



***Tiny Letters:  
Giant Impact***

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

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**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
8:30 AM  
STEPHENSON HALL  
*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa  
Born by grace in 1885***

# ***Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

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

## **Words of Preparation**

Jude does not merely talk about love; he displays it, both in the repeated affectionate address of *dear friends* and also in the serious warning and stern rebuke he administers throughout the Epistle. Christian love is no sentimental acquiescence in what others are doing; it is no substitute for conviction. Rather, it springs from conviction, and as fire consumes dross, it must destroy all impurities in the loved one.

Michael Green, *2 Peter and Jude*

## **Prelude**

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*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

## **Song of Praise**

### Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord now and always; sing it again we rejoice!  
Delight in the love he has shown us; gratefully lift up your voice.  
His gentleness among us will join our hearts with praise; we  
gather in his goodness, a family of grace.

*With each breath he's given, Christ the Lord! In these times we live  
in, we will praise the Lord! Throughout every season I am sure we  
have every reason to praise the Lord!*

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing, praying for all that you need.  
Come with a song of thanksgiving, lay your requests at his feet.  
His peace will fall upon us to guard our hearts and minds in Christ  
who reigns eternal, the Shepherd of our lives. *Refrain*

Rejoice in the Lord now and always, tell of the good he has done;  
worship the Lord to remember all of the joy yet to come. The  
hope that burns within us the dark cannot destroy; with praise  
that's never ending we say again rejoice! *Refrain*

## **First Reading**

Matthew 5:13-20

Elder Maxwell Asare

## **Prayer of Confession**

### How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us; how vast beyond all measure,  
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One, bring many sons to glory.

Behold, the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It  
was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished. His  
dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no power, no wisdom, but I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer, but this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

### **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!**

### **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!**

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

#### **Offering**                      Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down? Who else can whisper and darkness trembles? Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises? What other splendour outshines the sun? What other majesty rules with justice? Only a Holy God.

*Come and behold Him, the One and the Only. Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God. Come and worship the Holy God.*

What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead? What other name remains undefeated? Only a Holy God. *Refrain*

Who else could rescue me from my failing? Who else would offer His only Son? Who else invites me to call Him Father? Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God. *Refrain*

## **Epistle Reading**

Jude

## **Sermon**

Contend for the Faith

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith... (Jude 1:3)*

## **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**

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, guide my vision, help me see the way You see. Always Jesus, ever Jesus, Christ in all as Christ in me. Holy Spirit guide my speaking, words of grace and truth abound. Let my lips be filled with stories of the mercy that I've found.

*You're the light. You're my path. You're the Shepherd of my soul. All I am, all I have, Holy Spirit, lead me on.*

Holy Spirit, guide my hearing, wake my ears to words You speak.  
In the thunder, in the stillness, let Your voice be clear to me. Let  
Your voice be clear to me. *Refrain*

Holy Spirit, lead me onward, walking through the great unknown.  
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging, 'til the day You lead me home.  
*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.

**A Congregational Meeting** has been called by the Session and will meet today, September 17, immediately following the 11:00 sanctuary service. The Nominating Committee, led by Elder Amy Russell, offer a new slate of officers (elders, deacons, trustees, Class of 2026) and invite congregational approval.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Dr. Henry Lederle and family.** Henry is suffering from a recurrence of cancer and is on hospice care.

**The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in memory of my husband Harold E. Kunkel, Sr. and in honor of our children Harold Kunkel, Darryl Kunkel and Cheryl Kunkel by Joyce Kunkel.

**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.



**The Session has formed a Transition Team** (Allison Biggs, Jim Diacon, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews) whose duties will be to prepare for Dr. Miller's upcoming retirement. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to [FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Presbyterian Women's mission project** for September is First Church's Helping Hand Ministries. This ministry offers assistance to Tulsans in need. They will be collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry soap, and toilet paper. You can leave these items in the PW collection bin, in the atrium on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**Foundations Class** – today at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

**Ireland and Kenya Trip Reviews** – Today (Ireland) and next Sunday, September 24 (Kenya) we join in the Stephenson Hall at 9:30 a.m. to hear reflections on the recent Ireland and Kenya mission trips.

**Faith Partners Addiction Ministry** – If you or a loved one is suffering from an addiction, stop by the Faith Partners table in the atrium today to learn more about this ministry.

## Happening This Week

### Wednesday Night Downtown

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

**The Meaning Behind the Marquee** meets in Stephenson Hall. The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on orthodox, reformed, and evangelical. These words speak to First Church's identity – who we are and where we come from. But what do they signify? What is it that we are declaring to be true about this community? This fall, we will be considering each of these words, the history and theology that give them meaning, and how they might shape our life together.

**Seekers Sermon Series** - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Interested in a Kerr Chapel history tour?** Join Joan Hoar Sunday, September 24 following the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service in the Kerr Chapel. For more information contact Patricia Hall 918-301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Inquirers Class** – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us on Sundays, September 24, October 1, 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org) or 918-301-1028.



**Music Lovers!** You are invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Organ Concert presented by Ron Pearson, on Sunday, October 8, at 4:00, in the Sanctuary. The university of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra will participate; a reception will follow in the Atrium.



**Deacons Day of Care:** Saturdays, October 7 and 28. The first Saturday, the team will be at Anderson Elementary School working on the grounds. On Saturday, October 28, teams will deploy to the home of First Church members who have requested help with yard work and light home-maintenance jobs. To enlist your help, use the QR code. To request a team to visit your home on October 28, please call Julie Steiner at 918-640-6955



### **Save the Date!**

**Come and 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**

**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.

**Realm – the church database** – Every member of the church has a profile in the church's database. Unfortunately, many members do not have a photo in their profile. Having your picture is very helpful to the pastors, staff and other members in your groups. Stop by the table in the atrium today or next Sunday, the 24, and visit with Kathy Wilson who will help you check your profile.

## Parish Register

**Prayers for Healing:** Jane Azlin, 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, 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, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Joe Dillsaver on the death of his brother, Guinn C. Dillsaver, on September 8.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Beverly Dale, a member since 1935, died on September 4.

## 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 9/17**

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel  
8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall  
9:00 am      First Church Chorister and Celebration Singers  
9:30 am      Christian Apologetics, E104  
                 Cornerstone, E102  
                 Covenanters, E101  
                 Faith and Family, Prayer Room  
                 Forum, E200  
                 Harbingers, E202  
                 Morning Glory Class, B318  
                 Young Parents, E104  
                 Pastor's Study, E104  
                 Foundations, E104  
                 Reflections, E103  
                 Shepherds, E203  
                 Sojourners, E204  
                 Ukirk, E201  
                 The Vine, E100  
                 Westminster Class, Tower Room  
                 Young Adults, E104  
11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall  
12:00 pm     Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

### **Monday 9/18**

- 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 9/19**

- 9:30 am      Precepts, E100

### **Wednesday 9/20**

- 9:30 am      Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100  
11:30 am     Pastor's Study, E104  
5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall  
6:00 pm      Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse  
6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Saturday 9/23**

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103  
6:30 pm      Rebecca McLaughlin Lecture and Dessert, Stephenson Hall

## **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, September 17, 2023, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

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### **Election of Officers**

Each year the congregation is charged with identifying leadership within this family of faith. A nominating team gathers to wait upon the Lord, consider the needs of the Church, and present to the congregation their sense of the Lord's leading. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of this task. It is one of the most significant responsibilities delegated to any committee.

We are grateful for the special and prayerful consideration that the 2023 Nominating Committee brought to this task and we offer to the congregation the following persons whom we believe God is calling into specific leadership positions within First Church:

#### **Elders – 2026**

DD Blackman  
Jenni Dollahon  
Cip Frizzell  
Jerry Hall  
Kim Hall  
Bill Huffman  
Betty Marshall  
Paul McEntire  
Jan Miller  
Mary Lee Torbert

#### **Deacons – 2026**

Diane Austin  
Lisa Berry  
Dave Davis  
Amy Fiegener  
David Grigg  
Andrew Hand  
Nelly Ndungu  
Jana Neal  
Katy Swan  
Clare Williams

#### **Trustees – 2026**

Ricky Jones  
Bill Lawson  
Jennifer Porter

## **2024 Nomination Committee**

Clay Bird

Tamra Bird

Cindy DeVore

Allen Kanyeki

Breanna McIntosh

Jennifer Philp

David Russell

Todd Schuster

Porter Schultz

### **With gratitude to the 2023 Nominating Committee:**

Co-Chair Amy Russell, Co-Chair Denise Rounds, Jane Crain, Pam Farris, Patrick Grogan, Gary Johnson, Becca Kibui, Janet Mercer, Jason Pugh, Carol Rowland, Grace Shelton, Spurgeon Wambugu and Laurie Winslow