



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

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

**MAY 7, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885***

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Did God care? Indeed he did! And our resurrected Lord understood perfectly the confusion in their hearts. Cleopas and company moved ever so slowly along the road to Emmaus. Others rushed past them, but they did not even notice. The resurrected Christ knew not only their geographical location but the terrain of their souls.

R. Kent Hughes

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

Rev. James Estes

Song of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night.
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, Be Thou my true Word. I ever with Thee and
Thou with me Lord. Thou, my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance,
now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart. High King
of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, when victory is won. May I reach heaven's
joys,
O bright heaven's Sun. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The First Reading

Psalm 139

Mark Brown

Prayer of 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 altar to You. Breathe again on
the embers that burn in my heart, a love taken back to the start;
my life is an altar 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*

The Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: (Romans 6:6-11)
We know that our old self was crucified with Jesus Christ in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia! Amen!

The Affirmation of Faith (Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 12)

God guarantees the adoption of all those who are justified in and for the sake of his only son, Jesus Christ. Those adopted enjoy the liberties and privileges of God's children, have his name put on them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, and are enabled to cry, Abba, Father. They are pitied, protected, provided for, and disciplined by him as a father. They are never cast off, however, and are sealed until the day of redemption and inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

Passing of the Peace

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

The Offertory 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.

The Second Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

God Incognito

Jesus himself drew near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:15-16

The Celebration of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

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*

Charge and Benediction

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Jim and Ann McCune.

Today

It's time to consider leadership within First Church! Please see the back of today's bulletin (pp. 10-11).

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).

Seasons: Spring Fling! Tomorrow from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Join us for a special evening with guest speaker Lindi Collins who will encourage our hearts with a devotion entitled “Crowns of Glory” and teach our hands—creating flower crowns to take home!

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.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon: Thursday, May 11, noon, Miller Library. The honorary Lifetime Membership will be presented, and Laura Stockbridge will share her pilgrimage on the *Camino de Santiago*. Reservations through Circle Leaders or Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 by Monday, May 8.

Presbyterian Women: Mother’s Day cards available to help benefit women affected by domestic violence. The design artist this year is our member, Mary Lee Weaver. Pick up your cards today in the atrium.

Wednesday Night Downtown

5:15 dinner

6:15 Celebrate Awana!

Mark Your Calendar

Second Annual Kids Fishing Derby! Camp Loughridge, May 20.
To register, visit the table in the atrium today.



Glimpses of Grace - Please join us on Sundays in June, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary - as members of the First Church community share their personal testimonies of how Jesus Christ has been at work in and through their lives. These stories will inspire you and enrich your faith.

The series begins on Sunday, June 4; David Osterholt will share his story.

Ongoing 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.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Anita Ewing, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: The following confirmands were baptized on April 30: Ife Aruna, daughter of Tina and Alao Aruna; Carol Gitau, daughter of Loise Gitau and Peter Kagari; Jarrett Kamande, son of Lucy and Peter Kamande; David Masaku, son of Grace and Urbanus Masaku; Morgan McIntosh, son of Breana and Jacob McIntosh; and Joshua Nsereko, son of Deborah and Eddie Nsereko.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Terry Diacon, by his family.

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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 5/7

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

Monday 5/8

11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
 6:30 pm Season's Women's Gathering, Stephenson Hall

Wednesday 5/10

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 6:00 pm Awana Awards, POW and Amass Exodus
 6:15 pm Adult classes, various locations
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 5/13

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

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
Harbingers	<i>Eternity is Now</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Young Parents	John Ortberg Study	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
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

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

*After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."
-Matthew*

20:28

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

ELDERS (THE SESSION):

Responsible for the governance of the church.
They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

DEACONS:

The "heartbeat" of the church, ordained for the purpose of "ministering to those in special need."

TRUSTEES:

Stewards of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

THE OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Identifies leaders God has called and prepared to serve our congregation.

Currently Serving Elders

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
<i>Maxwell Asare</i>	<i>Laurel Baird</i>	<i>Brett Crane</i>
<i>Dacia Bird</i>	<i>Allison Biggs</i>	<i>Elizabeth DeVore</i>
<i>Janine Burlin</i>	<i>Mark Brown</i>	<i>John Harper</i>
<i>Debbie Favell</i>	<i>Larry Ewing</i>	<i>Jessica John-Bowman</i>
<i>Rusty Gaddy</i>	<i>Stephanie Madsen</i>	<i>Jeanette Kern</i>
<i>Patrick Kirunda</i>	<i>Urbanus Masaku</i>	<i>Jaclyn Metcalf</i>
<i>Elisa Mangesho</i>	<i>Steve Metcalf</i>	<i>Eric Olson</i>
<i>Anne McCoy</i>	<i>Paul Mungai</i>	<i>Jacob Thompson</i>
<i>Amy Russell</i>	<i>Denise Rounds</i>	<i>Solomon Tsuma</i>
<i>Jim Scheiper</i>	<i>Karen Woolman</i>	<i>Faith Wambugu</i>

Currently Serving Deacons

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
<i>Sheri Allen</i>	<i>Tina Aruna</i>	<i>Anita Anthony</i>
<i>Keith Campbell</i>	<i>Bette Cromer</i>	<i>Tyler Bird</i>
<i>Michael Homan</i>	<i>Sandy Curtis</i>	<i>Nancy Blocker</i>
<i>Cindy Johnson</i>	<i>Quentin Franklin</i>	<i>Beryl Bolo</i>
<i>Lucy Kamande</i>	<i>Carter Mathews</i>	<i>Brandon Evans</i>
<i>Clint McQueen</i>	<i>Buddy Neal</i>	<i>Jeremy Foon</i>
<i>Dylan Seibert</i>	<i>Valentine Ndunga</i>	<i>Nick McMillan</i>
<i>Ed Slier</i>	<i>Dan Richmond</i>	<i>Janet Mercer</i>
<i>Julie Steiner</i>	<i>Grace Shelton</i>	<i>Gladys Njino</i>
<i>Shannon Thomas</i>	<i>Scott Swanson</i>	<i>Cissy Ssettimba</i>

Currently Serving Trustees

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
<i>Todd Schuster</i>	<i>Steve Caldwell</i>	<i>Dr. John Frame</i>
<i>Robert Pielsticker</i>	<i>Jane Crain</i>	<i>Ken McQueen</i>
<i>Bill Lawson</i>	<i>Pam Farris</i>	<i>Barrett Powers</i>

Please fill out the ballot form that was given to you by the ushers.