



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

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

**DECEMBER 27, 2020
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

O sing to the Lord a new song –for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him the victory.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth! Break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98

The Welcome

The Call to Worship

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

It all happened in the City of David, Bethlehem.

God came to earth: poor, meek and lowly.

He came to us to redeem and save.

Jesus Christ, Immanuel, was that little child. Let's prepare our hearts to worship Him!

◆ The Carols

Once in Royal David's City

Isabella and Olivia Miller

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all.
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.

Congregation joins on stanzas 3-4

For He is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew.
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He
knew. And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our
gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming
love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven
above, and He leads His children on to the place where He is
gone.

Born in the Night

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining Light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good; yes, it is
true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
Savior of all, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Chancel Choir Ensemble

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the
Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; Him the Father
gave us! *Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Congregation joins

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold
would hide him. *Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o gloria in excelsis
Deo!*

God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
kneeling low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and
adore him. *Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

On this day angels sing with their song earth shall ring, praising
Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love
he gave us. *Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He
has opened heaven's door and we are blest forevermore. Christ
was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ
was born to save! Christ was born to save!

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 59:1-2; 60; 1-5a

The Prayer of Confession

Generous and loving Lord, you give us Yourself -- the greatest gift
of all! But we often fail to take notice. We're so easily caught up
with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, dear Christ,
for the casual way we can treat Your gift of Love. Cast out our sin
and enter in; be born in us today. Lord, in your mercy, hear our
prayers....

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 Response**

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far
as the curse is found, far as, 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,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** 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 Blessing of the Young Disciples *Working Together for Good!*

Jenette McEntire and Togo

The Response

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above! Glory to God, glory in the highest: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 2:1-11

The Sermon News That Draws You In!

Dr. Jim Miller

Wise men came from the East...to worship Him. Matthew 2:

The Anthem It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

arr. David Willcocks

Chancel Choir Ensemble

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 Carol Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns, let us our songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the
sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the
sounding joy!

◆ The Charge and Benediction

◆ The Postlude Fantasia on "Joy to the World" Marc Cheban

◆ Please Stand

We welcome and thank Tim McFadden, 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 Teams" past and present, who have beautified the season over the past fifty years.

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 Laurie, Andy and Laura Beth Matson, Erin and Adam Lawson, and Bridget Matson.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.
- Duncan Fuller by his family, Ellen, Lindsey, and Emily Fuller, Sophia and Connor Dunaway and Duncan Dougall.

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

For those who need assistance in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

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.

Coming Events:

This Thursday night: New Year's Eve Watchnight Service, 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Sunday, January 3: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Burning of the Greens and Epiphany Plunge

First Church Update

We're grateful for a congregation that continues to give generously in ways that further the ministries of Christ. The Session is putting together the

2021 budget. Thank you for returning your “estimate-of-giving” cards, which will enable the Session to do its best work.

“Let the little children come to me!” During this season when many are not able to serve in children’s Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., would you be willing to wrap the arms of Jesus around these little ones –perhaps once a month? Please contact Courtney Miller at 918-301-1009 or cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org.

FPC University Ministries: (Follow us at [@ukirktulsa](https://twitter.com/ukirktulsa) for updates)

“Gather” Will resume on Tuesday, January 12.

“Grow” Will resume on Sunday, January 10

UKirk and Exodus Alumni Modified Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 6:30-8:30pm, Miller Library, First Church

Considering First Church as your spiritual home? We’d love to welcome you to our “no-strings-attached” Inquirers Class. We’ll join together in room E104, Sundays, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, at 9:15 a.m. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918 301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org.

The January Series, a free 15-day lecture series from Calvin College continues, but will look different in 2021. This year the Series will be completely virtual. Each presentation will be available January 6 – 26, from 11:30 to 12:30 and can be viewed on your own device. You will need to register, and can find the link at <https://calvin.edu/january-series/>. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Faith Partners Addiction Ministry is available for confidential conversation and support during these difficult days. If you or a loved one are struggling with the effects of addiction we are here for you. We have either walked in your shoes or have specialized training. You’re encouraged to call the staff liaison, Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028, for more information.

First Church is a praying community! You’ll find a prayer request card in the sanctuary pew or the Friendship Register. Place it in the offering plate at the doors of the sanctuary, or in the prayer request box at the *Welcome Center*

in the Miller Atrium. Pastors and members of the Guild of Intercessors will uphold your concerns in prayer.

Serve the Master and love on His children! The Masterwork Academy welcomes you! Perhaps you can give an hour, perhaps a day. Leaders are needed from noon-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you'd like to know more about how you can be a part of this beautiful ministry, email Kelly Brown at kbrown@masterworkacademy.org or call 918-370-0207.

Director of Operations – Would you like to serve Christ in this way? This position provides oversight and leadership amid all of the operations of the Church. Key areas include management and maintenance of Church facilities and grounds, oversight of human resources and benefits, accounting, information technology and food services. Requirements include: a Bachelor's degree in business or equivalent, work experience in related fields, strong communication skills, problem solving and analytical skills and commitment of Christian faith. If you are interested, email your resume to Tonye Briscoe at tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, MaryAnn Blackburn, Billy Boyd, Roy Cail, Joan Hastings Camp, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Donna Gilliam, Sherye Halliburton, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Dottie and Walt MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Jan Miller, Pamela Neumann, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Janie Quint, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

Dear First Church families and friends,

We're all aware of the increasing transmission of this COVID virus. And we all want to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here. As we make our way into our Christmas celebrations the First Church Session has enacted a "mask-always" protocol for events here at First Church, including worship.

It will be a great day when we can lift these protocols --but for now we ask you to abide by these expectations-- that we hope and pray will serve the common good.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30

Faith and Family	204
Sojourners (All Ages)	E204
The Vine (<i>Singles/couples</i>)	E100
Young Adults (<i>20's and 30's</i>)	E201

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 12/27/20

Worship and Events

9:30 a.m. Waffle Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (one service only)

Monday 12/28/20

Church Offices will be closed.

Thursday 12/31/20

Watch Night Service 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program 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.



December 27, 2020, Sanctuary

THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS

James D. Miller, Ph.D., *Pastor*

Daniel Hutchinson, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

James Estes, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*

Wambugu Gachungi, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*



First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
709 S. Boston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119
Phone: 918-584-4701
<https://firstchurchtulsa.org>