



# ***Tiny Letters: Giant Impact***

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

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**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
8:30 AM  
STEPHENSON HALL  
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa  
Born by grace in 1885***

# ***Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

*Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.*

## **Words of Preparation**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

2 Corinthians 5:16-18

## **Prelude**

### **I Thank God**

Wandering into the night, wanting a place to hide, this weary soul, this bag of bones. I try with all of my might, but I just can't win the fight. I'm slowly drifting; a vagabond. And just when I ran out of the road, I met a man I didn't know, and He told me that I was not alone.

*You picked me up. You turned me around and placed my feet on solid ground. I thank the Master. I thank the Savior because You healed my heart. You changed my name, forever free, I'm not the same. I thank the Master. I thank the Savior. I thank God.*

I cannot deny what I've seen; got no choice but to believe. My doubts are burnin' like ashes in the wind. So, "so long" to my old friends, burden and bitterness. You can just keep them moving. They ain't welcome here. From now 'til I walk streets of gold, I'll sing of how You saved my soul. This wayward son has found his way back home. *Refrain*

Hell lost another one. I am free. I am free. I am free. *Refrain*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

## **Song of Praise**      Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation. All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near. Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things, so wondrously reigneth. Shelters thee under His wings, yet so gently sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee. Surely His goodness and mercy, here, daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love, He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him. All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again; Gladly, for aye we adore Him.

## **Gospel Reading**

John 15:1-13

Elder Rusty Gaddy

## **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Julia Metcalf

## **Response to Confession**

Yet Not I but Through Christ In Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer, there is no more for heaven now to give. He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom. My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His. Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing "all is mine", yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Savior, He will stay. I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need

His power is displayed. To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me; through the deepest valley he will lead. Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid, for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave. To this I hold, my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea. Oh, the chains are released. I can sing I am free, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him. When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, yet not I, but through Christ in me.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel that in Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon His name. **Alleluia, amen!**

### **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

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

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## The Prayer of Dedication

### Offering

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*

### Epistle Reading

Philemon

### Sermon

Adoption Changes Everything Rev. Dan Hutchinson

*For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother...* (Philemon 1:15-16)

## **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**

Rescuer

There is good news for the captive; good news for the shamed.  
There is good news for the one who walked away. There is good  
news for the doubter, the one religion failed, for the good Lord  
has come to seek and save.

*He's our Rescuer. He's our Rescuer. We are free from sin  
forevermore. Oh, how sweet the sound. Oh, how grace abounds.  
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer.*

He is beauty for the blind man; riches for the poor. He is  
friendship for the one the world ignores. He is pasture for the  
weary; rest for those who strive. Oh, the good Lord is the way the  
truth the life. Yes, the good Lord is the way the truth the life.

*Refrain*

So come and be chainless; come and be fearless; come to the foot  
of Calvary. There is redemption for every affliction, here at the  
foot of Calvary. So come and be chainless; come and be fearless;  
come to the foot of Calvary. There is redemption for every  
affliction, here at the foot of Calvary. *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.

**A Congregational Meeting** has been called by the Session and set for next Sunday, September 17, immediately following the 11:00 service. The Nominating Committee will present a new slate of officers (elders, deacons, trustees) and the congregation will vote upon it.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** Phyllis Courtaney (Diane Miller's mother), and to Laura Peeples.

**The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Grandparents Day, by the Presbyterian Women of First Church who pray for peace, love, grace and honor for Presbyterian Women locally and worldwide.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



**The Session has formed a Transition Team** (Allison Biggs, Jim Diacon, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews) whose duties will be to prepare for Dr. Miller's upcoming retirement. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to [FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Breakfast on Boston! – Today, at 9:15 a.m.** There will be food, fellowship, live music from Grady Nichols, pony rides and face painting. 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 today.**

**Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin: *Four Things Christians Must Reclaim*** - Join us this 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*.

**Young Adults** are invited to a Backyard BBQ tonight! Come and enjoy good food and fellowship from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. at Pastor Julia's house: 1523 S. Delaware Place.

**Presbyterian Women's mission project** for September is First Church's Helping Hand Ministries. This ministry offers assistance to Tulsans in need. They will be collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry soap, and toilet paper. You can leave these items in the PW collection bin, in the atrium on Sundays and Wednesdays.

## Happening This Week

**Monday School** begins tomorrow, 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 tomorrow, 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.





**Seasons Women's Gatherings** - Do you crave meaningful friendships that will last? Are you looking for deeper connections? Join us once a month, starting tomorrow, September 11, to explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. We will meet in the Miller Library on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Precept Bible Study** – This is an 11-week study on the Psalms and it begins this Tuesday, September 12, from 9:30 – 10:40 a.m. in E100. 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](mailto:lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org) for more information.

**Watercolor the World** - Join us in E104 for six weeks of creativity starting this Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Mary Lee Weaver will be demonstrating how to create beautiful cards and bookmarks using traceable images and scripture, using watercolors or colored pencils. To register, please contact Laura Stevens at [lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org).

### **Wednesday Night Downtown**

Wednesday Night Downtown begins this week, on September 13, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Classes start at 6:15 p.m.

**The Meaning Behind the Marquee** meets 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. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

**Presbyterian Women's Dedication and Installation luncheon** is this Thursday, September 14, at noon in the Miller Library. Our guest speaker Co Edwards is speaking about the Tulsa Day Center and Hudson Villas. If you would like to attend, please contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1022 by tomorrow evening.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Enrollment for our children's and youth choirs is now open!** Children and youth from age five through high school will learn rich theology and Biblical truth through songs, hymns, and musicals. There will be opportunities for them to sing for the congregation and the Tulsa community by singing for worship and special events throughout the year.

**First Church Choristers** children's choir is open to children age five through fourth grade.



The **Celebration Singers** youth choir is open to students in grades 5 – 12.



Both choirs will meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., starting next Sunday, September 17. Enrollment is required; for a full schedule of events and to enroll, scan the QR code for each choir.

**Foundations Class** (former Pastor's Class) – Class begins on Sunday, September 17, at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

**Ireland and Kenya Trip Reviews** – Join us on Sunday, September 17 (Ireland) and Sunday, September 24 (Kenya) at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall as the trip leaders give us a review of their journeys.

**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 Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand Ministry*.



**Inquirers Class** – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us on Sundays, September 24, October 1, 8 and 15, from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org) or 918-301-1028.



**Keith and Kristyn Getty** and their band return to First Church on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. for their ***Sing! An Irish Christmas*** concert tour. Tickets are on sale now at [www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23). Adults are \$10 each; free tickets are available for children 17 and under, with the purchase of an adult ticket. Young adults 18 - 21 can attend free with an ID; an RSVP is required. Tickets are going fast, so get your tickets early!

### **Save the Date!**

**Come and 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

**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.

**Realm – the church database** – Every member of the church has a profile in the church’s database. Unfortunately, many members do not have a photo in their profile. Having your picture is very helpful to the pastors, staff and other members in your groups. Visit the table in the atrium on Sundays, September 10, 17 and 24 and Kathy Wilson will help you check your profile. She will take a quick “neck up” picture if you don’t have one in *Realm*.

### 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, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Hayden Ernest Hoppe and Owen Elliott Hoppe, sons of Becky and Brian Hoppe, were baptized on September 3.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Peter Walter on the death of his mother, Jane Walter, on August 8; to Diane Miller on the death of her sister, Teri Biedermann, on August 11; and to David Osterholt on the death of his father, David W. Osterholt, on September 4, and Jeremy Foon on the recent death of his father.

## **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 9/10**

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am      Breakfast on Boston
- 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

### **Monday 9/11**

- 10:00 am     Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 11:30 am     Monday School, Kirkland Library
- 11:45 am     Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
- 6:00 pm      Season's Women's Gathering, Miller Library
- 7:00 pm      Overtones Rehearsal, Bell Choir Room

### **Tuesday 9/12**

- 9:30 am      Precepts, E100

### **Wednesday 9/13**

- 9:30 am      Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100
- 11:30 am     Pastor's Study, E104
- 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm      Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
- 6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Saturday 9/16**

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103