



Discipleship: Catching God's Vision

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

**AUGUST 6, 2023
8:30 AM
STEPHENSON HALL**

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

Lacking spiritual freedom, we become excessively attached to persons, places, material possessions, titles, occupations, honors and acclaim of others. These things are good in themselves when ordered and directed by the love of God. They become disordered attachments or disordered loves when they push God out of the center of our lives and become key to our identity.

Kevin O'Brien, S.J., *The Ignatian Adventure*

Prelude

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!

Welcome and Call to Worship

Songs of Praise

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*

First Reading

Malachi 3:6-12

Elder Allison Biggs

Prayer of Confession

Emma Woodard

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden—cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen...*(in silence)*

Response to 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*

Assurance of Pardon

Morgan McIntosh

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!**

The 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!**

Offering

God is on the Throne

Why should I worry? Why should I fear? Why should I run when Jesus is here? I'm safe in His arms. Safe in His heart. Nothing can take me away from His love.

God is on the throne. He reigns forevermore. Just think about it. Just think about it. God is always good. He loves like a father should. Just think about it. Just think about it.

When I am anxious, when I'm afraid, I find strength when I call on His Name. I'm safe in His arms. Safe in His heart. Nothing can take me away from His love. He's the King of power. The King of kings. He is the Lord over everything. To Him be the glory, the honor and praise, forever and ever, amen, always. *Refrain*

Hallelujah, He reigns. Hallelujah, He saves. Hallelujah, always. He's never gonna let me down. *Refrain*

Gospel Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Sermon

Excel in the Grace of Giving

Jackson Seibert, Director of Middle School Ministries

But since you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV)

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.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Anne McCune.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. John Campbell by Linda Campbell.

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 begin five weeks on *The Chosen* --one of the most remarkable film series on Jesus and His redemptive work.

Episodes

Today	1 – I Have Called You by Name 2 – Shabbat	Dr. Miller
Aug. 13	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: Summer Session on *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 (and Wednesdays at 11:30) in E-104. Gregg Berkhouse teaches today on Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*. Today’s question: *Doesn’t Religion Cause Violence?* Rebecca will be speaking in Stephenson Hall on Saturday night, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Mark Your Calendar

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

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*.

Four Things Christians Must Reclaim - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear guest speaker Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin. Rebecca has always been fascinated by the power of words and the message of the gospel. 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 will be on Monday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club.

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, Carol Caldwell, 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, Sarah Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Larry Osterhout, a member since 2001, died on July 29.

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](https://www.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 8/6

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am Christian Apologetics, led by Dr. Miller, E104
- Faith in 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 8/9

- 11:30 am Pastor’s Study, E104
- 6:30 pm Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu’s Home

Saturday 8/12

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103