



***O Lord,
How Shall I Meet You?***

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

**FEBRUARY 26, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885***

First Sunday of Lent

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Out flashed the sword of the Spirit: our Lord will fight with no other weapon. He could have spoken new revelations, but chose to say, *"It is written."* Charles Spurgeon

Prelude

Joy

We're choosing celebration, breaking into freedom; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. We cast aside our shadows, trust You with our sorrows; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts.

We're dancing to the rhythm of Your heart. We're rising from the ashes to the stars.

You're the joy, joy, joy, lighting my soul. The joy, joy, joy, making me whole. Though I'm broken, I am running into Your arms of love.

The pain will not define us. Joy will reignite us; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. The dark is just a canvas for Your grace and brightness; You're the song; You're the song of our hearts. *Refrain*

In the shadows, in the sorrows, in the desert when the pain hits, you are constant, ever present, you're the song of my heart. *Refrain*

Welcome

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Song of Praise

Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord now and always; sing it again, we rejoice. Delight in the love He has shown us; gratefully lift up your voice. His gentleness among us will join our hearts with praise. We gather in His goodness, a family of grace.

With each breath He's given, praise the Lord. In these times we live in, we will praise the Lord. Throughout every season, I am sure we have every reason to praise the Lord.

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing, praying for all that you need. Come with a song of thanksgiving, lay your requests at His feet. His peace will fall upon us to guard our hearts and minds. In Christ who reigns eternal; The Shepherd of our lives. *Refrain*

Rejoice in the Lord now and always; tell of the good He has done. Worship the Lord to remember all of the joy yet to come. The hope that burns within us, the dark cannot destroy. With praise that's never ending, we say again rejoice. *Refrain*

The First Reading

Psalm 139: 13-16

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, I do not deserve a glimpse of heaven, and I am unable with my works to redeem myself from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Nevertheless, you have given me your Son Jesus Christ, who is far more precious and dear than heaven, and much stronger than sin, death, the devil, and hell. For this I rejoice, praise, and thank you, O God. Without cost and out of pure grace you have given me this

boundless blessing in your dear Son. Through him you take sin, death, and hell from me, and do grant me all that belongs to him. Amen. Martin Luther

The Assurance of Pardon

Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6). This is the gift of grace and of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Graves into Gardens

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me. Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough. Then You came along and put me back together, and every desire is now satisfied herein Your love.

Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You. Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness. My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen them all and You still call me friend. 'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley, and there's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again. *Refrain*

You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory; You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways; You're the only one who can.

Refrain

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.

Passing of the Peace

Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Reflection

I Am Your Beloved

I've heard the accusation, and I've heard the propaganda;
I've heard the lies they whispered to my soul; that I have
been forsaken and I'll always be forgotten; No matter
what I do it's not enough.

But then I heard a voice as it opened up the heavens,
reminding me of who I've always been.

*I am Your beloved, You have bought me with Your blood,
and on Your hand You've written out my name. I am Your
beloved, one the Father loves, mercy has defeated all my
shame.*

There's no accusation or any condemnation when I look
into my Father's eyes. They don't see my sin, they only
see redemption; this is how my heart has been defined.

I can hear a voice that is louder than the thunder
reminding me of who I've always been. *Refrain*

The One Who knows me best is the One Who loves me
most; there is nothing I have done that could change the
Father's love. *Refrain*

The Second Reading Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Who am I?
...if you are the Son of God... Matthew 4:3

The Celebration of Communion

Words of Institution
Prayer of Blessing
Sharing of the Bread and Cup
The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me? I was lost but He brought me in; Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me.

Who the Son sets free, O is free indeed; I'm a child of God, Yes I am!

Free at last, He has ransomed me; His grace runs deep. While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free, O is free indeed; I'm a child of God, yes I am! In my Father's house there's a place for me; I'm a child of God, yes I am!

I am chosen, not forsaken; I am who You say I am. You are for me, not against me; I am who You say I am. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

First Church Updates

Today

Our *Letter of Well-Wishing* (placed just outside the door of this space) is directed today to Lauralee Dick.

Thank you to all who gave generously to the Souper Bowl of Caring on Youth Sunday. You gave a total of \$2,291 for the Helping Hand Ministry to help those in need in the Tulsa area.

This Week

Stay Close to the Master: Wednesday nights during Lent, beginning Wednesday, in Stephenson Hall, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. We gather for a time of worship followed by discussion around the tables. Dr. John Ortberg, who will preach here on the Sunday after Easter, offers a ten-minute video devotional, followed by questions and conversations at the tables. First Baptist Church, North Tulsa, and their pastor, Rev. Anthony Scott, will be joining us.

Mark Your Calendar

All-Church Retreat: Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2023, at New Life Ranch Frontier Cove. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Wes Vander Lugt. For more information contact Laura Stevens at 918-301-1019 or Hannah Damron at 918-301-1039.

Ongoing Ministries

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 Dan Hutchinson at 918-301-1040.

Internship Opportunity– Are you a college student who loves the Lord Jesus and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program. For more information, contact Steve Wilson at *swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Presbyterian Women's February Mission project benefits the Presbyterian Disaster Resistance. Please bring items for hygiene kits: hand towels, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, bath-sized, individually wrapped bars of soap, new single toothbrushes, and band-aids. Look for their mission box in the atrium.

Opportunities to Serve the Master

Children's Ministry opportunities – Invest your time with the youngest members of our congregation!

Two Second Grade Sunday School Classroom Assistants - Join us once a month to assist the lead Sunday school teacher in the classroom. Duties include assisting with crafts and helping with the lesson. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Two Awana Substitute Leaders - Join us on Wednesday evenings 6:00 -7:30 p.m. when needed. Fill in as a group leader by moving children to activity stations and helping with scripture memory.

Infant/Nursery/Preschool 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Baby Rockers - Help rock babies in the infant room. Sunday School Classroom Assistant - Help the classroom lead teacher with lesson, craft and general playtime.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sarah Savage at ssavage@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1011, Rachael Tsuma at rkamaru@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1006 or Erin Barnhart at ebarnhart@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1004.

Chancel Choir: If you love to sing and spread the Good News through music, you're invited to add your voice to the Chancel Choir.

Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Contact Ron Pearson at rpearson@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1013 or Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1012.

Memorial Service Greeting Ministry: Serve as a greeter for memorial services, with approximately a one-hour commitment. Memorial services are usually on weekday afternoons and sometimes on Saturdays. If interested, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1029.

Volunteers are needed to help print the weekly bulletins. We have an opportunity for you to work with us on Thursday afternoons for 3 – 4 hours each week. If you are interested, please contact Dionna Schooley at dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1015.

Masterwork Academy is all about the arts—of serving, of being available, of encouraging, and of being a friend. Of course, we're all about dance, art, music, theater, fitness and learning the Bible too. We're not looking for skill, we're looking for heart. If yours beats with the love of Christ and you have an weekday afternoon from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. to spare, please contact Jenette McEntire at jmcentire@masterworkacademy.org or Laura Voth, lvoth@masterworkacademy.org/918-954-1100.

Seeking writers and photographers - We have volunteer opportunities to serve in our communications area as a writer or photographer. We publish a quarterly magazine and semi-monthly newsletter; we are seeking people who would love to tell or illustrate our stories. To volunteer, contact Louann Buhlinger at lbuhlinger@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-740-7055.

Do you enjoy the gift of hospitality? Assist with First Family dinners, Pentecost Sunday and Pancake Breakfast; host dinners in your home or help with special events such as Fall Festival and Breakfast on Boston. For more information, please contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-3001-1028.

Introducing two new choirs for children and youth! Registration is now open for both the *First Church Choristers* children's choir (for grades K-4), and the *Celebration Singers* youth choir (for grades 5-12). These choirs will sing for special events and services in the life of FPC and in the community. Join by February 26 to sing with us for the Chancel Choir Spring Concert on Sunday, April 23. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. For more information and to

register contact Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1012 or scan the code below.

First Church Choristers



Celebration Singers



Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Linda Hopkins, Mike Hopkins, Elaine Horkey, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, 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, Bill Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Cat Thompson, Mike Tidwell, Susan Waldie, and Carolyn Wilcott.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Paul Dick, a member since 2003, died on February 18.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Gary Mathews on the death of his brother, Robert Mathews, on February 19.

Worship Notes

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jackson and Lena Nafe by Carol, Griffin, and Stephanie Elrod.

Services are broadcast and 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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 2/26

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

Monday 2/27

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

Tuesday 2/28

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 3/1

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
 12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
 6:15 pm Lenten Study, Stephenson Hall
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 3/4

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	Minor Prophets	E102
Covenanters	Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church	
	That Transforms	E101
Faith and Family	Neuroscience: The Impact of Technology on Our Kids: "Faith"	Prayer
Room		
Forum	All the Places to Go	E200
Harbingers	The Me I Want to Be	E202
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Faith and Physics	Stephenson
Hall		
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	Judges	
E103		
Shepherds	<i>Old Testament Connections/Fulfillment</i>	E203
Sojourners	Karl Barth Church Dogmatics	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	The Life You've Always Wanted	
E100		
Westminster	The Book of Easter	Tower Room

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