



Taking Up Residence!
Empowered by the Mystery of
the Holy Spirit's Presence

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

July 16, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

No language can adequately express this solemn truth: the Holy Spirit rejoices and is glad on our account when we are obedient to him in all things, neither thinking nor speaking anything but what is pure and holy. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit is grieved when we admit anything into our minds that is unworthy of our calling. John Calvin

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Call to Worship

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and lifted up, sitting on a throne –and the hem of His robe filled the temple.

Seraphim attended Him: each had six wings.

With two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said,

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!

Isaiah 6:1-3

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Him – so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which He has called you!

Ephesians 1:18

◆ The Prayer for Illumination

The Rev. Julia Metcalf, soloist

(Congregation joins second time through)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart

–I want to see you; I want to see you-- to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory! Pour out your power and love as we sing, “holy, holy, holy!”

“Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy! --I want to see you!”

There is no better place to see the heartbeat of God
--than at the foot of the cross.

**There is no better place to open our hearts in worship and
adoration –than at the foot of the cross!**

Come, lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** 371

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

The First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-17

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

The Lord said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and He became their Savior
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but His presence that saved them;
in His love and pity it was He who redeemed them;
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

But they rebelled
and grieved His Holy Spirit;
therefore He became their enemy;
he himself fought against them.

Then they remembered the days of old,
of Moses His servant.

Where is the One who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?

Where is the One who put within them
His Holy Spirit,
who caused His glorious arm
to march at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for Himself an everlasting name,
who led them through the depths?

Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.

Like cattle that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.

Thus you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

The Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, when we sin, when we try to define for ourselves what is right and good and true, when we live in ways that are alien to your Way, you are grieved. You know better than we how dangerous our actions can be –hurting ourselves, wounding others.

According to your Word, our lives are so scrambled by sin, so pervaded by its infectious presence, that none of us can claim to be righteous, or faithful, or loving –certainly not in the way you intended when you created us. None of us.

Your diagnosis is clear: prone to wander, prone to leave the Lord we love –that’s who we are! So what shall we do, O Christ? When life overturns our hopes and dreams? When our addiction to sin seems to crush our best intentions?

O Lord, meet us in our deepest need today; forgive us for leaving

your Way and charting our own course of personal whims and wants. By Your Spirit, draw us home; create in us a clean heart. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace Christ's Forgiveness

Pardon for sin –and a peace that endures! This is the great gift on offer for each of us. Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon His name. **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Response**

HYMN TO JOY

Grateful thanks and praise we offer, Lord of mercy, grace and love; hear our voices now rejoicing –for your manna from above! In your presence, by Your Spirit, You redeem us from our sin. Come and have Your way among us: take up residence within!

Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end!” Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend. And, amid, the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry!

◆ **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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Mark Kellner

Lucy Donohue, Courtney Miller, vocalists

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not: as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain.*

The New Testament Reading Ephesians 4:17-32

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The Sermon A Cautionary Word about the Holy Spirit

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit....

Ephesians 4:30, NRSV

Don't grieve God. Don't break His heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for Himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

Ephesians 4:30-31, Message

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

- ◆ **The Prayers of the People**
- ◆ **The Lord's Prayer** (sung by the congregation)
- ◆ **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 Larry and Zenoma Osterhout.

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



Today! “Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library! We’ll explore how faith intersects culture on the silver screen. In July, Dan Hutchison and John Shelton consider popular movies and search out Christian themes that emerge.

- Today – The Mission
- July 23 – Arrival
- July 30 – Star Wars Series

In August, we will dive into Season 1 of *The Chosen* and review how scripture is messaged and depicted through this series. Pastors and lay teachers will lead our conversations in the Miller Library at 9:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more information.

Dr. Miller's Summer Session on *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 (and Wednesdays at 11:30) in E104. We're reviewing Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Rebecca will be speaking in Stephenson Hall on Saturday night, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

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

College Update for July – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us *@ukirktulsa* for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at *jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

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

Mark Your Calendar

Session meets on Tuesday, July 25: dinner, 5:15 p.m. and Session meeting at 6:15 p.m. in room E104.

Inquirers' Class – Sundays, August 6 – 27 at 9:15 a.m., in the Miller Library. If you are interested in joining First Church, please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028.

Annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament (including cookout!) – Sunday, August 20 following the 11:00 worship services. All ages welcome to participate.

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 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](#), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Carol Caldwell, Dwight Creveling, 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, Larry Osterhout, 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 Celebration of Christian Marriage: Morgan Wilson married James Williams on July 8.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Lisa Berry on the death of her father, Buddy Spencer, on May 26.

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.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 7/16

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am Faith and Film, Miller Library
- Morning Glory Class, B318
- Christian Apologetics, led by Dr. Miller, E104
- Westminster Class, Tower Room
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Tuesday 7/18

- 9:30 am Precept Bible Study, E100

Wednesday 7/19

- 11:30 am Pastor’s Study, E104
- 6:30 pm Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu’s Home

Saturday 7/22

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103