



# *Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost*

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

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April 23, 2023  
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 AM

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

# ***Third Sunday of Eastertide***

*Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.*

## **The Words of Preparation**

The Gospels are based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus, who had witnessed the events of his life and teachings, his death and resurrection. The gospels were not circulated as anonymous community traditions, they were transmitted in the names of the original eyewitness.

Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*

## **The Prelude**

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

*Be Thou My Vision*

Diane Miller and Nancy Strimel, pianists

## **The Welcome**

Dr. Miller

## **The Call to Worship**

Who is this man? Who is this Jesus of Nazareth, this one they say is alive and loose in the world, this one they call the Messiah?

**He is the reflection of God's glory, the exact imprint of God's very Being; He sustains all things by His powerful word. When He made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

Hebrews 1

Not only that –but “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven, on earth and under the earth --and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord...*”

Philippians 2

**Indeed: Lord of *all!* Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Hymn** 142 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Amy Russell

**The Gospel Reading** Matthew 18:1-5

## **The Sacrament of Baptism**

Georgia Moore, daughter of Keith and Paige Moore

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Clerk of Session Joel Donohue

Elder Kim Jones

## **The Prayer for Blessing**

### **The Response**      Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

Great God of every blessing, You gift us with Your grace; You meet us in Your mercy, in Christ we see Your face. In Him You grant forgiveness, in Him You call us friends; we sing our alleluias for love that never ends!

You set us into families, embraced by those who love, and in their grace they show us a love born from above. Their arms are Yours around us; their kisses are Your own; we sing our alleluias for those who've made You known.

Grant, now, O God our Father, that we might sense Your grace; Lord Jesus Christ, in mercy, come bless us in this place; life-giving Holy Spirit, come fill us with Your love; we sing our alleluias, great God who reigns above!

### ◆ **The Eastertide Affirmation**

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved --if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that *he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses*. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

## **The Joys and Concerns of the Church**

## **The Prayer of Dedication**

**The Offertory**      All The Way My Savior Leads Me      Nancy Walters  
*Abrianna DeLeon, soloist*

All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt his tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell! For I know what-e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well. All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread; though my steps may falter, and my soul a-thirst may be, gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see. All the way my Savior leads me, O the fullness of his love! Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day, this my song through endless ages: Jesus leads me all the way.

**The New Testament Reading**      I Corinthians 15:1-10

**The Sermon**      How Credible is Your Witness?  
*His grace toward me has not been in vain.*      I Cor. 15:10

### **The Invitation to the Table**

The Words of Institution  
The Prayer of Dedication  
The Sharing of the Elements

### **The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**The Hymn** 155      Rejoice, the Lord is King      DARWALL'S 148TH

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

**Music Lovers: Hear the Good News Story!**  
**Inspiring Concert: Multiple Choirs and Voices**

**Join us today: 5:00 p.m.**

*“Singing the Life of Christ,  
from Prophecy to Resurrection”*

*Favorite anthems and Bible readings that tell The Story.*

**Featuring the Chancel Choir, Celebration Singers, and First Church  
Choristers –with orchestra.**

Reception following in the Atrium

*Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Buddy and Maggie Neal and to  
Dr. John Ortberg.*

**This Week**

**“Significant Essays” by C. S. Lewis.** Dr. Miller begins his new Pastor’s Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

**Continuing the Prayer Vigil** - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

**The Inquirers Class – The adventure of Christian community!** Bring your questions as you consider why a community of faith is important in your discipleship. Today at 9:15, and continuing Sundays, April 30, May 7 and 14 (Miller Library). Register by contacting Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or click on the QR code below.



**Presbyterian Women: purchase your Mother's Day** cards to help benefit women caught in domestic violence. The design artist this year is our member Mary Lee Weaver. Pick up your cards today in the atrium and on Sundays, April 30 or May 7.

### **Wednesday Night Downtown**

**Join us for *Small Talk on Big Truths*: Dr. Miller joins Rev. Wambugu Gachungi** in room E104 on Wednesdays nights at 6:15 p.m. --an in-depth study of last week's sermon Scriptures. Bring your Bible!

**PKM fundraiser, this Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m., Bernsen Great Hall:** the *Mara Gen* (love and hope) Concert includes the Tulsa Opera's *Traveling Voices* and the *International African Children's Choir*. Tickets: \$35. See <https://www.petrakids.org/mara-gen-concert>. Your gifts support the PKM Student Scholarship Fund.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Works of HeART** - WOH is an FPC art ministry for the clients at the Day Center for the Homeless. Interested in volunteering? Visit the table in the atrium today and next Sunday, April 30.

**Deacons Day of Care:** Saturdays, May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m. Teams help with light yard work and home maintenance. To volunteer, or to request help at your home, register in the atrium today or Sunday, April 30. Contact Julie Steiner at [juliesteiner19@gmail.com](mailto:juliesteiner19@gmail.com) or Kathy Wilson at [kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org) for information.

**Second Annual Kids Fishing Derby!** Camp Loughridge, May 20. To register, visit the table in the atrium today.

### **Ongoing 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](https://www.facebook.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

**Faith Partners Addiction Ministry** - Faith Partners provides intervention, education, and recovery support to individuals and families suffering from addiction. If you are in need of information, please call Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028. A Faith Partners team member will return your call. All contact is confidential.

## **Parish Register**

**Prayers for Healing:** Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Anita Ewing, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Elanor Louise Fredericka and Rosewyn Elizabeth Georgiana Hutchinson, twin daughters of Dan and Hanna Hutchinson, were baptized on April 16.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Anne Nunnelee, a member since 2018, died on April 13.

## **Worship Notes**

**The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gregg and Dorothy H. Layman by Susan Layman and Peggy Welch Hoyt.

**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 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*.

**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.



**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.

**The Guild of Intercessors** is a group of FPC members who are dedicated to praying for the needs both within and outside of this congregation. If you'd appreciate prayer for yourself, a loved one, or a friend, please call Paula Peterson, Guild Chairman at 918-296-5548. Requests are shared with the Pastors and Guild members.



**THIS WEEK**

**TODAY 4/23**

8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel  
 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall  
 9:30 am      Gatherings and Classes  
 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

**Monday 4/24**

11:30 am     Monday School, Kirkland Library  
 11:45 am     Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103  
 6:30 pm      Seasons Women's Gathering, Stephenson Hall

**Tuesday 4/25**

9:30 am      Precepts, E100

**Wednesday 4/26**

11:30 am     Pastor's Study, E104  
 11:30 am     Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206  
 12:00 pm     Pathways to Hope, 206  
 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall  
 6:00 pm      Awana, POW and Amass Exodus  
 6:15 pm      Adult classes, various locations  
 6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

**Thursday 4/27**

6:00 pm      Petra Kids Fundraiser Choir Concert, Great Hall

**Saturday 4/29**

8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

**COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

**TODAY: Adult Classes, 9:30 a.m.**

Cornerstone	<i>Minor Prophets</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Renovated: God, Dallas, &amp; the Church That Transforms</i>	E101
Faith and Family Forum	<i>Wesley Study on Minor Prophets</i>	Prayer Room
Harbingers	<i>All the Places to Go</i>	E200
Morning Glory	<i>Eternity is Now in Session</i>	E202
New Parents	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Pastor's Study 1	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 2	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
Reflections	New Testament Overview	E104
Shepherds	<i>Judges</i>	E103
Sojourners	<i>Study of Ruth</i>	E203
UKirk	King David	E204
Westminster	New Testament Overview	E104
Young Adults	Introduction of Spiritual Disciplines	Tower Room
	New Testament Overview	E104

**ELDERS (THE SESSION):**

Responsible for the governance of the church.  
They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

**DEACONS:**

The "heartbeat" of the church, ordained for the purpose of "ministering to those in special need."

**TRUSTEES:**

Stewards of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

**THE OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

*Identifies leaders God has called and prepared to serve our congregation.*

**Currently Serving Elders**

<p><b><u>Class of 2023</u></b>  Maxwell Asare  Dacia Bird  Janine Burlin  Debbie Favell  Rusty Gaddy  Patrick Kirunda  Elisa Mangesho  Anne McCoy  Amy Russell  Jim Scheiper</p>	<p><b><u>Class of 2024</u></b>  Laurel Baird  Allison Biggs  Mark Brown  Larry Ewing  Stephanie Madsen  Urbanus Masaku  Steve Metcalf  Paul Mungai  Denise Rounds  Karen Woolman</p>	<p><b><u>Class of 2025</u></b>  Brett Crane  Elizabeth DeVore  John Harper  Jessica John-Bowman  Jeanette Kern  Jaclyn Metcalf  Eric Olson  Jacob Thompson  Solomon Tsuma  Faith Wambugu</p>
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## **Currently Serving Deacons**

### **Class of 2023**

*Sheri Allen  
Keith Campbell  
Michael Homan  
Cindy Johnson  
Lucy Kamande  
Clint McQueen  
Dylan Seibert  
Ed Slier  
Julie Steiner  
Shannon Thomas*

### **Class of 2024**

*Tina Aruna  
Bette Cromer  
Sandy Curtis  
Quentin Franklin  
Carter Mathews  
Buddy Neal  
Valentine Ndunga  
Dan Richmond  
Grace Shelton  
Scott Swanson*

### **Class of 2025**

*Anita Anthony  
Tyler Bird  
Nancy Blocker  
Beryl Bolo  
Brandon Evans  
Jeremy Foon  
Nick McMillan  
Janet Mercer  
Gladys Njino  
Cissy Ssettimba*

## **Currently Serving Trustees**

### **Class of 2023**

*Todd Schuster  
Robert Pielsticker  
Amy Tingleaf*

### **Class of 2024**

*Steve Caldwell  
Jane Crain  
Pam Farris*

### **Class of 2025**

*Dr. John Frame  
Ken McQueen  
Barrett Powers*