



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

**AUGUST 20, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885***

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

The Laodicean church was a half-hearted church. Perhaps none of the seven letters is more appropriate to the twentieth century church than this. It describes vividly the respectable, sentimental, nominal, skin-deep religiosity which is so widespread among us today. Our Christianity is flabby and anemic. We appear to have taken a lukewarm bath. John Stott

Thus for our part we should not want health more than sickness, wealth more than poverty, fame more than disgrace, a long life more than a short one – and so with everything else; desiring and choosing only what leads more to the end for which we are created. St. Ignatius of Loyola (translated by Michael Ivens, S. J.)

Prelude

He Leads Me On

A pilgrim, I oft feel alone upon the dusty road to home. My clothes are torn from stumbling. I seek a place to be made clean. I seek a place that can't be destroyed, one that is pure, where sin is void, laid up in heaven for the appointed time, for they that seek will surely find.

He leads me on. He leads me on. He fills my heart with Heaven's song. Before His throne kings lay their crowns. My life, my soul, my all kneel down.

The road is long and full of fears but Jesus Christ is ever near. His light breaks through the dark of sin, my faithful savior (yet) calls me friend. *Refrain*

I've been surprised by joy on the way to that land where night finally turns into day. Joy unspeakable, life unquenchable, "Well done" I long to hear Him say. *Refrain*

Welcome and Call to Worship

Song of Praise

New Wine

In the crushing, in the pressing, You are making new wine. In the soil I now surrender, You are breaking new ground. So, I yield to You and to Your careful hand. When I trust You I don't need to understand.

Make me Your vessel. Make me an offering. Make me whatever You want me to be. God, I came here with nothing but all You have given me; Jesus, bring new wine out of me.

'Cause where there is new wine, there is new power, there is new freedom, and the kingdom is here. I lay down my old flames to carry Your new fire today. *Refrain*

First Reading

Joshua 24:14-28

Elder Jacob Thompson

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we come before You in humility, for we do not live as we ought. We do not love You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We do not love our neighbor as ourselves. So, we pray, in all humility, that You will change our hearts and minds, that You will show us again how to love others the way You love us, that You will put power and courage in our hearts to do your will. This we pray in Jesus' name and for His sake. We silently lift up the prayers of our hearts to you now...*(in silence)*

Response to Confession

Light a Fire

Restore in me the joy of my salvation. Take me back to where it all began, where all I ever wanted was Your presence. How I long to be there once again.

Light a fire that the world can't burn out. Fan the flame 'til nothing between us remains; my life is an alter to You. Breathe again on the embers that burn in my heart, a love taken back to the start; my life is an alter to You.

Renew in me a pure and willing spirit. Take me back to where it all began before it all became so complicated. How I long to be there once again. *Refrain*

God, I'm sorry. Please forgive me for when I've gone cold. Lord, I need you; how I need you to awake my soul. *Refrain*

Assurance of Pardon

Create in me a clean heart, and renew a steadfast Spirit within me. This is our prayer. And now we proclaim the Good News that is for all the world: Christ was born, lived and died, and rose again that we would be freed from sin and death. Know that indeed you are forgiven, and be at peace. **Alleluia, Amen!**

Affirmation of Faith 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

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

Offering

I Am Not My Own

The one who made the heavens made my heart and soul; before I drew a breath I was loved and known. I am His creation, the Maker's masterpiece, and all that He designs will be done in me.

My body is a temple of the Living God; I'll worship in this house that His blood has bought. As I bear His image, O may I not profane, the holiness I hold in this earthly frame.

I belong to the Lord, O I am not my own. I belong to the Lord, I am not my own. I will honor Him for this I know, I belong to the Lord, I am not my own.

And, if He has redeemed me, I am not my own. The measure of my worth is His love alone. He declares my standing, and He declares my state, so I will know myself by the name He gave.

Refrain

I am not my own and now my heart is free; O Maker come and make what You will of me. There is nothing broken that You can not repair, so Lord I leave my life in Your loving care. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Joshua 23

Sermon

Decisive Discipleship: It's Personal?

Rev. Wambugu

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Sacrament of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

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 here in 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*

Charge and Benediction

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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: the Mercy Wairimu Ogalo family.

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

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.



“Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library. This morning we continue our series on *The Chosen* --one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	5 – The Wedding Gift 6 – Indescribable Compassion	Elder Jacob Thompson
Aug. 27	7 – Invitations 8 – I Am He	Elder Jacob Thompson
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd	Rev. Hutchinson

The Pastor’s Class: *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 in E104.

Professor Jerry McCoy leads the class today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*. Professor McCoy will lead the class for the next two weeks (Sunday, Aug. 27 and Wednesday, Aug. 23, 30). Please note: for the next two weeks, the Wednesday class begins at 12:30 p.m. instead of 11:30 p.m. E104.

Support Anderson Mentoring Ministry: Join us today following the 11:00 worship service for our annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament. A cookout lunch will be in the courtyard. Come learn about the mentoring lunch buddy program!

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

Mark Your Calendar

Breakfast on Boston! – Mark your calendars for **September 10 at 9:15 a.m.** There will be food, fellowship, live music from Grady Nichols, pony rides and face painting. To prepay for meals and avoid the lines, click on the QR code below. Breakfast prices are adults \$7, children (4-12 years old) \$4, Free (0-3 years old) and families \$20. There will be no Sunday School on this day.



Monday School begins on Monday, September 11 in the Kirkland Library; lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the lesson starting at 12:00 p.m. Justin Schell will be teaching on the theme *The Kingdom of God*. Reservations and payment can be made by clicking on the QR code below.



Guys Monday Bible Study - Begins on September 11, at 11:45 a.m. in E103. Optional lunch available for purchase by reservation and payment can be made by clicking the QR code.



Precept Bible Study – This is an 11-week study on the Psalms and begins on September 12 in E101. If you want to learn more about how to praise God in the good times, lament honestly in the bad, and trust God through every season of life, this study on Psalms chapters 1-22 is perfect for you. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Watercolor the World - Join us in E104 for six weeks of creativity starting on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Mary Lee Weaver will be demonstrating how to create beautiful cards and bookmarks using traceable images, scripture and colored with watercolors or colored pencils. To sign up please contact Laura Stevens at ljstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org

Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesday Night Downtown, begins Wednesday, Sept. 13, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Class start at 6:15 p.m.

The Meaning Behind the Marquee, in Stephenson Hall, The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on orthodox, reformed, and evangelical. These words speak to First Church's identity – who we are and where we come from. But what do they signify? What is it that we are declaring to be true about this community? This fall, we will be considering each of these words, the history and theology that give them meaning, and how they might shape our life together.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Come join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin: *Four Things Christians Must Reclaim* - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear Dr. McLaughlin. Her first book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

Helping Hand Golf Tournament: Monday, September 18, 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Click on the QR code below to register yourself and/or your team. Every penny is devoted to the most impoverished of Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand* Ministry.



Save the Date!

Come, add to the joy! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, **Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** A reception follows in the Courtyard.

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 on 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](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Beverly Dale, 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, 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 Joy of New Life! We welcome: Alexander Doverspike, son of Adam and Jen Doverspike, was born on June 22.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Matthew Bristow on the recent death of his mother, and to the family of Mercy Ogala, who died on August 12.

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 8/20

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
 Faith and Film, Miller Library
 Faith and Family, Prayer Room
 Morning Glory Class, B318
 Reflections, E103
 Sojourners, E204
 Westminster Class, Tower Room
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 8/23

12:30 am Pastor's Study, E104

Saturday 8/26

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103