



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025
11 a.m. worship, Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully-devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

Christ the True and Better Abraham

The Words of Preparation

Christ is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go into the void not knowing whither he went.

Tim Keller

THE WELCOME

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a welcome guest card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates, and fellowship opportunities.

THE INTROIT

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Dale Wood

Jeffrey Metcalf, soloist

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly Thine! May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire! While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (*Hebrews 11:1*)

We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. (*Romans 4:3*)

We place our trust in the Lord, who is faithful to His promises.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (*Hebrews 12:2*)

We lift our hearts in worship to the God who is worthy of our trust.

Come, let us worship the Lord in faith and in hope

For our God is faithful, yesterday, today, and forever!

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

◆ THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE FIRST READING

Romans 4:1-5

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name...(in silence)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

◆ THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. 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.

THE BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

THE SECOND READING

Genesis 12:1-9

THE SERMON

Christ the True and Better Abraham

Rev. Julia Metcalf

THE OFFERING

By Faith

Getty/Townend; arr. Lloyd Larson

By faith we see the hand of God; in the light of creation's grand design, in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness; who walk by faith and not by sight. By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed-for Messiah would appear with the power to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave. *We will stand as children of the promise; we will fix our eyes on Him, our souls' reward; 'til the race is finished and the work is done we'll walk by faith and not by sight.* By faith the church was called to go; and the power of the Spirit to the lost; to deliver captives and to preach good news in every corner of the earth. By faith this mountain shall be moved and the power of the Gospel shall prevail; for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon His name. *Refrain.* Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided, great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! By faith we see the hand of God. By faith this mountain shall be moved. We'll walk by faith and not by sight. We'll walk by faith!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

◆ THE CLOSING HYMN 361

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

◆ THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation on the tune FOUNDATION

◆ Please stand

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Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship! We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you; if this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a *Welcome Guest Card*, or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Fall Sermons Series: Our new series, *Christ the True and Better*, will look at the lives of Old Testament figures, the events and action of God in their lives, and how each of these individuals point us to Christ and find fulfillment in His life and work.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Jane Azlin, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Gary Casteel, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, B. J. Dollahon, Debi Foster, Jim Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Patricia Hall, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Joyce Kunkel, Amy Lesh, Barbara Mace, Margaret Martinson, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, David Osterholt, David Perkins, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, Carolyn Perryman, Joe Robson, Mary Ruddle, Kathy Sengel, Bob Shipman, Vanda Simmons, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Sally Stewart, Ginny Talley, Marcia Tromp, Ralph Veatch, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, Norma Wallace, and Margo Williams.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Barbara Wiedenmann, a member since 1961, died on September 11; Virginia Talley, a member since 2015, died on September 17.

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.

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.

Our Letters of Blessing today go to Vanda Simmons, and Jeff Waldie.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jeffrey Scott Steen by Frank and Leigh Ann Fore, Jerry and Shirley Steen, Whitney Steen Mallot and Tucker Steen.

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.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code.

FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive a weekly prayer prompt, please text [@pastorfpc](https://www.instagram.com/pastorfpc) to "81010".

Prayer in the Chapel: Join together from 10:40 - 10:55 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone whom you know is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-201-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

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 Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

HAPPENING TODAY

Interested in joining a Sunday School class? All classes will resume on Sunday, September 14. For more information, contact Elizabeth DeVore at edevore@firstchurchtulsa.org or click the QR code.



First Friends in the Pews: Meet at the Atrium coffee bar 15 minutes before each worship service.

Pastor's Study (Foundations): Sunday mornings, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in room E104. The Bible is a unified whole drawing us to Jesus Christ, and Genesis is where the story begins. This fall, Rev. Dan Hutchinson will lead an in-depth study on Genesis, walking through the text and drawing out the central themes that weave through Scripture and that ultimately find their fulfillment in Christ. We will discuss the historical, theological, and literary nature of Genesis and how this first book of the Bible sets the stage for everything to come. All are welcome!

Serve-A-Palooza: Today and next Sunday, September 28, before and after worship. Explore what it means to serve the Lord with gladness and discover where you can get grounded in our church community. Spin the wheel for inspiration and uncover how your gifts, skills, and interests can shape your walk as a disciple of Christ.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Men's Monday Bible Study: starting tomorrow, September 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., E103, an informal fellowship of men who want to grow in their understanding and application of God's word. Over lunch they will read a book of the Bible and follow with a Bible study.

Precept Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., E100, led by Denise Rounds; what does it mean to be holy and to know and love God deeply? They will study 1, 2 and 3 John and explore answers to these questions as they consider the fundamentals of Christian beliefs.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. (dinner) in Stephenson Hall
Children and Youth Classes start at 6:00 p.m. and Adults at 6:15 p.m.

C. S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia* (and other fictional works), Miller Library - Join Rev. Dan Hutchinson as we explore the literary works of C. S. Lewis, beginning with the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Together, we will explore the thought and theology of Lewis and the power of stories to convey these great truths. No prior knowledge of his books is required!

Seekers Bible Study: room E104, *Where is God in Esther?* Rev. Wambugu leads us through the remarkable book of Esther, a Jewish woman who courageously saves her people from annihilation by the Persian empire by relying on God's divine providence.

Courage, Dear Heart...Stories of Heroic Sacrifice and Surrender to Jesus: room E102, led by James Estes, this class will journey through the stories of men and women who cried out to God – and followed Him when He answered. Their lives, drawn from the *Christian Heroes Then and Now* series, are testimonies of contagious courage and sacred surrender.

Planning for the Inevitable: room E100, Legal, Healthcare, and Pastoral Care professionals lead this five-week course that will guide participants through the decisions that can be made now to place less stress on family members when death occurs. This week's class will be led by Cassandra Carter from Stanley's Funeral Home and Cremation Services, and Kathy Wilson, funeral/memorial service coordinator for the church

Hearts for the Lord: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., E313, this class will be studying *None Like Him. 10 Ways We are Different From God* by Jen Wilkins. The study teaches how to become articulate and committed followers of Christ, with a clear understanding of why they believe what they believe, grounded in the Word of God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date! World Communion Sunday and First Family Dinner: Sunday, October 5, we join together at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as one family in Christ for worship and communion. After the service, join us in Stephenson Hall and the Courtyard for a First Family Dinner and a chance to celebrate 140 years of God's faithfulness to First Church!

Save the Date! Ron Pearson's 52nd Annual Organ Concert; Sunday, October 5, 4:00 p.m. The program includes Symphony no. 1 for Organ and Orchestra by French composer Alexandre Guilmant; The University of Tulsa Orchestra will be our guest musicians.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Join our TV Ministry Team: Gain valuable video and broadcast experience while helping us reach thousands of TV and internet viewers each week. We're looking for students and adults to volunteer in this ministry. For more information, contact Alex Pennell, TV/Video Manager, at 314-607-1032.

The Presbyterian Women's September Mission is the Helping Hand Ministry. They are collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry detergent, toilet paper and canned goods. Items may be placed in the PW mission container located in the atrium on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings throughout the month of September.

The Chancel Choir is back to full strength! You're always welcome to attend a rehearsal on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room, to watch us in action. Better yet, please consider singing with us!

SERMON NOTES

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 9/21

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:45 am	Rejoice Ringers, 309
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:15 am	First Church Choristers, 308
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary and Great Hall
12:15 p.m.	Serve-a-Palooza, Atrium

Monday 9/22

12:00 pm	Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm	Overtones Rehearsal, 309

Tuesday 9/23

9:30 am	Precept Summer Bible Study, E100
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Wednesday 9/24

11:30 am	Courage, Dear Heart, E102
5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Praise Band, and Celebration Singers, Powerhouse
5:45 pm	Gloria Women's Choir
6:00 pm	Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
6:15 pm	Adult Classes
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday 9/25

10:00 a.m.	Hearts for the Lord, E313
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Saturday 9/27

8:45 a.m.	Before the Rooster Crows
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Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., September 28

Cornerstone	<i>Gospel of John</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Simply Christian</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Book of John</i>	206
Foundations	<i>Genesis</i>	E104
Harbingers	<i>Heidelberg Catechism</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Prayer and Sermon Texts	B318
Reflections	<i>Gospel of Mark</i>	E103
Shepherds	Personal Testimonies	E203
Sojourners	Salvation	E204
Sowers	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	E205
The Vine	Gospel of Mark	E100
UKirk	Women of the Bible	E201
Westminster Forum	Jesus' Words in the Gospel of Matthew	E200



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709 South Boston Avenue | Tulsa, OK 74119 | FirstChurchTulsa.org