



***Embracing the Mystery:
And Your Role in
God's Drama***

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

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2021
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL**

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall; 8:30 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find. His service is the golden cord close binding humankind!

The Prelude O Church, Be Filled with the Power of God

O church, be filled with the power of God, as from the day of your birth. Every nation and tribe and tongue He's called to declare throughout the Earth. His Kingdom is coming, the Bride He's adorning, He's called us out of the grave. O church, be filled with the power of God, for He is mighty to save!

The room was filled with tongues of fire and the world was never the same. The Spirit of God, come to dwell within, so that we can bear His name. For His Kingdom is coming, His people He's calling to share Gods love in His name. O church, be filled with the power of God, for He is coming to reign.

O let's preach good news to the poor and freedom to all the enslaved. There's liberty and healing for all; we're set free in Jesus' name.

Once dead in sin, now alive in Christ, baptized in water and fire. The Spirit of God fills His church within and sends us out into the mire. For His Kingdom is coming, this race we are running, fixing our eyes on our King. O church, be filled with the power of God. For our joy and His glory we sing! *Refrain*

The Welcome

The Call to Worship

**We've gathered here to worship –by the Lord's own invitation!
He's prepared the table. Look, the bread and cup are visible signs
of His invisible love! What should we do? How should we
respond?**

Come, let's lift our hearts, sing His praise,
and let us worship God! Alleluia. Amen!

◆ **The Song of Praise** Come, People of the Risen King

The Worship Team

Come, people of the Risen King, who delight to bring Him praise!
Come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice! One heart; one voice; O
Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come those whose joy is morning sun and those weeping through
the night; come those who tell of battles won and those struggling
in the fight. For His perfect love will never change and His mercies
never cease, but follow us through all our days with the certain
hope of peace. *Refrain*

Come young and old from every land, men and women of the
faith! Come those with full or empty hands, find the riches of His
grace. Over all the world His people sing, shore to shore we hear
them call, the Truth that cries through every age, "Our God is all in
all!" *Refrain*

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Rev. Wally Johnson

The First Readings: Isaiah 60:1-3, Galatians 3:26-29

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you! For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you and His glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, You meet us at the foot of the cross and, by grace, You welcome us into your Family. As we look around, we discover people of every tribe, ethnicity, tongue and culture are included. But we are a divisive people. After you gather us, we split into our various interest groups, show favoritism to our particular tribes, huddle with those who agree with us. Good Lord, forgive us. Grant us Your love for the world! Cause us to embrace others with the love of Christ Himself. Awaken in us a longing to share the love of Jesus with a divided and splintered world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers..... *(in silence)*

The Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

Matthew Merker

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path; for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; for my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast; precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last; bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *Refrain*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast. 'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! *Refrain*

The Great Good News

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

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **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 Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22

The Sermon

The Seismic Nature of the Gospel
Remember....Remember....But now....!

Dr. Miller
Ephesians 2:11-13

The Invitation to the Table

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees. When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising Son –O Lord, have mercy on me!

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees. When we fall on our knees, with our face to the risen Son –O Lord have mercy on us!

Let us praise God together in this place! Let us praise Him together for His grace! Let us lift up our hearts and sing praise to the risen Son –for His great mercy on us!

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

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ The Song King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light, 'til from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word. From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one. God of Glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost. To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross. For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died. *Refrain*

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath, 'til that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame. Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free for the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me. *Refrain*

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

Worship Notes

Welcome to worship on this World Communion Sunday! We gather by Christ's invitation to feed on His Word, open our hearts to His presence, and pray for the Holy Spirit's empowering! A special and heartfelt welcome to guests who are new here. We pray you might sense the presence of Christ and the warm welcome of this congregation!

Blessed to worship! The Session has re-established our regular Sunday worship times. You're welcome next Sunday in one of these locations:

- 8:00** Kerr Chapel (weekly communion)
- 8:30** Stephenson Hall (weekly communion, praise band)
- 11:00** Sanctuary (Traditional, with choir)
Stephenson Hall (Contemporary, with praise band)
Great Hall (Bernsen, fourth floor) *Tulsa International Fellowship*

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

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J. M. Hall, given by the J. M. Hall Foundation.

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* or text 405-276-4141. You will also find offering plates located at the back of each worship space.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

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*.

In this continuing season of the COVID virus, we yearn to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here. The Session has recommended the wearing of masks during the worship services. Thanks to each for your efforts in this regard.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Billy Boyd, Pat Brown, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Terry Diacon, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Luke Fravel, Caroline Fravel Jones, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, David Osterholt, David Raybourn, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Quendy Veatch, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Perrin Andris Stahl, daughter of Conley and Evan Stahl, was baptized on September 26.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Dr. Robert Shepard, a member since 1951, died on September 24.

Sermon Notes

In an interview with the late comedian Norm Macdonald, Larry King talked about his fears: “You know what scares me the most?” He said. “Death. The idea of non-existence. Some people call it a forever ‘dirt-nap’. That frightens me.”

There would seem to be nothing more hopeless than a forever “dirt-nap”. And that's exactly what Paul calls death: *hopeless*. It threatens everything precious to us. Our relationships, the love we've shared, the joys we've known —if we're headed to a forever “dirt nap” life loses all meaning.

Paul is not reluctant to speak about death. But his greatest concern is not with our physical being.

In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul offers a stunning diagnosis about the human condition: Spiritually speaking, apart from Christ, we are dead. Spiritually “flat-lined”.

Dr. Vander Lugt's sermon last week put it this way: “We are not ‘pretty much dead,’ or ‘mostly dead,’ we're dead.” Indeed. We aren't in the spiritual ICU. Apart from Jesus, we're in the morgue. And, as is the case with the dead, we can't do anything about it.

Only God can step in. Only in Christ can we be awakened to new life. And this, according to Paul, is exactly what has happened. By an act of sheer grace, God acted: “You, He made alive, when you were dead through your trespasses and sins...” (2:1).

Today's text (2:11-23) Paul reminds the Gentiles of their previous condition. They were:

1. Alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel
2. Strangers to the Covenants of Promise
3. Having no hope and without God in the world.

And then, in the rest of this text, Paul paints a picture of God's new creation — intended to be visible in the Church:

1. A new humanity —not alienated but reconciled to God and to each other
2. A model human community —where beauty, truth and goodness flourish...
3. In this new Society, God rules and loves and lives.

Sermon Notes (Continued)

John Stott offers us this challenge:

I wonder if anything is more urgent today, for the honor of Christ and for the spread of the Gospel, than this:

that the Church should be, and should be seen to be, what by God's purpose and Christ's achievement it already is: a single new humanity, a model of human community, a family of reconciled brothers and sisters who love their Father and love each other.

First Church Updates

Join us for our First Family Dinner today at 12:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall and the Courtyard. Dr. Miller shares highlights from his sabbatical in a brief presentation.

Commitment Sunday: October 17, all five services. We're encouraged to consider our blessings –the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that the Lord has richly bestowed upon us. As the hymn writer put it, "Give of your best to the Master!" Let's be prayerful and intentional as we prepare for Commitment Sunday.

Kings in Judaea: Casting Call - On November 20, 2021, as part of an exciting weekend celebrating "The Greatest Drama Ever Staged," First Church will be staging a performance of *Kings in Judaea* by Dorothy Sayers. Auditions will be held at First Church on Saturday, October 23, from 1:00 -4: 00 p.m. and 6:00 -8:00 p.m. Please note that all cast members should be available for several rehearsals over Zoom the weeks of October 24 and 31, with full availability for evening rehearsals the week of November 14. Use the QR code below for more information, to see the casting parts available or to sign up for a 10-minute slot. *Kings in Judaea* will be directed by Bruce Long, an award-winning director, Broadway producer, and Executive Director of CITA (Christians in Theatre Arts).



Dr. Miller's Pastor's Study on C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity is offered each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. –both in Stephenson Hall.

Pastor Dan Hutchinson continues a year-long Survey of the Bible at 9:30 a.m. this morning in E104.

Join the **Downtown Theological Roundtable** for a discussion of Martin Luther's *On the Bondage of the Will* –each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in room 206. To register, or with questions, please call or email Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Grow your faith this fall by joining a small group to discuss the book *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows* by James Bryan Smith. Groups begin the week of September 20 for nine weeks. Interested in joining, hosting or leading a group? Please contact Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. (Stephenson Hall)

and class at 6:15 p.m.

To reserve dinner, call or email Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Beauty is Oxygen: How the Arts Help Our Souls Breathe is taught by Dr. Wes Vander Lugt, Theologian-in-Residence, in Stephenson Hall. Beauty is everywhere, but what does it have to do with becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ? In this study, we will explore the pivotal role of beauty and the arts in knowing God, flourishing in our full humanity, and following Jesus with vibrant wisdom in a grayscale world.

Seekers taught by Rev. Wambugu Gachungi will be in room E104. Join us each Wednesday night for a verse by verse study of the fall sermon series.

It's time to register for the **Christmas Eve Children's Live Nativity!** Register online through Realm or the church website calendar now through November 1. The Live Nativity is open to ALL children in grades K-8 - there's a role for EVERYONE! Rehearsals will be every Sunday, 12:15-1:00 p.m., through December.

Young Adults (20s and 30s): Whether you are single, married, or anywhere in between; new to faith or looking for deeper theological engagement, we are committed to helping young adults discover their place in Christ and the local church. There are lots of ways to get involved through Sunday School, small groups, community nights, and service. If you are interested in learning more, contact Dan Hutchinson at dhutchinson@firstchurchtulsa.org or Elizabeth DeVore at eldevore7@gmail.com.

People grieve for many reasons: the loss of a loved one, losing a job or career, the end of a marriage or relationship, etc. **Pathways to Hope** is a five-week class, led by Rev. Wally Johnson. Join us in the Miller Library on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. –starting on October 6 and continuing through November 3. You’re welcome to bring a lunch or order a boxed lunch (\$6) when registering for the class. Class size is limited. Online registration is available using the QR code below or by contacting_Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.



Music lovers! Invite your friends! Ron Pearson’ 48th Annual Organ Concert is just over the horizon! Sunday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will include the University of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra.

For Veterans Day, the Guild of Intercessors is updating its Armed Forces Prayer List. If you have loved ones who are on active duty, please contact Paula Peterson (918-296-5548/mandppeterson@msn.com), Sandy Curtis (918-742-6249/sd.curtis@cox.net), or Monte Prater (918-605-9719/monteprater@aol.com) by October 22.

Interested in joining First Presbyterian Church? The Inquirers Class is an opportunity to learn more about the church and what we believe while meeting others on the same journey. Please join us with your questions on Sundays, October 24, 31, November 7 and 14 from 9:15 to 10:40 a.m. in Miller Library. For more information, please contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918 301-1028, register online at firstchurchtulsa.org/inquirers21 use this QR code below.



Our new Afghan refugee neighbors are arriving almost every day. The first step in welcoming these in Jesus name is furnishing their homes. Remember, these people fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs. The session has approved \$65,000 to help with these needs. Next Sunday we will have tables in the Atrium where we can write notes of encouragement and welcome to accompany the home furnishings given by the church. The Mission Committee invites every family in First Church to join us by donating an item that fits your budget. To see this current needed items please visit www.cceok.org/refugees and click 'donate'.

Fall Festival – Join us on October 24 from 3:00 -6:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. We will enjoy barbeque and music together. There will be hayrides, trunk or treat, a bounce house and even a zip line for ages 10 and older. Dinner will be \$3 for children, \$6 for adults and free for children 3 and under. To register in advance, visit FirstChurchTulsa.org/FallFestival21.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Classes for NEXT Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

On Site:

Bible Walk	Soul Keeping	E101
Cornerstone	Bible Study	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i> by Adam Hamilton	E205
Faith and Family	<i>Not Meeting</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Eschatology</i>	E200
The Niche 2.0	Bible Study	207
Pastor's Study	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	<i>Ephesians</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Creeds and Confession</i>	E203
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>The Knowledge of Good and Evil</i>	E204
UKirk Grow	Ephesians	Kirkland Library
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Old Testament Survey	E104

On Site and Zoom:

The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>The Good and Beautiful God</i>	E100
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EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 10/3/21

- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary and Great Hall

Monday 10/4/21

- Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103
- Monday School 12:00 p.m., KRC
- Little Lambs 10:00 a.m., Outside Playground

Tuesday 10/5/21

- Precept Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Room E100

Wednesday 10/6/21

- Pastor's Study 11:30 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Youth Praise Band 5:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- WNDT Dinner 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall
- Gloria Choir 5:45 p.m.
- Awana 6:00 p.m.
- POW and Amass Exodus 6:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Saturday 10/9/21

- Before the Rooster Crows 8:45 a.m., E103



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 17

Ron Pearson Organ Concert

Sunday, October 24

Fall Festival

October 3, 2021

Sanctuary

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leave this page on the pew as you leave.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ or Guest _____

Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.



First Church

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