



***Credible Witnesses on
the Road to Pentecost***

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

**MAY 21, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885***

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Thus the gospel comes full circle. John began in his opening words with a confession of the deity of Christ: 'In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God. Now that original confession of the Godhead of the pre-incarnate Lord is echoed by a mortal sinner, *My Lord and my God!* In a profound sense this concludes John's account.

Bruce Milne, *The Message of John*

Prelude

Illuminate the Shadows

Illuminate the shadows; comfort those who are cast down.

Illuminate the shadows; be our refuge in the time of storm.

God our help in the time of trouble (God our help in the time of trouble).

Illuminate the shadows; cast the evil ruler from His throne.

Illuminate the shadows; break oppression with your mighty arm.

Illuminate the shadows, 'til every idol has been trampled on.

Illuminate the shadows, 'til every statue comes tumbling down.

Bring hope to the hopeless

Welcome and Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

So too may we receive him, here today.

Alleluia, amen!

Song of Praise Come People of the Risen King

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*

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Elder Jeanette Kern

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and everlasting Father, through the resurrection of Christ from the dead you have caused us to be born again into a living hope. We thank you for the imperishable inheritance that you are keeping for us. Lord, we confess that despite your promises and the great hope we have in Christ, we often waver when our faith is tested.

We fail to love you with our whole being. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us our sin and bring us through the fire into fullness of life with Christ. This we ask in His name...*(In Silence)*

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the mountain I could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your name into the night. Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness tore through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished, the end is written; Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever; Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free. Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name; Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe. Out of the silence the Roaring Lion, declared the grave has no claim on me. Jesus, Yours is the victory! *Refrain*

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!**

Response of Gratitude

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free. Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your name; Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Affirmation of Faith (Eastertide Affirmation)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved—if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that He appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God.

Passing of the Peace

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

Prayers of the People

Offering

He Will Hold Me Fast

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.*

Gospel Reading

John 20:24-31

Sermon

Faith and Doubt

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

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

God So Loved

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty, come to the well that never runs dry. Drink of the water; come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy, come to the table, He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness. Find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions, come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever. The power of hell, forever defeated, now it is well; I'm walking in freedom. For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him praise Him for the wonders of His love. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Dr. John and Beverly Parschauer

Today

Today we celebrate the dedication of the new Sanctuary baptismal font, designed and crafted by Mr. David Perkins. The long-standing white marble font was donated by the Percy Collins Sunday School Class in honor of its late beloved teacher and elder. It was dedicated on September 27th, 1925 just after the Sanctuary's completion. It will continue to have a very visible witness just outside the narthex.

Young Adult Fun! Pickleball -- this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Tulsa Athletic Club on 11th street—all you need to bring is yourself!

You're invited to the 2023 Masterwork Academy Spring Showcase – Today from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Bernsen. Our students have been working hard all semester to create an art show, fitness demonstration, plus music, dance, and theater performances for you to enjoy.

This Week

“Significant Essays” by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller continues his Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Praying to Pentecost - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

Mark Your Calendar

Pentecost! Next Sunday, May 28

The 11:00 Sanctuary and 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall services join together in the Sanctuary; TIF meets in the Great Hall.

The 8:00 and 8:30 services gather as per normal.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service everyone is invited to the **First Family dinner** in the FPC Courtyard. Enjoy the blessings of sitting at table together, sharing nourishment and deepening our friendships in Christ. Lunch is available, \$9 adults, \$5 children, \$22 per family. Reservations are not required, but you may pay in advance by the QR code below.



Glimpses of Grace – Join us on Sundays in June at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Hear four stories of how Jesus has been at work in and through the lives of those within this congregation. These stories will encourage you and enrich your faith.

June 4 - David Osterholt

June 11 - Julia Metcalf

June 18 - Solomon Tsuma

June 25 - Anna Milligan

College Update for June and July – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights, starting on June 6 from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us *@ukirktulsa* for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at *jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join Rev. Wambugu at his home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible Study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday beginning on June 7 - August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Precept Summer Bible Study - This is a 6-session study entitled *Breaking Free from Fear*. We will meet in E100, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., June 6 through July 18, excluding July 4. For more information contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! You are invited to add your voice to the Summer Choir for the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service. The only time requirement is a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. If you've always wanted to give it a try, here's your opportunity – please join us! For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at [918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org](tel:918-301-1012).

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, Linda Barnett, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Marsue Gent, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Joy of Baptism: Last Sunday, May 14.
Callan Dean Crowe, son of Paige and J.J. Crowe
Charlotte Sutton Powers, daughter of Carly and Barrett Powers
Michael James Shelton, son of Grace and John Shelton

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dee McQueen and Donna Bell by Clint and Christine McQueen.

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 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*.

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.



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.

Instruments for Ireland: The Irish Mission team is looking for three or four instruments to donate to our mission partner church in Galway; Discovery Church. If interested in making such a donation, please contact Eric Baird at *ebaird@firstchurchtulsa.org* or Rev. James Estes at *jestes@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 5/21

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

Wednesday 5/24

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206

Saturday 5/27

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

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| Cornerstone | <i>Apostles' Creed</i> | E102 |
| Covenanters | <i>Mere Christianity</i> | E101 |
| Faith and Family | <i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i> | Prayer Room |
| Forum | <i>Soul Keeping</i> | E200 |
| Morning Glory | Mastering Your Emotions | B318 |
| Pastor's Study 2 | New Testament Overview | E104 |
| Reflections | <i>King David</i> | E103 |
| Shepherds | <i>Study of Elijah</i> | E203 |
| Sojourners | <i>Study of James</i> | E204 |
| UKirk | New Testament Overview | E104 |
| The Vine | <i>Study of Jonah</i> | E100 |
| Westminster | <i>The Greatest Commandment</i> | Tower Room |
| Young Adults | New Testament Overview | E104 |