



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

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

**DECEMBER 26, 2021
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY**

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

First Sunday of Christmas

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

On hearing the swallow which sings at dawn, Adam arose, freed from his deathlike sleep. "Hear me, your wife, who long ago caused the fall of mortals; now I rise again. Consider the miracles; behold the woman who knew no man is healing you through her offspring. The serpent hitherto saw me and leaped for joy; but now seeing those who are descended from us, he flees creeping away. He did raise his head against me; but now, humbled, he fawns; he does not mock, for he fears the One whom she brought forth, Mary, full of grace." *Romanos*

The Prelude I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
The Worship Team

The Welcome Rev. James Estes

◆ The Carols

- 22 Angels From the Realms of Glory
- 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful
- 28 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

The Prayer of Adoration

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:6-13

The Prayer of Confession Dr. Jim Miller

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought

not to have done; and there is no health in us. So we cast ourselves upon your great mercy; O Lord, have mercy upon us.

We rejoice that you hear our prayers. You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin; grant that we being purified, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your undying life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God...(silence)

◆ **The Response**

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

The Invitation

...friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: for in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him!
Alleluia! Amen!

The Blessing of the Young Disciples

Rev. Wally Johnson

The 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 Sacrament of Baptism

Co-Clerk Amy Scheiper

Sullivan Thomas Foon, son of Jeremy and Emily Foon

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets.

And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and life of the world to come. Amen.

The Response 53

What Child is This
The Worship Team

GREENSLEEVES

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-38

The Sermon

Clouds on the Horizon

Rev. James Estes

Behold, this child appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel... Luke 2:34

The Anthem

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

English melody, arr. David Willcocks

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled; and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing; and ever o'er its Babel sound the blessed angels sing. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and man, at war with man, hears not the love-song which they bring: O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing! For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Carols**

40 Joy to the World

29 Go, tell it on the Mountain

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

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. Now go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, that Jesus Christ is born.

◆ **The Postlude** Fantasia on “Joy to the World” Marc Cheban

◆ Please Stand

We welcome and thank Jim Jespersen, trumpeter, for his participation today, made possible by a gift from Sandy Henderson in grateful memory of her husband Doug.

Worship Notes

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

A special thanks to the “Sanctuary Greens Decorating Team”:
Judy Brill, Minnie and Gary Casteel, Sandy Curtis, Sherye Halliburton, Laura, Will and Bevan Keith, Mary Anne and Tom Marberry, Rosemary and Rick Priest, Amy and Lance Tate, and Cynthia Wiles

**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 the Matson family.

Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.

Vivienne and Allan J. Edwards, Jr. and Duncan Fuller by Ellen, Lindsey, Emily Fuller and family.

Jimmie Mathews by the Gary Mathews family.

11:00 Sanctuary Service is broadcast live at

FirstChurchTulsa.org/WatchLive you can also watch later on *FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube* and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

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*.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jeanette Anderson, Jane Azlin, Johanna Boshuizen, Billy Boyd, Pat Brown, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Debi Foster, Luke Fravel, Gary Gilliam, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Meg Hubler, Caroline Fravel Jones, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Ray Kenney, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Laurence Mansur, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, David Osterholt, David Raybourn, Tom Reynolds, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Shannon Thomas, Terry Thomas, Mary Lee Torbert, Quendy Veatch, Dayne Weierbach, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Eleanor Carmack, a member since 1995, died on December 18.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Sally Stewart and Kathy Wilson on the death of their son and brother, Todd Stewart, on December 19.

First Church Updates

We're glad to be together in worship on this this Second Sunday of Christmas! May the Lord's presence cause joy in each of us – remembering His mighty works and trusting in His promises!

Thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this congregation! Your gifts, energy and devotion are expressions of the presence of Christ in the world He loves. The Session of First Church is at work on the 2022 budget. Your commitment cards will greatly assist them in their work.

Wednesday Night Downtown - Wednesday, January 5

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. and classes at 6:15 p.m.

Contemporary Challenges Facing the Church led by pastors and friends, will meet in Stephenson Hall. This class will feature topics such as medical ethics, human sexuality, science and faith, and more.

Agging with Attitude, an 8-week resistance exercise class led by Randy Barnard, a professional trainer, will meet in the Bernsen Reception room. Come and enjoy fellowship while improving your strength, balance and energy level. The cost for the class is \$20. Spots are limited, so register online at FirstChurchTulsa.org/WNDT.

Seekers with Rev. Wambugu will meet in room E104 for a verse-by-verse study over the sermon series for Spring 2022.

Epiphany plunge and bonfire is on Sunday, January 9 at Camp Loughridge. Beginning Wednesday, January 5, you can drop your greens off at Camp Loughridge in the designated area by the Glass Cabin. The event will include a homily, gingerbread cookies and hot cider/cocoa by Lake Parthenia.

Plan now for the ever-popular “January Series”! A simulcast from Calvin College, the January Series introduces us to remarkable stories and gifted speakers from all over the world. Join us beginning Monday, January 10 (and each weekday until the 28th) in the Stephenson at 11:15. Lunch is optional.

Save the Date for the next Inquirers Class! Every Sunday, starting at 9:30 a.m., January 16 through February 6: come and ask questions, make new friends and meet our pastors. For more information please contact Patricia Hall 918-301-1028, phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or use the QR code below to sign up:



Monday School begins on January 31 at noon in the Kirkland Library. Join Dr. Wes Vander Lugt in *Slow Faith: A Study in the Psalms*. In our fast-paced world, there is an urgent need for a rooted, attentive, unhurried spiritual life. As the church's inspired prayer book, the Psalms are the preeminent guide for this kind of slow faith, inviting us to participate in a slow story of a slow God.

The Afghan families being sponsored with Catholic Charities are in a real need for rental homes. In particular, homes are needed that can accommodate a single family with 7-9 family members. These families are too large for apartments and they cannot move out of their temporary hotel until we are able to find suitable housing options for them. Rent payments are guaranteed for one year. If you can help, please email Britani Di Santi at bdisanti@firstchurchtulsa.org.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Classes for NEXT Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

On Site:

Bible Walk	Not Meeting	E101
Cornerstone	Wesley Bible Curriculum	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i> by Adam Hamilton	E205
Faith and Family	Old Testament Survey	E104
Forum	<i>Not Meeting</i>	E200
Pastor's Study	<i>Not Meeting</i>	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	Not Meeting	E103
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Life in Heaven</i>	E204
Upper Room	Bible Study	E313
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Not Meeting	E104

On Site and Zoom:

Shepherds	Dr. Mark Hall Leading	E203
The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>The Good and Beautiful God</i>	E100

December 26, 2021

Sanctuary

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leave this page 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;

or

using the QR code below.

