



God's Redemptive Story:

Deep Mystery
Unmistakable Fingerprints

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

**JANUARY 16, 2022
8:00 AM
KERR CHAPEL**

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

Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel

The Words of Preparation

What comes to our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. A.W. Tozer

The Welcome

The Solo

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Randie Lewis, soloist

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you; be not afraid, I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting; my love for you shall have no end.

Isaiah 43:1-4

The Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

For He is clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

Bless the Lord, O my soul:

For great is the Lord –and greatly to be praised!

Come, lift your voices, sing with gratitude;

And let us worship God!

◆ **The Hymn** 467

How Great Thou Art

O STORE GUD

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Elder Amy Russell

The New Testament Reading Revelation 5:1-12

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, Lion of the tribe of Judah, in Your redemptive love You entered our groaning, darkened and broken world. You meet us in our sin and need, and do that which is necessary to redeem and save. Forgive us, good Lord. Open our eyes, awaken our heart, and cause us to welcome your saving grace and goodness. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers..... *(in silence)*

Is He Worthy?

Andrew Peterson

Randie Lewis, soloist

(congregation joins in singing on bold print)

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; is He worthy of this? **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.

The Ordination and Installation of Officer (class of 2024)

Deacon: Quentin Franklin

THE QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICER

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our Church as authentic and reliable expositions of what scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the People of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit.

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further peace, unity and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

THE QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

AMY SCHEIPER, CO-CLERK OF SESSION

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept Quentin as a Deacon chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
2. Do we agree to pray for him, encourage him, to respect his decisions and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

The Prayer for Blessing

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith**

Christian, what do you believe?

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control and others view with despair—we believe and declare with joy: Our world belongs to God!

We believe that our hope for a new creation is not tied to what we can do and that one day, through Christ’s love, every challenge to God’s rule will be crushed. His Kingdom will fully come and the Lord will rule. *Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

We believe that the whole creation invites us to join the song: *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength, honor and glory and praise!*

We believe that in Christ righteousness and peace flourish, everything is made new, and that one day every eye will see that every square inch of this world belongs fully to God. *Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus! Come!*

(Christian Reformed Church, The World Belongs to God)

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2:1-10

The Sermon Moses’ Story: God’s Mysterious Providence

Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw in the Nile... Ex. 1:22

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn** To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives! *Refrain.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain.*

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** In Thee Is Gladness J. S. Bach

◆ Please Stand

Worship Notes

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lance Miller, by Judy Miller and family.

Services are broadcast on the FPC Facebook page, and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Please notify the church if there is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Prayers for Healing: Jeanette Anderson, Jane Azlin, Billy Boyd, Pat Brown, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Debi Foster, Luke Fravel, Gary Gilliam, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Meg Hubler, Caroline Fravel Jones, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Ray Kenney, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Laurence Mansur, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, David Osterholt, David Raybourn, Tom Reynolds, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Shannon Thomas, Terry Thomas, Mary Lee Torbert, Quendy Veatch, Dayne Weierbach, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Johanna Boshuizen, a member since 1956, died on January 8.

First Church Updates

Welcome to First Church! We pray that you'll sense the warm of this congregation and the presence of Jesus Christ: the Lord of the Church, and the Author of every blessing!

Thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this congregation! The Session of First Church is at work on the 2022 budget. Your gifts are translated into ministry and mission!

Join us this afternoon, 4:00 p.m. (E-104): Pilgrimage to Israel:

Following in the Footsteps of the Master: May 25 – June 9. Come and learn as we begin walking through the itinerary. A \$500 deposit secures your place (capped at 30). First Church members have priority. Dr. Miller leads.

All Church Retreat: New Life Ranch (Dry Gulch location), March 25-27. We welcome back Dr. Ryan Moore as our Keynote Speaker. Information and sign-up begins next Sunday.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Three Adult Gatherings

Dinner, 5:15 p.m.; classes, 6:15 p.m.

Contemporary Challenges Facing the Church: this week we look at the theme: *Social Media: Just How Should We Navigate This?* -led by Rev. Dan Hutchinson and Jackson Seibert.

Aging with Attitude, an 8-week resistance exercise class led by Randy Barnard, a professional trainer. Bernsen Reception Room. Cost, \$20. Register online at FirstChurchTulsa.org/WNDT.

Seekers: E104, led by Rev. Wambugu: a verse-by-verse study over the current sermon series.

Pastors' Class today: 9.30 a.m.

C.S. Lewis –as an Inquirer: Dr. Miller leads. Stephenson Hall
Old Testament Survey, led by Rev. Hutchinson, E104.

Join us for the daily *January Series*, a simulcast from Calvin University! Remarkable stories and gifted speakers from all over the world. Every day this week: Stephenson Hall, 11:15 a.m. Admission free, optional lunch, \$6. To register for lunch, click on QR code below.



Save the Date for the next Inquirers Class! Beginning today and every Sunday through February 6 at 9:30 a.m., come and ask questions, make new friends and meet our pastors. For more information please contact Patricia Hall 918-301-1028, phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or use the QR code below to register:



Presbyterian Women's January Mission project is the students at Anderson Elementary School. The school is requesting boxes of Kleenex, pencils, crayons, erasers, copy paper, white construction paper, disinfectant wipes and individual bottles of hand sanitizer. Place your donations in the Presbyterian Women's collection bin in the Atrium.

Monday School begins on January 31 at noon in room E104. Join Dr. Wes Vander Lugt in *Slow Faith: A Study in the Psalms*. In our fast-paced world, there is an urgent need for a rooted, attentive, unhurried spiritual life. As the church's inspired prayer book, the Psalms are the preeminent guide for this kind of slow faith, inviting us to participate in a slow story of a slow God.

Interested in “Discussion Theology”? Please join the Downtown Theological Roundtable on Wednesdays starting February 2 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in room E206 for a discussion of GK Chesterton’s book, *Orthodoxy*. Contact Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Opportunities to help our Afghan neighbors. Join us for soup and salad on Sunday, February 6 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service and learn more about the ways you can help the Afghans resettle. You can register by contacting Britani Di Santi at 918-301-1039, bdisanti@firstchurchtulsa.org or by clicking on the QR code below.



COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

Adult Classes for NEXT Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

On Site:

Bible Walk	<i>Joseph – Dreamer, Prisoner, Leader, Redeemer</i>	E101
Cornerstone	Wesley Bible Curriculum	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i>	E205
Faith and Family	Old Testament Survey	E104
Forum	Minor Prophets	E200
Harbingers	<i>If You Want to Walk on Water</i>	E202
Pastor's Study	Essays by C.S. Lewis	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	<i>Watts Up? The Power of God!</i>	E103
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Christless Christianity</i>	E204
UKirk Grow	Bible Study	KRC
Upper Room	Bible Study	E313
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Old Testament Survey	E104

On Site and/or Zoom:

Shepherds	Pillars of Orthodoxy	E203
The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>The Good and Beautiful God</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>Thoughts Matter</i>	Zoom Only

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 1/16/22

- 8:00 a.m. Worship, Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 1/17/22

- January Series 11:15 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103
- Monday School 12:00 p.m., KRC
- Little Lambs 10:00 a.m., Bernsen Gym

Tuesday 1/18/22

- Precepts 9:30 a.m., E100
- January Series 11:15 a.m., Stephenson Hall

Wednesday 1/19/22

- January Series 11:15 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Youth Praise Band 5:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- WNDT Dinner 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall
- AWANA 6:00 p.m.
- POW and Amass Exodus 6:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- Adult Classes 6:15 p.m., Various Locations
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Thursday 1/20/22

- January Series 11:15 a.m., Stephenson Hall

Friday 1/21/22

- January Series 11:15 a.m., Stephenson Hall

Saturday 1/22/21

- Before the Rooster Crows 8:45 a.m., E103

The Office of Trustee

Trustees are responsible for stewarding the care of all congregational investments, under the authority of the Session.

**Jane Crain
Pam Farris
Steve Caldwell**

The Office of Deacon

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. *(Presbyterian Book of Order)*

Tina Aruna	Valentine Ndunga
Bette Cromer	Buddy Neal
Sandy Curtis	Dan Richmond
Quentin Franklin	Grace Shelton
Carter Mathews	Scott Swanson

What is the significance of this call for you?

This call means a lot to me because this is one of the ways I can effectively show the love of Christ by serving others according to the foundation of God's word and creating a tilling ground in the hearts to receive God's love as well for the kingdom purposes. ***Tina Aruna***

The call enables me to serve God in a different avenue from what I have in the past. ***Bette Cromer***

I am deeply grateful to have been given this opportunity to serve as a Deacon at First Church. Believing that Christ has called us to extend God's love and kindness to all, I look forward to serving members of our

congregation who are in need of support in any way as well as extending the love of Jesus to those in our community. It is a blessing to be working with and learning from those who truly have servant's hearts. I seek God's plan and His guidance to do His will as a Deacon.

Sandy Curtis

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Church and our community. I am not sure what this service will look like but I am most eager for my children to be raised in a home of service to our church and others and to engage in and have that sense of duty instilled in them at an early age. ***Quentin Franklin***

It allows me to be the hands and feet of God in serving others. ***Carter Mathews***

As a person of faith, it is an honor to be called into the role of a deacon to serve the church and my community. I believe that God used the voice of the congregation to call me into this position in order to do His will and elevate His purpose. ***Valentine Ndunga***

Through this calling I pray God will lead me to wisdom, strength and perseverance as I carry out the duties of a Deacon. May He cause me to be an instrument of His love, kindness, and compassion. May I serve with love and faith. ***Buddy Neal***

I have been looking for a new way to serve and my call to be a Deacon was literally an answer to my prayers. I am looking forward to the new relationships that will come with serving on this board as well as the opportunities this will bring to serve my Lord and the church. ***Dan Richmond***

I am eager as a Deacon to more fully serve my church. ***Grace Shelton***

Through the Lord's grace a person who is unworthy nor deserved can embrace humility and feel the need to embody compassion and empathy in the service and care of others. God has blessed me with so much that there comes a time to give back. **Scott Swanson**

The Office of Elder

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (*Matt. 20:25*), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. (*Presbyterian Book of Order*)

Laurel Baird
Allison Biggs
Mark Brown
Stephanie Madsen

Urbanus Masaku
Steve Metcalf
Paul Mungai
Denise Rounds
Karen Woolman

What is the significance of this call for you?

The local church has always been the centerpiece of my life. I've had the privilege to be integrated into multiple congregations and I have seen the beauty, brokenness and vital role of the church. There is so much that goes into making a church run and thrive and this only happens when we work together! I'm honored to play my role in the body of Christ by receiving this call and excited to have a front row seat to see how other's gifts are being used in the life of this congregation.
Laurel Baird

I do not enter into this call lightly. Based upon the New Testament teachings, I know that I must take the responsibility and accountability seriously. I am not equipped, but know that God will equip me to do this job. **Allison Biggs**

More proof, humbling and strangely comforting, that His plan and purpose for me continues to reveal itself in ways beyond my ability. **Mark Brown**

It is a great honor, it is also a great responsibility. It is an answered prayer of how I can serve the church. **Stephanie Madsen**

I take it with great reverence. **Urbanus Masaku**

Appreciation for the opportunity to be a service to God in the form of service to the First Church congregation and community and the Greater Church. **Steven Metcalf**

To learn, grow, serve in spirit and life. **Paul Mungai**

It is a call to yield my time to the service of our church “for such a time as this”. **Denise Rounds**

It is an honor to be an important part of this church. **Karen Woolman**

January 16, 2022
KERR CHAPEL

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

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ or Guest _____

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

Front Left - Front Right

Back Left - Back Right

or

going to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.



709 SOUTH BOSTON AVENUE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74119-1609
918.584.4701 • WWW.FIRSTCHURCHTULSA.ORG