



***Tiny Letters:
Giant Impact***

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

September 24, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

The ground of our certainty about Christ has not changed. The fact that we read the Epistles of John in the twentieth (21st!) rather than the first makes no difference. The Christian religion is still tethered to the historical event of Christ and the witness which the apostles bore to it. In this 'doctrine of Christ' we must 'abide.'

John Stott, Epistles of John

The Welcome

The Call to Worship From Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King,

And bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you

And praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,

His greatness is unsearchable.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all,

His mercy is over all that he has made.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

So come, let us stand in honor,

And let us worship God!

◆ **The Hymn**

O God Beyond All Praising

THAXTED

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship You to -
 2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly
 3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we
 day and sing the love a - ma - zing that songs can - not re -
 die, its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to You the Lord Most
 bring, that we who know Your fa - vor may serve You as our
 pay; for we can on - ly won - der at ev' - ry gift You
 High; but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is
 King and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or
 send, at bles - sings with - out num - ber and
 sown, though small in mor - tal sta - ture, to
 ill, we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and
 mer - cies with - out end: We lift our hearts be -
 hea - ven's gar - den grown: for Christ, your gift from
 rise to bless You still: To mar - vel at Your
 fore - You and wait up - on Your word, we
 hea - ven, from death has set us free, and
 beau - ty and glor - ry in Your ways, and
 hon - or and a - dore. You, our great and might - y Lord.
 we through Him are gi - ven the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Amy Russell

The Gospel Reading

John 8:31-38

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. James Estes

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole being, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. You call us to abide in your word, yet we confess a tendency to rest upon the words of this world. We ignore the truth and live

enslaved to sin. Because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we boldly come, asking for forgiveness. By your Spirit, we pray for new hearts, a restored desire for the truth, and the grace to abide in you, the giver of life. Hear us now, as we pray...*(in silence)*

The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: that in Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon his name!

Alleluia! Amen!

The Response of Gratitude To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done, so loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain.*

◆ **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 Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People and Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Gretchen Bashforth, soloist

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you; be not afraid, I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting; my love for you shall have no end. *Isaiah 43:1-4*

The Prayer of Illumination

The Epistle Reading

2 John

The Sermon

Truth Matters

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

I rejoice greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. 2 John 1:4

The Celebration of Communion

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn** 40 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

We welcome and thank Bruce Wilkin, for his musical contribution to our service today.

Today

Called to worship –by the Lord of the Church! 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.

Stewardship: Today begins a season of prayerful and intentional consideration of our blessings –and how we might faithfully “steward” them in ways that serve the Lord’s purposes. The Session is already examining the 2024 FPC budget. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Last week’s *Helping Hand/FPC Golf Tournament* did more than deepen friendships! Over \$35,000 was raised, every penny of which will go to assist the most impoverished Tulsans through Helping Hand. May the Lord’s special blessing rest upon those who prayed, gave, and worked to make this happen!

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Bob Bastemeyer, Joe Land and the many workers who made the *Helping Hand/FPC Golf tournament happen*. We also are sending out a letter of blessing to Rusty and Charlie Gaddy for their longtime faithfulness in serving the Stephenson Hall worshipping congregations.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Alma and Nick Robson, Fred N. Davis, Jr. and in loving honor of Marilyn I. Davis by Hannah and Joe Robson and family

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.



Thanks for your ongoing prayers in this time of transition. Dr. Miller's retirement is set for Reformation Sunday, October 29. In the month of October, our worship schedule is as follows:

October 1, World Communion Sunday
11:00 a.m. Only one service / sanctuary

October 8, Dr. Jonathan Miller, preaching
8:15 Sanctuary
11:00 Sanctuary
11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast from sanctuary

October 15, 22, and 29
Dr. Jim Miller, offers three "Pastoral Letters" to the flock

October 15 and 22: three services
8:15 sanctuary
11:00 Sanctuary
11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast from sanctuary

October 29: Reformation Sunday
One service, Sanctuary

The Session's Transition Team, chaired by Jim Diacon, includes Allison Biggs, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews. A very helpful look into the future of pastoral leadership here at FPC can be found at firstchurchtulsa.org; look for the highlighted word "transition". If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

The flags hanging throughout the church remind us of mission partnerships around the world. Through these partnerships and faithful congregational giving the sun never sets on the ministries of First Church.

Presbyterian Women’s mission project for September is First Church’s Helping Hand Ministries. This ministry offers assistance to Tulsans in need. They will be collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry soap, and toilet paper. You can leave these items in the PW collection bin, in the atrium on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Dr. Miller continues his Pastor’s Class next Sunday on Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity*: Stephenson Hall, 9:30 a.m. Today’s chapter: “Isn’t Christianity Homophobic?”.

Foundations Class – today at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

Kenya Trip Review – Today in the Stephenson Hall at 9:30 a.m. to hear reflections on the recent Kenya mission trip.

Inquirers Class – If you’re interested in learning more about First Church, please join us today and on Sundays, October 1, 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1028.



Interested in a Kerr Chapel history tour? Join FPC docent Joan Hoar today, following the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service in the Kerr Chapel. For more information contact Patricia Hall 918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Happening This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

The Meaning Behind the Marquee meets in Stephenson Hall. The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on the meaning of 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. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

Mark Your Calendar

Music Lovers! You are invited to the 50th Annual Organ Concert presented by Ron Pearson, on Sunday, October 8, at 4:00, in the Sanctuary. The university of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra will participate; a reception will follow in the Atrium.

Deacons Day of Care: Saturdays, October 7 and 28. On the first Saturday, the team will be at Anderson Elementary School working on the grounds. On Saturday, October 28, teams will deploy to the home of First Church members who have requested help with yard work and light home-maintenance jobs. To offer your help, use the QR code. To request a team to visit your home on October 28, please call Julie Steiner at 918-640-6955.



Fall Festival – Sunday, Oct. 22, 3:30-6:00 p.m., at Camp Loughridge. Come celebrate friends and family with fun activities for all ages. The First Church Pitmasters are preparing barbeque and there are hayrides, music, and trunk or treat. More detailed information to come.

Save the Date!

Come and 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

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*, or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Realm – the church database – Every member of the church has a profile in the church's database. Unfortunately, many members do not have a photo in their profile. Having your photo on file is very helpful to the pastors, staff and other members in your groups. Visit the table in the atrium today and visit with Kathy Wilson who will help you check your profile.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher,

Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Mrs. LeaAnn Mungai was baptized on September 10; Colin Brian Curtis, son of Alex and Trey Curtis, was baptized on September 18.

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*.

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*.

With gratitude for those whom the Lord has added to our number, we offer a warm and heartfelt welcome!

Certificate of Transfer

Laura Chisholm
Randy Corelli
Teresa Corelli
Lisa Moss
Lynn Stewart

Reaffirmation of Faith

David Ford
Erica Kumar
Audrey Jones

Reinstatement

Lisa Angleton

Affiliation

Jenna Potvin

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 9/24

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:00 am First Church Chorister and Celebration Singers
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
 Cornerstone, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
 Covenanters, E101
 Faith and Family, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
 Forum, Who is This Man, E200
 Harbingers, When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, E202
 Morning Glory Class, Prayers and Bible Study, B318
 Young Parents, Parenting Series, E205
 Pastor's Study, Not Meeting
 Foundations, Letters of Paul, E104
 Reflections, The Intertestamental Period, E103
 Shepherds, Bible Study, E203
 Sojourners, Life Together, E204
 The Vine, I John, E100
 Westminster Class, 2 Timothy, Tower Room
 Young Adults and Ukirk, Bible Study, E201
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall
12:00 pm Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

Monday 9/25

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm Overtone Rehearsal, Bell Choir

Tuesday 9/26

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 9/27

- 9:30 am Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100
11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 9/30

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103