



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

**AUGUST 13, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa***

Born by grace in 1885

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

The best cure for the cares of this life is to care much to please God. If we loved him better, we should love the world far less, and be less troubled about our portion in it. Charles Spurgeon

Prelude

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

It all comes down to this, what you require of me; love my neighbor as myself and You above all things.

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God. In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.

It all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet, good news to all the world. The truth will set us free. *Refrain.*

It's beauty for ashes. It's mourning to dancing. It's closer and closer, the Kingdom of heaven.

Years from now we'll see the fruit our hands have sown. Faith just like a seed, the only way it grows. *Refrain.*

Welcome and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts. You traced the mountain peaks. You paint the evening skies with wonders. The earth, it is Your throne, from desert to the sea; all nature testifies Your splendor.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness, all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

You reached into the dust, in love Your Spirit breathed; You formed us in Your very likeness. To know Your wondrous works. To tell Your mighty deeds. To join the everlasting chorus. *Refrain*

Let symphonies resound. Let drums and choirs ring out. All heaven hear the sound of worship. Let every nation bring its honors to the King; a roar of harmonies eternal.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Sing His greatness all creation. Praise the Lord! Raise your voice! You heights and all you depths, from furthest east to west; you distant burning stars; all creatures near and far; from sky to sea to shore, sing out forevermore. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

First Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Elder Jim Scheiper

Prayer of Confession

Almighty, eternal God! Forgive us our sin and lead us to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, *have mercy*. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, on us...*(in silence)*

Response to Confession Lord, Have Mercy

For what we have done and left undone, we fall on Your countless mercies. For sins that are known and those unknown, we call on Your name so holy.

For envy and pride, for closing our eyes, for scorning our very neighbor; in thought word and deed we've failed You, our King, how deeply we need a Savior!

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

For what You have done, Your life of love, You perfectly lived, we praise You! Though tempted and tried, You fixed Your eyes; You finished the work God gave You!

And there on the tree, A King among thieves, You bled for a world's betrayal; You loved to the end, our merciful Friend, how pure and forever faithful! *Refrain*

For hearts that are cold for seizing control, for scorning our very Maker; in thought word and deed, we've failed You our King, how deeply we need a Savior!

Assurance of Pardon

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’” Let us receive forgiveness and be reconciled to God, for he is **“gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”** Alleluia, Amen!

(Joel 2:12-13)

Affirmation of Faith 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

Is He Worthy?

Do you feel the world is broken? We do. Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do. But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do. Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is. Is a new creation coming? It is. Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is. Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory; He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does. Does the Spirit move among us? He does. And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves? He does. Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory, is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-21; II Cor 5:10

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Sermon

The Storehouse Deception

*So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves
but are not rich towards God. Luke 12: 21.*

Sacrament of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Mission Anderson Elementary School

Song of Sending Simple Kingdom

Your kingdom is simple, as simple as love; You welcomed the children, You stopped for the one. We want to see people the way Jesus does. Your kingdom is simple, Lord teach it to us.

Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death: His King is a savior who gave His last breath. So, may we die daily, our pride laid to rest; His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.

Hallelujah! Hallowed be Your name! May we live and breathe Your praise. Hallelujah! Let all creation say, "Oh the King of heaven reigns."

Your kingdom is coming, Your kingdom is here, alive in our waiting, at work in our tears. So, come to us quickly, forever our prayer; Your kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus, come near. *Refrain*

Your kingdom is backwards, it flows in reverse. What You call a treasure this world calls a curse. The small become great and the last become first. Your kingdom is backwards; Lord, teach us to serve. As it is with Your kingdom let it be with Your church.

Refrain

Charge and Benediction

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Today

A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather to worship in this *House of Prayer*. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to: Mrs. Marian Bovaird

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of MaryJo Pauls by Carol, Mark and Jacob Tipton.

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.



“Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer **Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library.** This morning we continue our series on *The Chosen* --one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children 4 – The Rock on Which It Is Built	Rev. Metcalf
Aug. 20	5 – The Wedding Gift 6 – Indescribable Compassion	Elder Jacob Thompson
Aug. 27	7 – Invitations 8 – I Am He	Elder Jacob Thompson
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd	Rev. Hutchinson

The Pastor's Class: *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 in E-104.

Dr. Miller leads the class today on Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Today's question: *Is the Bible reliable?*

Beginning next Sunday, Physics Professor Jerry McCoy leads Dr. Miller's Class for two weeks (Sunday, Aug. 20, 27 and Wednesday, Aug. 23, 30). Please note: for the next two weeks, the Wednesday class begins at 12:30 p.m. instead of 11:30 p.m. E104.

Summer Swim – Cool off this summer! Bring your family to Camp Loughridge, today and every Sunday: 1:30 - 4:45 p.m. through September 3.

This Week

Support Anderson Mentoring Ministry: annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament (including cookout!) – Next Sunday, August 20, following the 11:00 worship services. All ages are welcome to participate Sign-up today in the atrium.

Mark Your Calendar

Breakfast on Boston! – Mark your calendars for September 10 at 9:15 a.m. There will be food, fellowship, live music from Grady Nichols, pony rides and face painting. To prepay for meals and avoid the lines click on the QR code below. Breakfast prices are adults \$7, children (4-12 years old) \$4, Free (0-3 years old) and families \$20. There will be no Sunday School on this day.



Monday School begins on Monday, September 11 in the Kirkland Library; lunch at 11:30 a.m. with the lesson starting at 12:00 p.m. Justin Schell will be teaching on the theme *The Kingdom of God*.

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin: *Four Things Christians Must Reclaim* - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear Dr. McLaughlin. Her first book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* was named "Book of the Year" by *Christianity Today*.

Helping Hand Golf Tournament: Monday, September 18, 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Click on the QR code below to register yourself and/or your team. Every penny is devoted to the most impoverished of Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand* Ministry.



Save the Date!

Come, add to the joy! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, **Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** A reception follows in the Courtyard.

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 on Sunday mornings for a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/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.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Beverly Dale, 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, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, and Susan Waldie.

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.

First Church Cancer List – Do you or a loved one have cancer? Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you would like to add yourself, a loved one, or a friend or colleague to this confidential list, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/*mandppeterson@msn.com* or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 8/13

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
 Faith and Film, Miller Library
 Faith and Family, Prayer Room
 Morning Glory Class, B318
 Reflections, E103
 Sojourners, E204
 Westminster Class, Tower Room
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 8/16

12:30 am Pastor's Study, E104

Saturday 8/19

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103