



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

AUGUST 20, 2023
8:00 AM
KERR CHAPEL

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Words of Preparation

“...the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it is made fruitless.” This reminds us of the words spoken to Adam: “You shall eat your bread among thorns and thistles.” This mystically signifies that those who give themselves over to the pleasures and cares of this world eat the heavenly bread and true food among thorns. Hence the Lord fittingly added, “The deceitfulness of riches chokes the word.” Riches are enticing indeed, promising one thing and doing another. St. Jerome

The Welcome

Rev. James Estes

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Call to Worship

In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2:2-5

The Hymn 447

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Faith Wambugu

◆ **The Old Testament Reading** Deuteronomy 8:6-17

The Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we gather today, rich in blessing and tempted to believe that we merit the wealth and comforts we enjoy. When we pause here in your presence, however, we remember that everything we have and the means by which we have them are your gifts to us. Our hearts are inclined toward pride, as if by ‘the strength of our own hands’ we could arrive in places of comfort and security, ever filling our lives—filling our refrigerators and pantries, filling our garages and attics, and filling our bellies and calendars. We confess that we are often full in ways that don’t matter while empty in regard to you. Help us to pour out our varied fullnesses and aspire to poverty of spirit. Help us to remember what you teach us in the wilderness; that you send the bread from heaven to feed us, that you are the strength of our lives, that you are the rock and spring of living water, and that you are lifted up that we might look to you and be healed; that apart from you we can do nothing. Forgive our pride and give us eyes to see the beauty of your humility, apart from which there is no true glory...*(in silence)*

◆ **The Response** 97 Go to Dark Gethsemane REDHEAD 76

◆ **Passing of the Peace of Christ**

◆ **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 Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Offertory Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart arr. Lloyd Larson
Emma Myatt and Hannah Johnson, soloists

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love. Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear, to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer. Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame; the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

The New Testament Reading Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

The Sermon Healthy Soul Soil

As for what was sown among thorns...

Matthew 13:22

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn** Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art; be Thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, be Thou my true Word; be Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord; be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son, be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight; be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might; be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r, O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, be Thou mine inheritance, now and always; be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart, O High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun, O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won; Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.

◆ The Charge and Benediction

◆ The Postlude

Today

A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather to worship in this *House of Prayer*. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to: the Mercy Wairimu Ogalo family.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joyce Marsh by Tom Marsh.

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



“Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library. This morning we continue our series on *The Chosen* --one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	5 – The Wedding Gift	Elder Jacob Thompson
	6 – Indescribable Compassion	
Aug. 27	7 – Invitations	Elder Jacob Thompson
	8 – I Am He	
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd	Rev. Hutchinson

The Pastor’s Class: *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 in E104.

Professor Jerry McCoy leads the class today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*. Professor McCoy will lead the class for the next two weeks (Sunday, Aug. 27 and Wednesday, Aug. 23, 30). Please note: for the next two weeks, the Wednesday class begins at 12:30 p.m. instead of 11:30 p.m. E104.

Support Anderson Mentoring Ministry: Join us today following the 11:00 worship service for our annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament. A cookout lunch will be in the courtyard. Come learn about the mentoring lunch buddy program!

Summer Swim – Cool off this summer! Bring your family to Camp Loughridge, today and every Sunday: 1:30 - 4:45 p.m. through September 3.

This Week

Mark Your Calendar

Breakfast on Boston! – Mark your calendars for September 10 at 9:15 a.m. There will be food, fellowship, live music from Grady Nichols, pony rides and face painting. To prepay for meals and avoid the lines, click on the QR code below. Breakfast prices are adults \$7, children (4-12 years



old) \$4, Free (0-3 years old) and families \$20. There will be no Sunday School on this day.

Monday School begins on Monday, September 11 in the Kirkland Library; lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the lesson starting at 12:00 p.m. Justin Schell will be teaching on the theme *The Kingdom of God*. Reservations and payment can be made by clicking on the QR code below.



Guys Monday Bible Study - Begins on September 11, at 11:45 a.m. in E103. Optional lunch available for purchase by reservation and payment can be made by clicking the QR code.



Precept Bible Study – This is an 11-week study on the Psalms and begins on September 12 in E101. If you want to learn more about how to praise God in the good times, lament honestly in the bad, and trust God through every season of life, this study on Psalms chapters 1-22 is perfect for you. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Watercolor the World - Join us in E104 for six weeks of creativity starting on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Mary Lee Weaver will be demonstrating how to create beautiful cards and bookmarks using traceable images, scripture and colored with watercolors or colored pencils. To sign up please contact Laura Stevens at ljestevens@firstchurchtulsa.org

Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesday Night Downtown, begins Wednesday, Sept. 13, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Class start at 6:15 p.m.

The Meaning Behind the Marquee, in Stephenson Hall, The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on orthodox, reformed, and evangelical. These words speak to First Church's identity – who we are and where we come from. But what do they signify? What is it that we are declaring to be true about this community? This fall, we will be considering each of these words, the history and theology that give them meaning, and how they might shape our life together.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Come join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin: *Four Things Christians Must Reclaim* - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear Dr. McLaughlin. Her first book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

Helping Hand Golf Tournament: Monday, September 18, 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Click on the QR code below to register yourself and/or your team. Every penny is devoted to the most impoverished of Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand* Ministry.



Save the Date!

Come, add to the joy! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, **Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** A reception follows in the Courtyard.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! Why not add your voice to the Summer Choir during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service? Join us on

Sunday mornings for a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Young Adults – First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook, Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Beverly Dale, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Dana Grogan, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, and Susan Waldie.

The Joy of New Life! We welcome: Alexander Doverspike, son of Adam and Jen Doverspike, was born on June 22.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Matthew Bristow on the recent death of his mother, and to the family of Mercy Ogala, who died on August 12.

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](https://www.FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube).

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@firstchurchtulsa.org.

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.

First Church Cancer List – Do you or a loved one have cancer? Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild’s Cancer List. If you would like to add yourself, a loved one, or a friend or colleague to this confidential list, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/mandppeterson@msn.com or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/monteprater@aol.com.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 8/20

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
Faith and Film, Miller Library
Faith and Family, Prayer Room
Morning Glory Class, B318
Reflections, E103
Sojourners, E204
Westminster Class, Tower Room
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 8/23

- 12:30 am Pastor’s Study, E104

Saturday 8/26

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103