



*Taking Up Residence!*  
Empowered by the Mystery of  
the Holy Spirit's Presence

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

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June 25, 2023  
Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

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

# ***Fourth Sunday after Pentecost***

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

## **Words of Preparation**

Seeing is a gift. And so also is our embrace of God's word, the Bible. God's Spirit opens the eyes of our heart and when we read Scripture, what was once boring, or absurd, or foolish, or mythical is now self-evidently real.

John Piper

Our mind can become spiritually wise only insofar as God illumines it...Nothing is accomplished by preaching Christ --if the Spirit, as our inner teacher, does not show our minds the way.

John Calvin

## **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**

Emma Woodard, Dr. Miller

Jesus said, "If you parents, sinful and scrambled as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children –how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

**Even so come, Holy Spirit! Dwell among us here. Awaken our thoughts to your presence; cause our hearts to be open and responsive! Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

## **The Invocation** (sung by congregation)

*Holy Spirit, You are welcome in this place; Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this place! Omnipotent Giver of mercy and grace, come and meet us in this place!*

Lord, in Your presence there's healing divine, no other power can save, Lord, but Thine! Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this place; come and meet us in this place!

Fill all the hungry and empty within, restore us, O Father revive us again! *Refrain.*

## **Prayer for Clarity**

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, and 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.

When the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he would confer with his officers and say, “We will mobilize our forces at such and such a place.”

But immediately Elisha, the man of God, would warn the king of Israel, “Do not go near that place, for the Arameans are planning to mobilize their troops there.” So the king of Israel would send word to the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he would be on the alert there.

The king of Aram became very upset over this. He called his officers together and demanded, “Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel of my plans?”

“It’s not us, my lord the king,” one of the officers replied. “Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!”

“Go and find out where he is,” the king commanded, “so I can send troops to seize him.”

And the report came back: “Elisha is at Dothan.” So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.

When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha.

“Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” Then Elisha prayed, “*O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!*” *The LORD opened the young man’s eyes*, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, “O LORD, please make them blind.” So the LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked.

Then Elisha went out and told them, “You have come the wrong way! This isn’t the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to the city of Samaria.

As soon as they had entered Samaria, Elisha prayed, “O LORD, now open their eyes and let them see.” So the LORD opened their eyes, and they discovered that they were in the middle of Samaria.

When the king of Israel saw them, he shouted to Elisha, “My father, should I kill them? Should I kill them?”

“Of course not!” Elisha replied. “Do we kill prisoners of war? Give them food and drink and send them home again to their master.”

So the king made a great feast for them and then sent them home to their master. After that, the Aramean raiders stayed away from the land of Israel.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty and ever-gracious Lord, unless your Spirit awakens our souls, we remain spiritually listless and apathetic. Unless your Spirit opens our ears, we remain spiritually deaf to your voice. Unless your Spirit gives sight to our eyes, we remain spiritually blinded to your purposes and ways. Forgive us for neglecting, or grieving, or ignoring your Spirit’s presence and work in our lives. In your mercy, strengthen our faith, revive our hearts, and cause us to serve you through Your Spirit’s power. Lord, hear our prayers...(in *silence*)

## **Invitation to Welcome Forgiveness**

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

**Alleluia, Amen!**

## **Response to Confession**    Victory in Jesus

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me; I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

*O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him, He plunged me to victory, beneath the cleansing flood.*

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing, how He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see. And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory! *Refrain*

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory. And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea, about the angels singing, and the old redemption story, and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory! *Refrain*

## **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.

## **Joys and Concerns**

## **Offertory**      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 God's 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*

## **New Testament Reading**      Acts 10:34-48

Then Peter said to Cornelius, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation He accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

“And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses.

We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

**Sermon**            The Ophthalmology of the Spirit: 20-20 Vision

*Simon Peter said, “I see very clearly.....”      Acts 10:34*

## **Sacrament of Communion**

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

## **The Commissioning of the Pathfinder Mission Trip**

Jackson Seibert, Director of Middle School Ministries



## **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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### **Today**

**Our Letter of Blessing goes to** Marilyn Davis, faithful member and viewer of our worship broadcast week by week and to Cip Frizell, in gratitude for her longtime leadership in FPC's Masterwork Academy.

**Today! Mission Trip** - the Pathfinder Commissioning: our middle school students are heading to Dallas, Texas to partner with Voice of Hope, a summer day camp and after-school ministry. Voice of Hope serves, in the name of Jesus Christ, families in the community of West Dallas. We commission 41 Middle school students, 10 adult leaders and 2 high school interns, leaving today to lead VBS at Voice of Hope in the coming week.

**FPC Summer Interns** - we are grateful for the presence and hard work of three interns this summer. Emma Woodard is a college student serving as our *Heather Davis Memorial Youth Intern*. Morgan McIntosh and Jacob Hand both just completed their Junior year of high school and are serving as our *Ignite interns*.

**The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George and Nancy Coe, and Harry, Betty and Betsy Marberry, by Tom and Mary Anne Marberry.

**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.



**Glimpses of Grace today – 9:30 in the sanctuary!** Anna Milligan shares ways in which the Lord has intervened in her life. Her story will encourage all of us and enrich our faith.

### **This Week**

**Mid-Week Pastor's Class continues:** Wednesdays, 11:30 to 12:30 (lunch available). Join Dr. Miller for his summer session on Christian apologetics – preparing for Rebecca McLaughlin's visit on Saturday, September 17 (see her book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*).

**College Update for June and July** – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us [@ukirktulsa](https://twitter.com/ukirktulsa) for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at [jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto: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 through August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Laura Stevens at [lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org) for more information.

**MUSIC LOVERS!!** You're invited to a very special concert on Friday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is hosting a Regional Convention which is expected to draw nearly 200 attendees from all over the USA; First Church was chosen as the venue for the closing event which will feature organists Ken Cowan and Bradley Hunter Welch, two outstanding performers with international credentials. This concert is free and open to the public. Invite your friends!

**Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Sunday, July 2** following the 11:00 Worship Services. We will gather in the Courtyard for watermelon; come join the fun!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**"Faith & Film" – An All-Church, summer Sunday School class** that will explore how faith intersects culture on the silver screen. Starting next Sunday, July 2 we will examine secular movies and search out Christian themes that emerge. In August, we will dive into Season 1 of *The Chosen* and review how scripture is messaged and depicted through this series. Pastors and lay teachers will lead our conversations in the Miller Library at 9:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more information.

**Spiritual Retreat at Camp Loughridge** – Save the date for a rich experience: Saturday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. at Camp Loughridge. Adults and families (with children of all ages) will have two separate paths of retreat through the morning. For more information or to register please contact [lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org) or click on the QR code below.



**First Church has a serious teaching ministry.** This fall we welcome Rebecca McLaughlin, author of many books, including: *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Consider putting this on your summer book list in preparation for a Saturday night with Rebecca (September 17)!

### **Ministry Opportunities**

**The Summer Choir Welcomes You!** Why not add your voice to the Summer Choir during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service? Join us Sunday mornings for 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! For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/[gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**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.

**Special Needs Ministry** is growing! We need volunteers to work with our young people who need a little extra help. If you are interested in serving at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. once a month or more, please contact Jackson Seibert at [jseibert@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:jseibert@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## 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, 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, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Bill Peacher, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Sage N. Grosso and Jayden Lombardo-Grosso, sons of Jenna and Sam Grosso, were baptized on June 18.

## 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 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*.

**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 6/25**

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am      Glimpses of Grace, Sanctuary: Anna Milligan  
                 Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

**Tuesday 6/27**

- 9:30 am      Precept Bible Study (*Breaking Free from Fear*), E100

**Wednesday 6/28**

- 11:30 am     Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am     Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
- 6:30 pm      Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu's Home

**Saturday 7/1**

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

**COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

**TODAY: All 9:30 Adult Classes will gather for Glimpses of Grace in the Sanctuary except for Morning Glory, The Covenantors and The Vine classes.**

