



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

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

May 14, 2023
KERR CHAPEL, 8:00 a.m.

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

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

C.S. Lewis wrote that he thought that his grief [over the loss of his wife, Joy] might be less if he intentionally avoided the places he and his wife Joy had frequented and so he limited his travels to only those places where they had never been together.

He switched grocery stores, tried different restaurants, walked only along streets and paths that he and Joy had never taken.

But it didn't work. To paraphrase Lewis, *"I found out that grief is like the sky above—it is over everything."*

Scott Hozee

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Introit

A Mother's Prayer
Breana McIntosh, soloist

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Before you close your eyes to sleep, I have a promise still to keep as I hold you in my arms. I pray your little frame grows strong, and that faith takes hold while you are young. This is my prayer for you.

Hold my hand; I'll teach you the way to go. Through the joys, through the tears, the journey of these years, may you trust Him 'til the end.

You'll travel where my arms won't reach, as the road will rise to lead your feet on a journey of your own. May my mistakes not hinder you, but His grace remain and guide you through; this is my prayer for you.

Take His hand, and go where He calls you to; and whatever comes, seek Him with all your heart. This will be my prayer for you. Father, hear my ceaseless prayer; O keep them in Your care.

The Prayer of Gratitude for Mothers

◆ The Call to Worship

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving! Psalm 69:30

Come and hear –all you who fear God—and I will tell you what He has done for me. Psalm 66:16

Upon you, good Lord, I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother’s womb. Psalm 70:6

We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks! Your Name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds!

With hearts, hands and voices, let us stand in honor and let us worship God!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** 555 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Patrick Kirunda

The First Reading Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Hebrews 10:24-25

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other. But woe to those who are alone and have no one to lift them when they fall.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another –and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, Giver of life and Author of every blessing, we confess our sin before you this morning. Your gift is to call us together, but we often choose to go it alone. You seek to bond our

hearts in community, but we envy a certain kind of “rugged individualism”. You yearn to awaken us to service together in your name –but we have our own agenda, write up our own bucket list. Forgive us, good Lord, and in your mercy, hear our prayers...
(in silence)

◆ **The Response**

O Waly, Waly

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

◆ **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 Offertory

Rise Up, My Heart, with Gladness

J. S. Bach

Rise up, my heart, with gladness, and hear the news today.
Now let all gloom and sadness be gone without delay. Lifeless our Savior lay; so too shall we one day, but we shall know God’s love

and rise to heaven above. With joy the foe had shouted when Christ was laid in the tomb. But now the foe is routed, his joy is turned to gloom. Christ gains the victory; through Him we all are free. He who was born to save has triumphed over the grave! This is a sight that gladdens: what peace it does impart! Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart. No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.

The Gospel Reading Luke 24:13-27

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened.

As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.

Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.

But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive!

Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

The Sermon Credible Witnesses: Cleopas

On their way to Emmaus... Jesus himself came near and went with them...

Luke 24:15

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn** 429 Lord, You Give the Great Commission ABBOT'S LEIGH

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Marlene Morgan on the death of her husband, David.

Today

This is the last day to nominate someone for leadership within First Church. Please see the back of today's bulletin.

This Week

"Significant Essays" by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller continues his Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Praying to Pentecost - 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.

Ascension Day worship in the Courtyard: this Thursday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' Lordship, His ruling and over-ruling power, and His commission to each of his disciples. Lunch is available following the service.

Mark Your Calendar

Pentecost Sunday, May 28

The 11:00 Sanctuary and 11:00 Stephenson Hall services join together in the Sanctuary; TIF meets in the Great Hall.

Following the service everyone is invited to the **First Family dinner** in the FPC Courtyard following the combined service. Enjoy the blessings of sitting at table together, sharing nourishment and deepening our friendships in Christ. Lunch is available, \$9 adults, \$5 children, \$22 per family. Reservations are not required, but you may pay in advance by the QR code below.



Glimpses of Grace - Sundays in June, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary! Hear four stories of how Jesus has been at work in and through the lives of those within this congregation. These stories will encourage you and enrich your faith.

June 4 - David Osterholt

June 11 - Julia Metcalf

June 18 - Solomon Tsuma

June 25 - Anna Milligan

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join Rev. Wambugu at his home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday beginning on June 7 - August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Precept Summer Bible Study - This is a 6-session study entitled *Breaking Free from Fear*. We will meet in E100, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., June 6 through July 18, excluding July 4. For more information contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! You are invited to add your voice to the Summer Choir for the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. The only time requirement is a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. If you've always wanted to give it a try, here's your opportunity – please join us! 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, Linda Barnett, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, 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 Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: David Morgan, a member since 1938, died on May 7.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Greg Berkhouse on the death of his mother, Nancy Berkhouse, on May 8.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Regina Smith Dickson and Phoebe Merrill Schermerhorn by Ed and Kay Schermerhorn, Stacy Schermerhorn, Todd, Amy, Colin, Winn, Beckett and Merrill Bertsch.

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.

Instruments for Ireland - Do you have a quality guitar or bass guitar in good, playable condition that you no longer need? Send it to Ireland as a missionary! The Irish Mission Partner team is looking for three or four instruments to donate to our mission partner church in Galway; Discovery Church. If you are interested in making such a donation please contact Eric Baird at ebaird@firstchurchtulsa.org or Rev. James Estes at jestes@firstchurchtulsa.org.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 5/14

- 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 5/15

- 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Wednesday 5/17

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Dinner, Stephenson Hall

Thursday 5/18

- 11:30 am Ascension Service, Courtyard

Saturday 5/20

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	<i>Apostles' Creed</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E200
Harbingers	<i>Eternity is Now</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Young Parents	<i>Who Is This Man?</i>	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	<i>King David</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Study of Elijah</i>	E203
Sojourners	<i>Study of James</i>	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	<i>Study of Jonah</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>The Greatest Commandment</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	New Testament Overview	E104

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."

-Matthew 20:28

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

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

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

Currently Serving Deacons

<p><u>Class of 2023</u> Sheri Allen Keith Campbell Michael Homan Cindy Johnson Lucy Kamande Clint McQueen Dylan Seibert Ed Slier Julie Steiner Shannon Thomas</p>	<p><u>Class of 2024</u> Tina Aruna Bette Cromer Sandy Curtis Quentin Franklin Carter Mathews Buddy Neal Valentine Ndunga Dan Richmond Grace Shelton Scott Swanson</p>	<p><u>Class of 2025</u> Anita Anthony Tyler Bird Nancy Blocker Beryl Bolo Brandon Evans Jeremy Foon Nick McMillan Janet Mercer Gladys Njino Cissy Ssettimba</p>
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Currently Serving Trustees

<p><u>Class of 2023</u> Todd Schuster Robert Pielsticker Bill Lawson</p>	<p><u>Class of 2024</u> Steve Caldwell Jane Crain Pam Farris</p>	<p><u>Class of 2025</u> Dr. John Frame Ken McQueen Barrett Powers</p>
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