



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 2, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

As soon as the Spirit came upon the church, Satan launched a ferocious counter-attack. Pentecost was followed by persecution. Satan's strategy was carefully developed. He attacked on three fronts: 1) physical violence, 2) moral corruption or compromise, and 3) distraction...
John Stott, *Acts Commentary*

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

◆ **The Hymn** 564 O Beautiful For Spacious Skies MATERNA

◆ **The Prayer for our Nation**

◆ **The Call to Worship**

Our soul waits for You, O Lord,

For You are our help and shield!

Our hearts rejoice in You, O Lord,

since we trust in Your holy name.

Let Your loving-kindness rest upon us, dear LORD,

as we put our hope in You.

Psalm 33:22-23

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For He's blessed us --in Christ-- with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly place!

Eph. 1:3

Holy Spirit of God, Fount of every blessing, you are welcome here!

Come in your grace! Come in your mercy! Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON
(Ebenezer = "Stone of Help")

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Paul Mungai

The First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

The power of the Lord was upon me and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley full of old, dry bones that were scattered everywhere across the ground. He led me around among them, and then he said to me: “Son of dust, can these bones become people again?” I replied, “Lord, you alone know the answer to that.”

Then he told me to speak to the bones and say: “O dry bones, listen to the words of God, for the Lord God says, ‘See! I am going to make you live and breathe again! I will replace the flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you shall live and know I am the Lord.’”

So I spoke these words from God, just as he told me to; and suddenly there was a rattling noise from all across the valley, and the bones of each body came together and attached to each other as they used to be.

Then, as I watched, the muscles and flesh formed over the bones, and skin covered them, but the bodies had no breath. Then he told me to call to the wind and say: “The Lord God says: Come from the four winds, O Spirit, and breathe upon these slain bodies, that they may live again.”

So I spoke to the winds as he commanded me, and the bodies began breathing; they lived and stood up—a very great army.

Then he told me what the vision meant: “These bones,” he said, “represent all the people of Israel. They say: ‘We have become a heap of dried-out bones—all hope is gone.’”

But tell them, ‘The Lord God says: My people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again and return to the land of Israel. And, then at last, O my people, you will know I am the Lord.’”

I will put my Spirit into you, and you shall live and return home again to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have done just what I promised you.”

The Preparation for Confession

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

**Come down, O Love Divine, seek out this soul of mine
and visit it —with your own ardor glowing!**

+ + +

**O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it,
Your holy flame bestowing!**

+ + +

**Let holy charity my outward vesture be, and lowliness become
my inner clothing;**

+ + +

**true lowliness of heart which takes the humbler part,
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

+ + +

**And so the yearning strong with which the soul will long
shall far outpace the power of human telling;**

+ + +

**For none can guess God’s grace, till love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, read our hearts this morning and hear our confession: each of us and all of us are “prone to wander, prone to leave the Lord we love.” We are reluctant to own this, preferring to simply chase the life that sits before us. We rarely find ourselves weeping over, and loathing, our shortcomings.

Forgive us, dear Christ, for minimizing these realities. By the power of your Holy Spirit, transform us into faithful and joyful disciples. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers... *(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace Christ's Forgiveness

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** 313 Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

◆ **Affirmation of Faith** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Joys and Concerns

The Offertory

O God, Show Mercy to Us

Gustav Holst

Randie Lewis, soloist

Psalm 67

O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace; and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face, so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known, and unto every people your saving grace be shown. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing, in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring. For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness, and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess. Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing. Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send, and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

The New Testament Reading Acts 4:5-12, 27-31

The Sermon Confident, Joyful and Courageous!

When they saw the boldness of Peter and John...

Acts 4:13

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** 447 Lead on, O King Eternal LANCASHIRE

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

Today

Our Letter of Blessing goes to the Pat Wheeler family.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frances and Dr. John Scott, by John Scott, Jeff Scott and Barbara Albritton.

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.



Watermelon, anyone? Celebrate in the Courtyard today: the joy of heritage and the 4th of July -- following the 11:00 a.m. service!

Today! “Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 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 – Mary Poppins
- July 9 – Stranger Than Fiction
- July 16 – The Mission
- July 23 – Star Wars Series
- July 30 – Arrival

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.

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

Dr. Miller launches his 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 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

Spiritual Retreat at Camp Loughridge – Save the date for a rich experience: Saturday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. at Camp Loughridge. Adults and families (with children of all ages) will have two separate paths of retreat through the morning. For more information or to register please contact lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org or click on the QR code below.



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. If you've always wanted to give it a try, here's your opportunity! 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.

Special Needs Ministry is growing! We need volunteers to work with our young people who need a little extra help. If you are interested in serving at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. once a month or more, please contact Jackson Seibert at Jseibert@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Pat Brown, Carol Caldwell, Roy Cail, 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, and Susan Waldie.

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 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.

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.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 7/2

- 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
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Tuesday 7/4 Church offices are closed.

Wednesday 7/5

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
- 6:30 pm Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu's Home

Saturday 7/8

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103