



***The People
of
God in Worship***

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

**AUGUST 23, 2020
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY**

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

Part of the pleasure of reading a novel lies in not knowing how it will turn out until we get to the last page—and then thinking back to how the characters might have lived differently had they known what the end would be like. But real life has an urgency so different from fiction; at the end, it cannot be changed! ‘The meaning of life is that it stops.’ We will never figure out how we should live our lives unless we fully understand the significance of the fact that it will end. And then what?

Dr. Timothy Johnson, Medical Journalist

The Prelude

Called Me Higher

Worship Team

I could just sit; I could just sit and wait for all Your goodness, hope to feel Your presence. And I could just stay; I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel You; hope to feel something again.

But You have called me higher; You have called me deeper and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord. You have called me higher; You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord; where You lead me.

I could hold on; I could hold on to who I am and never let You change me from the inside. I could be safe; oh I could be safe here in Your arms and never leave home; never let these walls down.

But You have called me higher; You have called me deeper and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord. You have called me higher; You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord; where You lead me.

I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life. I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life.

But You have called me higher; You have called me deeper and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord. You have called me higher; You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord; where You lead me.

The Welcome and the Call to Worship

We're invited to crown the Lord Jesus Christ, to honor Him for who He is!

We crown Him as the Lord of life, the Lord of love, the Lord of time! We crown Him as the Creator and Redeemer, the crucified Savior and the living Lord!

This One, the Lamb who sits upon His throne, the matchless King, is worthy of every crown we offer. Come, sing your praise –lift your hearts, and let us worship God!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ The Hymn 151 Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for Thee, and hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified; no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Lucy and Samuel Donohue

The First Reading Isaiah 49:5-13

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Almighty God, like ancient Israel we easily get confused, set our own agenda, lose our way, and forget our reliance upon your sustaining mercy and grace. Hurting and broken, overwhelmed by the weight of our lousy choices, we can find ourselves in despair, and in a barren and dangerous place. Have mercy upon us, dear Christ. Forgive our sin and meet us in our need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...(*in silence*)

O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within, overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself? Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.

*O come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus
Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes; come today there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling. Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy; from the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling.

*O come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus
Christ.*

O, what a Savior! Isn't He wonderful? Sing alleluia; Christ is risen! Bow down before him for he is Lord of all. Sing alleluia; Christ is risen!

*O come to the altar, the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus
Christ.*

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown; tell the world of the treasure you've found.

The Assurance of Pardon

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

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.

The Time with the Young Disciples Colin McCracken
Why Does the Good Shepherd Run?

The Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need arr. Lloyd Larson

My Shepherd will supply my need, the God of love supreme; in pastures green You let me feed beside the living stream. You bring my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake Your ways; and lead me for Your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death Your presence is my stay: one word of Your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows, Your oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may Your house be my abode, and all my work be praise! There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

The New Testament Reading Acts 8:1-8, 14, 26-39

The Sermon Just How “Urgent” is the Gospel? Dr. Jim Miller
Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up.....” (Acts 8:26)

The Response Christ for the World We Sing Craig Courtney
Jaclyn and Julia Metcalf, soloists

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal; the poor and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal. Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer; the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair. Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ The Hymn

We've a Story to Tell the Nations

MESSAGE

We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord, a song that shall conquer evil, and shatter the spear and sword, and shatter the spear and sword.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above has sent us His Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod, that all of the world's great peoples may come to the truth of God, may come to the truth of God.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** Improvisation on the tune MESSAGE

◆ Please Stand

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Bob Balch, Billy Boyd, Kitty Brumbaugh, Sandra Cousins, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Eugene Gilbert, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Linda Hunter, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Charla Kitch, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Dottie and Walt MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Karen McCay, Jan Miller, Pamela Neumann, David Osterholt, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Robert Perryman, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Katherine Reid, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Rick Spellman, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Laurie Sundborg, Nancy Tholen, and Jack Williams.

Worship Notes

The flowers for today's worship service in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeffrey Scott Steen by Frank and Leigh Ann Fore, Jerry, Shirley, Whitney and Tucker Steen.

Worship

We are open for Sunday worship and welcome you to attend! Currently, there are three live services each week:

8:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship – Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship – Sanctuary

If you would like to continue viewing from home, two of our services are broadcast on [Livestream.com](https://www.livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa) and our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa) page. Additionally, you can view our traditional service at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Cox Cable, Channel 3.

[**Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa**](https://www.livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

[**Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa**](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

Cox Cable Ch. 3 at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. – Tulsa International Fellowship Worship - Great Hall

[Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa](https://livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

[Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

Youth and Children's updates – Good News! Sunday school for children, Middle and High school resume today. Parents: please RSVP to let us know that your children will be attending. Please contact Kiona Tyler at ktyler@firstchurchtulsa.org or on the Children's Facebook page.

The Pastor's Class, led by Dr. Miller, convenes today and every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Miller Library. This class repeats (and will be Livestreamed) on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. The theme is John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. After the four-week study we examine C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. Please RSVP to Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30

Sojourners (All Ages)	E204
The Vine (<i>Singles/couples</i>)	E100
Young Adults (<i>20's and 30's</i>)	E201
Pastor's Class	Library

Sunday Afternoons

2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. - First Family Summer Swim - Sundays, at Camp Loughridge Aquatic Center.

5:00 p.m. – Summer Vespers: Camp Loughridge K-Dome - Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Please bring your own water.

Weekday Events

Prayer Service - This Thursday, *5:30 Prayers*, in the Miller Library. Invite your friends.

10:10 Pastor's Message live on Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa every Tuesday and Thursday.

Storytime with Courtaney Miller – Tune in on Saturdays at noon for the next episode of George McDonald's "The Princess and the Goblin".
Facebook.com/FPCChildrens

Events Happening This Week

Deacons Day of Care - Join us on Saturday mornings in August for the Deacon Days of Care. We will be serving congregation members who need help on outside home projects. Volunteer teams will be small to allow for social distancing, will be asked to wear masks and will stay outside of members' homes. Sign up to volunteer at www.firstchurctulsa.org. Contact Elizabeth DeVore (eldevore7@gmail.com) or Joe Land (dogfaceboy@aol.com) for more information or if you know of someone in need.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday School begins on September 14 at 12:00 p.m. Dr. Arden Autry will continue his study on Revelation. This study provides an overview of the entire book, followed by examples of how Revelation has been interpreted in different eras of the Church. For more information, contact Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or helliott@firstchurctulsa.org.

Precepts – beginning on Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. Led by Denise Rounds, the class will be studying Philippians and how to have joy in any circumstance.

Wednesday Night Downtown Tulsa Fall 2020 begins on Wednesday, September 16, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. and classes at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday nights are a vibrant time of fellowship and spiritual growth at First Church. We hope that you will join us for an optional church dinner followed by AWANA and POW for children and several adult offerings. For more information on the children's programs, contact Kiona Tyler at 918-301-1008 or ktyler@firstchurctulsa.org. For more information on Adult programming check our website calendar at firstchurctulsa.org/events or contact Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or helliott@firstchurctulsa.org.

To register your child for **Awana** or to volunteer please click on the QR code below.



Financial Peace University –This life-changing class—taught by Dave Ramsey and his team on video—will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. Cost is \$129 per person/couple. This class is taught by Judith Land and will begin on September 16 at 6:15 p.m. Learn more and register at daveramsey.com/fpu. Limited scholarships are available. Please contact Hannah Elliott at helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org for more questions about scholarships. To purchase materials go to bit.ly/FirstChurchFPU.

Ignatian Spiritual Exercises informational session will be held on Saturday, September 19, breakfast at 9:30 a.m., meeting begins at 10:00 a.m., in Room E104. Learn the process, experience the prayer and find out what you can expect from the upcoming Ignatian groups this fall. To register or for more information, contact Duff Points at 918-301-1018 or dpoints@firstchurchtulsa.org.

The 13th Annual Helping Hand Golf Tournament is on Monday, September 21, at 9:00 a.m. at Meadowbrook Country Club. This year's tournament is in memory of George and Geordie Matson. To register, go to the Church's website at www.firstchurchtulsa.org or Realm. For questions, please contact Braigen Hubbard at 918-301-1039 or bhubbard@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Other Announcements

FPC's Helping Hand Ministry has been assisting a surplus of people in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. To make a donation, go to the Helping Hand Ministry calendar event on the website or send a check to the church with a memo line that reads *Helping Hand Donation*.

Join us on REALM - Connecting with others online has become extremely important recently, and First Church has a new tool to make that easier than

ever. Chat with members of your groups, update your information, on-line giving, register for events, and more, all from your home desktop or mobile device. Log in today and start connecting! For more information email contactus@firstchurchtulsa.org or contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or Braigen Hubbard at 918-301-1039.

Resources On Sexual Ethics

“Current reflection about sexual ethics...is a mess.” So says Stanley Hawerwas, Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School. He goes on to add: “Dr. Robert Johnson, Director of Adolescent Medicine at the New Jersey College of Medicine, cites statistics that two of every ten girls in junior and senior high school in New Jersey will get pregnant this year. No matter what one thinks about premarital sexuality, that is a shocking statistic, and we feel we need some ethical guidance on how to deal with such problems.”

Indeed. And the issues have only become more complex and compelling since Hawerwas published his book in 1988 (*Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*).

First Church believes it important to provide resources for understanding these issues and addressing them in both loving and faithful ways.

We have sought to follow this counsel: before embracing a new sexual ethic consider (and carefully examine) the historic position of the Church when it comes to such matters.

Here are three resources that can help us do just that:

On Christian Marriage: Timothy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*

On Same-Sex Attraction: Wesley Hill, *Washed and Waiting*.

Hill's story is especially helpful and compelling because he speaks directly about his own same-sex attractions, and how he has sought to be faithful.

An online class on *The Bible and Homosexuality*: Robert Gagnon, Houston University. Gagnon is arguably the finest exponent of the historic view of the

church on this subject. This week his online class begins (Tuesday nights or Thursday nights). Follow this link to register as an “auditor”:

<https://hbu.edu/school-of-christian-thought/auditors-surveyors/>

Sing! Global Virtual Worship Conference

Organized by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Join us Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 31 – Sept. 2, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall for ***Sing! Global 2020*** - an immersive digital conference connecting leaders, families, and churches around the world to encourage and deepen worship - as we focus on the centrality of God's Word in our worship.

This conference features not only world-class composers and musicians, but also some of the finest Christian speakers from around the world.

***Register through the church website event calendar by Monday, August 24.**

Seating will be limited to allow for social distancing. All other current FPC protocols will be in place. Masks are required for this event.

An optional \$5.00 box dinner will be available at 5:30 p.m. each night. Advance reservation and payment are required for the meal.

Monday, August 31 | *The Wonder and Power of the Word of God*

- Singing led by Keith and Kristyn Getty and by City Alight
- Plenary Messages by John Lennox and Alistair Begg
- *Behind the Artist* talks with visual artist, Ross Wilson, and violinist, David Kim

Tuesday, September 1 | *Scripture in the Sunday Service*

- Singing led by Matt Papa, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, and Matt Merker
- Plenary messages by Ligon Duncan, Conrad Mbewe, John MacArthur
- *Behind the Artist* talk with soprano soloist, Joanne Lunn
- Panel Discussion: *Church Services During Quarantine*

Wednesday, September 2 | *The Word in the World: Singing, Suffering, and Witness in the 21st Century*

- Singing led by Keith and Kristyn Getty with the Getty Band
- Plenary Messages by John Piper and Trip Lee
- *Behind the Artist* talk with bass guitarist, John Patitucci

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program on the pew as you leave.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ or **Guest** _____

Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.



August 23, 2020, Sanctuary



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CHURCH OF TULSA

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