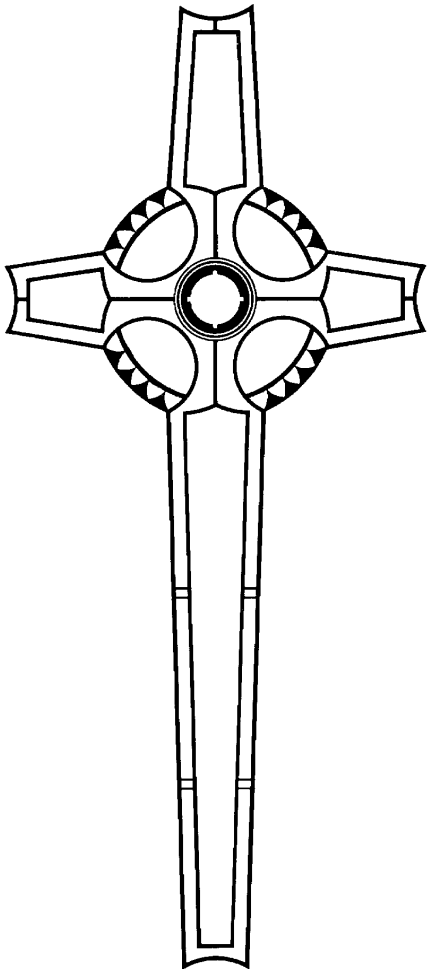

The Gospel According to Leviticus:

The Sketchbook of God's Redeeming Love

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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

8:00 AM

KERR CHAPEL

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel

The Words of Preparation

Leviticus is good news: good news for sinners who seek pardon, for the unclean who covet cleansing, for the poor who yearn for freedom, for the marginalized who seek dignity, for animals that demand protection, for families that require strengthening, for communities that want fortifying and for creation that stands in need of care. Derek Tidball, Principal, London School of Theology

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

The Call to Worship

Homecoming is God's promise —to all those who call upon Him. In the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

"Sing aloud, with gladness!" says the Lord, "for I will bring you from the farthest parts of the earth… Included will be the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman, the weak —a great company! They shall return!

So hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;

He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock!" Jeremiah 31:7ff

To the One who brings us home: let's lift our hearts in praise and our voices in joy,

And let us worship God!

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

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

151 Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA

♦ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Laurel Baird

The New Testament Reading I Corinthians 10:1-13

The Prayer of Confession Rev. James Estes

Almighty and holy God, how alluring sin can appear; how truly enticing it can seem. But you stand steadfastly and forever against it —for sin is a disfigurement of your creation, distorting beauty and goodness, corrupting the heart, destroying relationships, diminishing our capacity to trust You and take You at your word. Sin is always deadly. Good Lord, wrap us in your forgiveness, awaken our hearts to your redemptive and liberating presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers… (*in silence).*

The Solo Just as I Am arr. Craig Courtney

Brenda Seidel, soloist

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come!

The Invitation to Embrace Forgiveness

Friends, embrace this good news with all your hearts:
in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him!
Alleluia! Amen!

♦ **The Response**

O chosen seed of Israel's race, Christ-ransomed from the fall!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all;
hail Him who saves you by His grace and crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all! To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all!

♦ **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 Old Testament Readings Genesis 1:1-2, 26-28; 2:15-17; 3:24

The Sermon Why Leviticus?

They heard the Lord God walking in the garden so they hid themselves…. *Leviticus 3:8*

The Celebration of Communion

Words of Institution
Prayer of Blessing
Sharing the Bread and the Cup
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- **The Hymn** 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

- **The Charge and Benediction**

- **The Postlude**

Today at the Congregational meeting being held after the 11:00 Sanctuary worship service, the 2022 Nominating Committee will offer the 2023 officers. We are grateful for the special and prayerful consideration that the 2022 Nominating Committee brought to this task. Below are the following persons whom we believe God is calling into specific leadership positions within First Church:

Elders – 2025

Brett Crane
Elizabeth DeVore
John Harper
Jessica John-Bowman
Jeanette Kern
Jaclyn Metcalf
Eric Olson
Jacob Thompson
Solomon Tsuma
Faith Wambugu

Deacons – 2025

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

Trustees – 2025

John Frame
Ken McQueen
Barrett Powers

2023 Nomination Committee

Shannon Bair
Patrick Grogan
Gary Johnson
Becca Kibui
Jason Pugh
Carol Rowland
John Shelton
Spurgeon Wambugu
Laurie Winslow

With gratitude to the 2022 Nominating Committee:

Dacia Bird, Chair, Amy Russell, Vice-Chair, Jackie Allison, Jane Crain, Jenni Dollahon, Bill Huffman, Becca Kibui, Bob Pielsticker, Phil Rounds, Barbara Sanders, Porter Shults and Solomon Tsuma

Worship Notes

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for every grandparent on this National Day of Grandparents, by the Presbyterian Women of First Church.

First Friends in the Pews! What is this? It's a simple –but very effective-- ministry that we all can share by simply sharing a warm welcome with those who sit near us during worship. Share the joy of being a First Friend in the Pew!

Services are broadcast on the FPC Facebook page, and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

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.

First Church Updates

A heartfelt welcome to worship! We pray that you'll sense the presence of Christ here, —and the warmth of this community.

The Session has called for a brief congregational meeting today, immediately following the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary. The purpose is to act upon the 2025 slate of Elders, Deacons and Trustees presented by our Nominating committee.

Invite your friends! *Atrium Art* – *The Calling of Lazarus*, opens this Friday, Sept. 16, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The exhibit includes 47 portraits of Lazarus, painted by distinguished Irish artist Ross Wilson. Mr. Wilson will describe his work, *The Calling of Lazarus* --focusing on the 60 seconds that followed the miracle call of Jesus, "*Lazarus, come out!"*

Special Pastor's Class Lecture: Irish Artist Ross Wilson offers a reflection on the life and faith of Vincent Van Gogh: next Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., in Stephenson Hall. He will be available between worship services to meet guests in the exhibition area surrounding Miller Library.

Dr. Miller's weekly Pastor's Class resumes this Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. and next Sunday, Sept. 18, at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. His discussion is titled: *"Contemporary Concerns and the Christian Faith.* Dr. J. I. Packer's classic, *Knowing Christianity,* a brilliant systematic theology of the Bible's message, serves as the driver of our reflections. The Wednesday and Sunday classes cover the same ground. See the *"Special Lecture"* (Sept. *18)* by Ross Wilson (above), which begins our series.

Matson Cup: the *Helping Hand Golf Tournament* on Monday, Sept. 19, with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Maybe your strength is on the green? You'll enjoy the brand-new putting contest! All proceeds go to serve the impoverished in our city through our Helping Hand Ministry. Please visit our website for more information by using the QR Code.

Wednesday Night Downtown, begins this Wednesday, Sept. 14, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Adult class offerings include:

> ***Glimpsing the Glory of God! Examining His Handiwork*** --Experts in physics, meteorology, geology, horticulture, and astronomy take turns investigating the creation story (Genesis chapter 1) --clear evidence of God's mighty hand and amazing ingenuity. Dr. Miller introduces each speaker. Beginning this Wednesday in Stephenson Hall, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.
>
> ***Seeker's Bible Study*** – Pastor Wambugu takes a deep dive into the sermon texts on Leviticus, in room E104, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.
>
> ***Drawing from Life*** – Join local visual artist Laura Voth for a four-week life drawing course. Celebrate and learn about God's artistry and cultivate your drawing skills using graphite, charcoal, and pastels in a classical art studio environment. From 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. on the 5th floor of the Bernsen Center. Register and pay online (class fee is $15 for art supplies) or contact Laura Stevens at 918-584-4701 or *lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.*

People grieve for many reasons: ***Pathways to Hope*** is a five-week class, led by Rev. Wally Johnson, exploring ways to cope with grief, focusing on the Psalms of Lament. Join us each Wednesday from noon to 1:00 p.m., in Room 206 --continuing through October 5. Lunch is

available for $7. To register use the QR code or call Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.

Music Lovers! The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, founded in 1922, is celebrating its Centennial Year with an invitation to experience an organ "Open House" at the seven downtown churches in the coming year. Beginning at FPC this Saturday, September 10, at 10:00 a.m., we'll learn fascinating details about our Sanctuary organ, with the console rolled out in full view. Ron Pearson leads the discussion on its history. A short musical program follows. Please join us!

It's K-Group time! Regroup or join a K-Group as we head into the Fall. This year we're exploring E. James Wilder's book *Renovated: God, Dallas Willard and the Church that Transforms,* starting the last week of September. Please contact Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or *pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org.com* for more information.

Confirmation begins on Wednesday, October 26, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Powerhouse. This is for all freshmen and any high school youth interested in exploring their faith. Confirmation students will be engaged in a six-month lesson and small group discussion series about different aspects of our faith. Our hope is that each student will grow in their understanding of what they believe and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. For more information you can go to the First Church website and find confirmation in the events.

The Lunch Buddy ministry at Anderson Elementary is growing; there are still twelve students needing mentors. If you are interested in the lunch buddy program, please contact Cindy DeVore at 918-630-2636 for more information.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual *Lunch Buddy* ping-pong tournament. High honors go to Champion Jonny Miller who won the *Hutch Cup* for the third year in a row. In the junior divisions, champions include Will Scheiper, David Scheiper, and Paul Gitau. Thanks to your generosity, we purchased uniform pants and belts for the students at Anderson Elementary. Coats will be purchased as needed.

Presbyterian Women's Upcoming Events:

Priscilla Circle meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room E101.

Esther Circle meets the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in room E202.

Soup Group meets the third Thursday of each month at noon in room E104.

PW September Mission - *Helping Hands*: bring full-sized toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors), toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and feminine products. Please leave your donated items in the atrium.

We are looking for helpers to serve the Lord's little ones in our special-needs classroom on Sundays or Wednesdays. If interested, contact Sarah Savage at *ssavage@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Rob Berry, Laurie Brumbaugh, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Mary Fitzpatrick, Debi Foster, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Elaine Horkey, Meg Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Susan Lawrence, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Tom Sherrill, Helen Marie Sisler, Bill Smith,

Isla Smith, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Terry Thomas, Mike Tidwell, Larry Tromp, Susan Waldie, and Carolyn Wilcott.

The Sacrament of Baptism: John William McAfee, son of Kelsey and Matthew McAfee, was baptized on September 4.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 9/11/22

No Sunday School Classes, join us for Breakfast on Boston

9:30 am Breakfast on Boston
11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 9/12/22

Wednesday 9/14/22

11:30 am Pastor's Study – "Knowing Christianity, E104
11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area
6:15 pm Glimpsing the Glory of God, Stephenson Hall
Art Class, "Drawing from Life, 5th floor Bernsen Building
Seekers Bible Study, E104
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday 9/15/22

12:00 pm PW Dedication Day, E104

Friday 9/16/22

6:00 pm Atrium Art Gallery Opening, Church Narthex

Saturday 9/17/22

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103, Phil Rounds