

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son  
and 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*

*First Presbyterian Church  
Tulsa, OK*

*Four o'clock in the Afternoon  
December 24, 2020*

*Sanctuary*

**A Celebration of Christmas**  
**December 24, 2020**  
**Four o'clock in the Afternoon**

*The Prophets Foretold It*

But you, fruitful Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you will come One who will be Ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times. Micah 5:2

**The Prelude**

**The Ringing of the Christmas Bell**

Campbell Rogers

**The Joy of Caroling**

Metcalf Family Singers

**The Welcome**

Dr. Miller, Courtney Miller, Rev. James Estes

◆ **The Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him born the king of angels. *O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing all ye citizens of heav'n above: "Glory to God, all 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.*

True God of true God, Light of light eternal, He came into our world to save and redeem! Born of a woman, knowing every hardship. *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 all glory giv'n; 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 Prayer of Adoration

### The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*The Perceful family: Jordan, Meaghan, Magnolia, Koda*

Tonight we light the Christ candle, reminding us that in the darkness of our world, amid all the pain and sadness, good news came to us on that holy night in Bethlehem. Just as the prophets said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light!"

And the angel said, "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that is for all the people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"

On this holy night, we remember. And we open our hearts to receive Him afresh!

### The Story: *When Mary Meets Gabriel* (from Luke 1)

### The *Magnificat*, Mary's Song

Julia Metcalf, soloist

My soul will magnify the Lord: I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of his favor. For He has done great things for me; He was mindful of His servant. Every age shall call me blessed. The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son; for He who promised is mighty in remembering his mercy. My soul will magnify the Lord for His grace to those who fear Him through every generation. The proud he scatters to the wind as the ruler's strength is broken, and the rich are left with nothing. The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied; our Portion and our Treasure, our Hope and Help forever. Luke 1:46-55

### The Story: *Gabriel and Joseph* (from Matthew 1)

## The Solo

Joseph's Christmas  
Eric Baird, composer and soloist

Oh, this was not my Christmas wish, to raise the son of the King.  
This Holy Child, this gift to man, of whom the angels sing.

This was not my dream of love: a wife, a life, a child. This is not the way  
it's done but on us --heaven smiled.

What to think, what to think? The angel said, "Do not fear, do not fear  
all that lies ahead."

"She will bear a son and you will call his name, Jesus. He will save you  
from your sins." He will save *us* from our sins. He will save *me* from my  
sins. Amen.

Son of man, but not this man, the one that He'll call "Dad". I'll give my  
heart and soul and strength, and all the plans I had.

What to think, what to think? The angel said, "Do not fear, do not fear  
all that lies ahead."

"She will bear a son and you will call his name, Jesus. He will save you  
from your sins." He will save *us* from our sins. He will save *me* from my  
sins. Amen.

## The Story: Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

*Mary and Joseph: Carly and Barrett Powers*

## The Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and  
dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the  
everlasting Light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee  
tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above, while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King and peace to all  
on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and  
enter in, be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great  
glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**The Story** God's Angel Army Sings to the "Nobodies" (from Luke 2)

The Shepherds: Gloria, Mikey, Caleb Shelton

**The Anthem**

Christmas Angels  
*Chancel Choir Ensemble*

Lloyd Larson

**The Story:** The Shepherds Run!

And you know what happened next! Listen to the story:

John and Grace Shelton

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds  
said to one another, "Let's run to Bethlehem and see this thing that's  
happened, which the Lord has made known to us."*

*So the shepherds ran as fast as they could and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the little baby lying, in the manger. Luke 2:15-16*

**The Story:** God in a Feeding Trough?

**The Carol**

Away in a Manger  
*Mikey Shelton, soloist*

MUELLER

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)*

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 cradle 'til 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 Story: Wise Men from Far Away**

*The Wise Men: Andrew, Jacob, Samuel Hand*

## **The Carol**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*Stars: Lilli, Thea and Thomas Rogers*

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar, 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!

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

## **The Story: The Wise Men Bow to Worship Him**

Julianne Hand

*On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and the wise men  
knelt down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered  
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11*

## **The Story: The Invitation**

The wise men came from afar, a very long way! Why? Because they believed that  
this news was the best ever –for them and for everyone else! For you and me, too.  
They discovered that Jesus’ presence in our lives brings joy to everybody,  
everywhere! For to whomever will receive it, Jesus is God’s gift of Joy to the world!  
And they’ve been singing about it ever since, and inviting us to join with them, on  
this Holy night.

## **The Solo**

### **O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

*Taylor Conley, soloist*

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining! It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appears and the soul felt its worth! A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees: O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born. O night, divine, O night, O night divine! Truly, He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is Peace! Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother and in His name, all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His Holy name! Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim; His power and glory evermore proclaim!

## **Sharing the Light of the World**

### **The Candlelighting**

In Him was Life, and His Life was the Light of all. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.” John 1:4-5

## **The Anthem**

### **Night of Silence**

Daniel Kantor

*Chancel Choir Ensemble*

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise. Fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light. Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing. Breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning. Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar. Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your Son's love. Star unknowing of night and day, spirit we wait for your loving Son.

## 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 Charge and Benediction

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

## The Postlude

*In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

◆ *Please stand*

<b>Carolers:</b>	Steve and Jill Metcalf, Jaclyn, Jeffrey, and Julia Metcalf
<b>Lighting the Christ Candle:</b>	Jordan and Meaghan Perceful, Magnolia and Koda
<b>Mary and Joseph:</b>	Carly and Barrett Powers
<b>Shepherds:</b>	Gloria, Mikey, and Caleb Shelton
<b>Readers:</b>	John and Grace Shelton Julianne Hand
<b>Wise Men:</b>	Andrew, Jacob, and Samuel Hand
<b>Stars:</b>	Lilli, Thea, and Thomas Rogers

+ + +

## Welcome to the First Church community!

Since 1885, as the first church established in Tulsa, we seek to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. If you do not have a church home, we'd love to welcome you as a member among us. Look over the various ministries and mission opportunities listed below:

### Sunday Morning Worship

Currently, during the pandemic, we have three “in-person” worship services each Sunday:

- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (informal worship with weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Ensemble Choir)
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship).  
(Both 11:00 o'clock services are Livestreamed)

### Growing Your Faith!

**Adult Discipleship** (call for brochures with more information):

- Fifteen Sunday morning classes for adults of all ages at 9:30 a.m.
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown - Varied classes offered for adults and AWANA clubs for children. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m., classes are from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Pastor's Study – led by Dr. Jim Miller, offered two times each week.

**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 Dan Hutchinson at 918-301-1040.

**Christian Classics in Lent** – Join us every Monday during Lent for lunch and study of classic Christian literature.

**Inquirers' Class** – An opportunity to explore what it means to join the church; to learn more about our particular family of faith; to ask questions; to enjoy a time of fellowship with others and meet some of our pastors. Our next class begins January 17. For more information or to register please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org)

**Presbyterian Women** – Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

## **Serving the Master!**

**Helping Hand Ministry** – Serve the neediest Tulsans through a food pantry, informal counseling and financial assistance. Members typically serve one day a week for three hours in the morning (9:00 a.m. - 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** reach out to those in need – to the sick, the friendless, to any who may be in distress – both within and beyond this community of faith.

**Friday Food Distribution** – Consider joining us as we partner with First Baptist Church North Tulsa in giving away groceries to those in need. For more information, please contact Alison Biggs at [allisonbiggs@gmail.com](mailto:allisonbiggs@gmail.com).

**Global Mission Trips** – Serve Christ in the world through medical mission in Mexico; disaster relief in the U. S.; evangelism in Romania; or encouragement and fellowship in Malawi.

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

**Masterwork Academy** – After school program which serves under-resourced children as they discover the joy of music, visual art, ballet, faith and fitness, and Bible study.

**Emerson Elementary School** – There is always a way to be a blessing at Emerson, our adopted school: be a mentor, help in the classroom, read to the students, serve at a school function, show the children at Emerson how much God loves them!

**Children's Ministries** – Serve the Master by tending his lambs at AWANA, VBS, Sunday School, etc.

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

**Hospital Chaplains** – Volunteers who offer caring visits when members are hospitalized.

## **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 Ministry** - We believe a child's sense of identity in Christ begins at a very young age and our desire is for them to understand they are a part of God's big story.

From Sunday's Discipleship Hour, Wednesday night AWANA and VBS to family events including Fall Festival, Advent Workshop and more, we are committed to

partnering with families to raise up children who see themselves as part of the family of God – the Church.

**FPC Youth** - A community of Middle School (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) and High School (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) students who seek to grow in 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* for more information.

*For more information on any of the above, please contact the church office at 918-584-4701 or [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org).*

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.

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](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



*December 24, 2020, 4:00 Worship Service in the 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*



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