.

Acknowledgments

Narration and anthems are excerpts from the Christmas musical, *Light of the World*, written and composed by Mark Patterson.

Copyright © Choristers Guild. Used by permission.

Nativity Leadership Team

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Managing Director | Gretchen Bashforth |
| Children's Acting Director | Sarah Savage |
| Children's Music Directors | Gretchen Bashforth, Carol Tipton |
| Youth Directors | Breana McIntosh, Hannah Johnson |
| Stage Managers | Erin Barnhart, Lea Mungai |
| Costume Seamstress | Annette Sheets |
| Organ/Piano | Ron Pearson |
| Sound/Lights | Mike Vickery |
| Livestream/Video | Doug Crain |

+ + +

Christmas Day Worship!

Tomorrow: 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments following worship in the Atrium.

New Year's Eve Worship!

Pancake Breakfast: 9:30 a.m., atrium

Welcome to the First Church community!

Merry Christmas! We are so glad to welcome you on this holy day; your presence adds to our joy!

If you do not have a home congregation, we warmly invite you to worship with us. We are a Presbyterian Church that is Evangelical in nature, meaning we take seriously the good news that life is found in Jesus Christ alone, and that this life is on offer to the whole world! We also place ourselves in the historic Reformed tradition, and we seek to be faithful to the Lord of the Church and the apostolic tradition that we have received.

Consider worshipping with us each Sunday morning! You will find service times below. Come and lift up your heart and your voice each week with God's people.

Below, you will also find ways to cultivate faith and friendships, as well as places to serve the common good in Jesus' name. We are glad that you are here, and we pray every blessing upon you and those precious to you!

Sunday Morning Worship

8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel (traditional worship and weekly communion)

8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (contemporary worship and weekly communion)

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional worship with choir)

11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall (contemporary worship and weekly communion)

11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).

Our 11:00 o'clock Sanctuary Service:

Broadcast, Cox Channel 3, live at 11:00 a.m.,

Rebroadcast, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Streamed on Facebook, Youtube, *FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube*,
and the FPC Website: www.firstchurchtulsa.org

Growing Your Faith!

Adult Discipleship

- Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. (15 classes available.)
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown – Full programming for all ages.
 - Optional Dinner 5:30, Stephenson Hall for all
 - 6:00 AWANA Clubs for children through grade 4
 - 6:00 Middle School (Pathfinders), High School (Exodus)
 - 6:15 Adult Classes
- Pastors' Studies
 - Rev. Dan Hutchinson, Sundays, 9:30
 - Rev. Wambugu Gachungi, Wednesdays 6:15
- Quarterly spiritual retreats and other opportunities for prayer and spiritual formation

Tulsa International Fellowship – Join with others from across the world for a time of worship and fellowship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Bernsen Center.

Young Adults – First Church is committed to providing a place for Young Adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook and Instagram at *Young Adult Ministries@FPC* or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Inquirers' Class – A “No-strings-attached” opportunity to explore what it means to say “Yes” to Jesus, embrace His Church, and learn about this particular family of faith. Questions are invited. Friendships are formed. Our next class begins Sunday, January 21, 9:15 a.m. (for four weeks). To register, contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028.

Presbyterian Women – Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

Serving the Master!

Helping Hand Ministry – Helping to prevent evictions and keep the utilities on, Helping Hand Ministry provides funds to those in need of a hand up. Come and see the good being done any Monday or Tuesday from 9-noon.

Guild of Intercessors – Intercessory prayer group that believes prayer is powerful and life-changing.

Faith Partners – A ministry offering compassion, resources, education and hope for those affected by addiction.

Deacons – Join the Deacons in serving those in need – the sick, the isolated and lonely, to any who may be overwhelmed or distressed – both within and beyond this community of faith.

Hope is Alive – Join the deacons in one of eight annual visits with the residents of Hope is Alive community. Come witness God's power, quietly forging radical life transformation in those suffering from addiction.

Global Mission Trips – Serve Christ in the world through mission partnerships around the world. 2024 partner visits include a journey to North Carolina in May, Ireland in July and hosting a delegation from Kenya in the Fall. For details, email Hannah at damron@firstchurchtulsa.org

Works of HeART – Weekly art class for clients at the Day Center for the Homeless.

Masterwork Academy For Faith and Fine Arts – Training K-5th grade students, daily after school, in the joys of music, visual art, ballet, theater, fitness, and Bible study.

Marion Anderson Elementary School – There is always a way to be a blessing at Anderson, our partner in education school: be a weekly lunch buddy, help in the classroom, read to a student, or serve at a community night.

Children's Ministries – Serve with us in the church's Nursery, Preschool, or Elementary ministries by teaching, planning, or rocking babies!

Telecare – Help us keep in touch with homebound members and those who need encouragement.

Music Ministries!

First Church strives to glorify God across the broad spectrum of musical language. From children's worship arts and seasonal youth ensembles to the adult Chancel Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and TIF band, plus a handbell choir, and Gloria women's choir, there is a place for you to use your musical gifts at First Church.

Next Generation Ministries! *(Cradle to College)*

Children's Ministries - We are committed to coming alongside families as they raise their children in the faith of Jesus Christ. We focus on Spiritual Education, Worship, Service, and Fellowship by offering Sunday morning programming, Awana, VBS, and special events throughout the year.

FPC Youth - A community of Middle School (5th - 8th) and High School (9th - 12th) students who seek to grow in their relationship with Christ; encouraging one another in the day-to-day, and living as the Church here and now!

University Ministries – Designed to reach, teach, and love college-aged students throughout Tulsa so they may be life-long followers of Jesus Christ. Find us on Instagram at [@ukirktulsa](https://www.instagram.com/ukirktulsa) for more information.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the church office at 918-584-4701 or www.firstchurchtulsa.org.

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa links

Website: FirstChurchTulsa.org

YouTube: FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube

Facebook: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

Instagram: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.instagram.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

LinkedIn: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/FirstChurchTulsa)

Twitter/X: [@1stChurchTulsa](https://twitter.com/1stChurchTulsa)

Linktr.ee/FirstChurchTulsa

