



## ***Called by Christ***

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

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**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**  
**8:30 AM**  
**STEPHENSON HALL**  
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa*  
*Born by grace in 1885*

# ***Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost***

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

## **Words of Preparation**

In other words he has given us our identity in order that his identity might be proclaimed through us. God made us who we are so we could make known who he is. Our identity is for the sake of making known his identity. The meaning of our identity is that the excellency of God be seen in us.

John Piper

## **Prelude**

Those Who Trust

Those who trust in the Lord are a strong mountain, they will not, not be moved. Those who trust in the Lord are a strong mountain, they will not, not be moved.

*Though the world moves like mad, You alone are faithful. Jesus You, You will not, not be changed.*

Christ the King sets my feet on a firm foundation that will not, it will not be moved. Christ the King sets my feet on a firm foundation that will not, it will not be moved. *Refrain*

Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion; they will not, they will not be moved. Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion; they will not, they will not be moved. *Refrain*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Rev. Julia Metcalf

## **Song of Praise**

May the Peoples Praise You

You have called us out of darkest night, into Your glorious light, that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ. May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife, with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life.

*May the peoples praise You; let the nations be glad! All Your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the Name of Jesus.*

May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard; may songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word. This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name, to every nation, tribe and tongue Your church proclaim. *Refrain*

Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; all creation praise Your glorious Name. *Refrain*

## **First Reading**

Deuteronomy 6:7-11

Elder Brett Crane

## **Prayer of Confession** (Gregory the Great)

O Lord, **have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, **have mercy upon us.**

O Spirit, **have mercy upon us.**

O God the Father in heaven, **we ask you, hear us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **we ask you, hear us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, **we ask you, hear us.**

Be gracious unto us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious unto us. **Help us, good Lord.**

Be gracious unto us. **Save us, good Lord, from our sin, from our errors, from all evil. Good Lord, deliver us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us. **Amen.**

## **Response to Confession** 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*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13a). In Christ, there is everlasting forgiveness for all who call upon him. **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!**

## **Offering**

### I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow, Tho' none go with me I still will follow, Tho' none go with me, I still will follow; No turning back, no turning back.

My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus; My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus, My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus; No turning back, No turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back.

## **Second Reading**

Luke 5:1-11

## **Sermon**

Called by Christ

## **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**

You Have Called Me Higher

I could just sit; I could just sit and wait for all Your goodness, hope to feel Your presence. And I could just stay; I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel You; hope to feel something again.

*But You have called me higher; You have called me deeper and I'll go where You will lead me Lord. You have called me higher; You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me Lord; where You lead me.*

I could hold on; I could hold on to who I am and never let You change me from the inside. I could be safe; oh I could be safe here in Your arms and never leave home; never let these walls down. *Refrain*

I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life. I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life. *Refrain*

## **Charge and Benediction**

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**Welcome to First Church!** We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you! For information, contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org)).

## **Today**

**The Session has called for a Congregational meeting** to be held today, following the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to dissolve Dr. Miller's terms of call as Pastor/Head of Staff here at First Church.

## **Parish Register**

**Prayers for Healing:** Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, 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, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Teddi Anne Field, daughter of Kara and Andrew Field, and Keith A. Jones were baptized on October 22.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Mary Ann Elliott, a member since 1993, died on October 23. A service will be held tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

**With gratitude and joy we welcome our newest members! May the Lord bless each of these –and make them a blessing!**

**Joining by:**

**Confession of Faith**

Hannah Damron

**Letter of Transfer**

Adam Austin

**Reaffirmation of Faith**

Carly Austin	Margene McKenzie
Paul Bradford	Elaine Meek
Sophy Garrett	Moses Mwangi
Benedicter Jepkemei	Veronica Ndirangu
Sheila Jeruto	Rion Rogers
Kenneth Kisitu	Doug Smith
Gladwell Kisitu	Monica Smith
Simon Maina	

**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.

**The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dick and Barbara Horkey, by Elaine Horkey.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** Highland Park Presbyterian Church.

**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.



## **First Church Updates**

**It is Stewardship Season!** The Session is already examining the 2024 FPC budget. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

**First Church's Online Directory** (Realm) will be activated soon. This secure directory will only be accessible to other First Church members. If you have any questions about accessing, setting up your account, privacy settings, etc., please contact Kathy Wilson at [kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership**, check out the website at [firstchurchtulsa.org](http://firstchurchtulsa.org) and look for the highlighted word "transition". If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Transition Team by sending your inquiries to [FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Pastoral Prayer:** Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you're interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text [@pastorfpc](https://www.instagram.com/pastorfpc) to "81010". You will receive a prayer prompt delivered via text message each



Tuesday at 7:09 a.m. that will encourage you to pray in a specific way for the week. Each week will follow the path of pastoral transition, as we walk it together as a congregation at First Church.

**Presbyterian Women's November mission** is the Coffee Bunker, which supports service members and veterans toward successful reintegration with their families and communities. An acrylic box will be on the reception desk in the atrium to collect funds that will purchase food for holiday meals at the Coffee Bunker.

**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.

## Events This Week

### Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

**Seekers Bible Study** in room E104 - Rev. Wambugu leads an in-depth study of the Sunday morning sermon scriptures.

**Praying for the Transition** in room 206 (Prayer Room) - Rev. James Estes will lead us in a time of prayer for the ongoing mission of First Church, looking to the Lord for comfort, guidance, and direction during this time of pastoral transition.

**6 Great Dates** in room E103 - Couples will spend intentional time growing closer to Christ and to one another. Led by Jerry and Anne McCoy, and Rev. Dan Hutchinson.

**Jesus, the Light of the World** in room E100 - Duff Points leads this study from the book of John and other scriptures that point to the Light that will never be overcome by darkness.

**The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** presents Dr. Brenda Portman in recital on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information on this free program, visit [tulsaago.org](http://tulsaago.org).

**Presbyterian Women (PW) Thank-Offering Luncheon**, Thursday, November 9 at noon in the Miller Library. For reservations: contact Norma Wallace at 918-508-4257 or Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029. The speaker will be Darrell Moses, Commissioned Pastor in Cleveland, Oklahoma, on *Native American Churches in the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery: Now and in the Future*.

**Young Adult Bonfire** on Thursday, November 9 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the home of Brandon and Katie Evans (18857 W. Highway 20, Claremore); bring a lawn chair.

**Join us for a Spiritual Retreat:** Saturday, November 11, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the Miller Library. Led by Rev. Julia Metcalf, we will focus on various methods of offering our prayers to God. For more details or to register, use the QR code.



### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Book Table Annual Sale:** Sundays, November 12 and 19, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the atrium. Visit the book table in the atrium and choose from an array of titles on sale for one to five dollars.

**Seasons Women's Gathering:** November 13, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Miller Library. Join us for our next session, *We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship: Friendship takes Encouragement*. Bring a friend!

**Music Lovers! The Chancel Choir** invites you to their annual Fall concert on Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and enjoy a program of favorite seasonal anthems, featuring the modern masterpiece, *Te Deum*, by Mark Hayes, which uses an ancient Christian text set to an exciting new musical language. Other titles include the Bach favorite, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, the much-loved *God So Loved the World*, by John Stainer; a beautiful John Rutter arrangement of *Be Thou My Vision*, for choir and harp, and the famous Mack Wilberg arrangement of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, which has become a favorite of audiences everywhere.

The Choir will be joined by a professional orchestra; a reception will follow in the Atrium.

Please join us for an hour of inspiring choral classics that will please your ears and lift your soul!

**On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23**, we gather in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. for worship, followed by a traditional Thanksgiving meal in Stephenson Hall. This event is hosted by the Deacons for First Church members who don't have family nearby. Guests are welcome. Although there is no cost for this meal, your RSVP is important to ensure there is enough food for all. Register by clicking the QR code below by Sunday, November 19.



**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). **Our choir has been invited to sing for this event and we want to fill the loft!** There will be two rehearsals during the week prior to the concert. To add your voice to the choir, scan the QR code below and register by Sunday, November 19.



## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### TODAY 11/5

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel	
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall	
9:30 am	Adult Sunday School Hour	
	<i>Cornerstone</i>	Heidelberg Catechism E102
	<i>Covenanters</i>	Driving Through History – Acts to Revelation E101
	<i>Faith and Family</i>	Teaching Kids the Core Beliefs of Christianity Prayer Room
	<i>Forum</i>	Who is This Man E200
	<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted E202
	<i>Morning Glory</i>	Confronting Jesus B318
	<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker E205
	<i>Foundations</i>	Letters of Paul E104
	<i>Reflections</i>	1 John Bible Study E103
	<i>Shepherds</i>	Jesus, The Light of Christ E203
	<i>Sojourners</i>	Exodus Study E204
	<i>The Vine</i>	I John E100
	<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees Tower Room
	<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>	Discovery Bible Study E201
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall	

### Monday 11/6

10:00 am	Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:30 am	Monday School, Kirkland Library
11:45 am	Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm	Overtone Rehearsal, Bell Choir

### Tuesday 11/7

9:30 am	Precepts Bible Study, E100
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### Wednesday 11/8

5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm	Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
6:15 pm	Adult Classes
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Saturday 11/11

8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows, E103
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