



***Embracing the Mystery:
God's Great Drama
and the Church's Role***

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

REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31, 2021
8:00 AM
KERR CHAPEL

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

Reformation Sunday

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

The church is Reformed and always being reformed according to the Word of God. Jodocus van Lodenstein

Bible-readers...will find themselves drawn in as ‘characters’ on stage. Yes, that may well mean ‘playing a part,’ and all the old charges of hypocrisy that cluster around the practice of virtue will come rumbling in here as well. But the more you know the play, the less you will be ‘playing a part’ and the more you will simply be yourself. Sooner or later, you’ll be acting naturally. Second nature. That’s how virtue works.

*N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters**

The Welcome

Dr. Jim Miller

◆ The Call to Worship

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of life, who loves us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who saves us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

**To the one true God be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

◆ The Hymn 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN’ FESTE BURG

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Elder Jim Diacon

The Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. James Estes

Living God, you are the one who is always on the move, always creating and re-creating, always doing a new thing. And yet, we confess that our lives can become static, routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear. We remain stuck in patterns of greed, covetousness, and self-interest. We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life and so we live in dread of our neighbors, our friends, and our enemies. Our souls remain still. We do not love as you love. Nor do we live as you would have us live: with courage, generosity, and compassion. We offer up to you those things we have done and those we have left undone...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to Receive God's Grace

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him!
Alleluia! Amen!

◆ The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

◆ The Affirmation of Faith (Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 1)

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The New Testament Reading Ephesians 4:17-32

The Sermon Always Being Reformed in Christ Dr. Wes Vander Lugt
You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self...and to clothe yourselves with the new self. (Ephesians 4:22, 24)

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution
Prayer of Blessing
Sharing of the Bread and Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Solo We Shall Rise Again Jeremy Young
Erin Barnhart, soloist

Come to me, all you weary, with your burdens and pain. Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me: I am gentle and humble, and your soul will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. *We shall rise again on the last day with the faithful, rich and poor. Coming to the house of Lord Jesus, we will find an open door there. We depend on God's mercy which never fades. We remember our covenant and the promise Jesus made: If we die with Christ Jesus, we shall live with him, and if we are faithful, we shall reign with him! Refrain. At the door to greet us, martyrs, angels, and saints, and our family and loved ones, everyone freed from their chains. We shall feel their acceptance, and the joy of new life. We shall join in the gathering, reunited in God's love! Refrain.*

The Time of Remembrance (See page 5)
David Marshall, piper

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 526 For All the Saints SINE NOMINE
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Overture from *Water Music* G. F. Handel

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For All the Saints Who Died in This Last Year
Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life ."

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember with a deep gratitude the dear ones listed below. According to your baptismal promise, they are lambs of your own flock, sheep of your own fold, and sinners of your own redeeming. In joyful confidence, we commend them to you until that glorious day of resurrection --when the circle will be unbroken by your merciful grace! You alone are the Giver of eternal life. Hear us, today, as we give you thanks and praise, commending those we love into your care. Alleluia! Amen!

November

12 – Bur Blue
28 – Jim Lewis

December

9 – Calvin Swindell
29 – Walt MacMillan
30 – Fred Droege

January, 2021

3 – Carolyn McCright
6 – Myrna Monkres
10 – Allan Edwards
11 – Leo V. Legg
26 – Ginny Wood

February

7 – Orpha Harnish
22 – Bill Shambaugh

March

21 – Alan Ratliff
24 – Jeff Stewart

May

2 – Marjorie Swofford

June

27 – Willis (Bill) Thompson

July

9 – Carol Sanders
10 – Challa Ashlock
19 – Steve Tollett
27 – Janie Quint

August

1 – Hugh Watson
8 – Madge Ryder

September

3 – Larry Don Johnson
5 – Joan Hastings Camp
24 – Dr. Robert Shepard

October

12 – Maggie B. Jones

The above names – members of First Presbyterian Church who have died over the past year – do not include the many friends and extended family members of First Church who have also died this past year.

Worship Notes

Welcome to worship! We gather by Christ's invitation to feed on His Word, open our hearts to His presence, and pray for the Holy Spirit's empowering.

A special and heartfelt welcome to those here for the first time. We pray you might sense the presence of Christ and the warm welcome of this congregation.

Blessed to worship! The Session has re-established our regular Sunday worship times. You're welcome next Sunday in one of these locations:

8:00 Kerr Chapel (weekly communion)

8:30 Stephenson Hall (weekly communion, praise band)
11:00 Sanctuary (Traditional, with choir)
Stephenson Hall (Contemporary, with praise band)
Great Hall (Bernsen, fourth floor) *Tulsa International Fellowship*

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

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Crane, Ruth Crane Ferguson, C .W. Steinsiek and Mary Ann Steinsiek Rich, given by Brett and Cheryl Crane.

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* or text 405-276-4141. You will also find offering plates located at the back of each worship space.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary, audio headsets are available from the ushers.

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*.

In this continuing season of the COVID virus, we yearn to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here. The Session has recommended the wearing of masks during the worship services. Thanks to each for your efforts in this regard.

Parish Register

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

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: John Kemuel “Kem” Cravens, a member since 1993, died on October 25; Bob Matthews, a member since 1994, died on October 27; Terry Diacon, a member since 1964, died on October 28.

Sermon Notes Ephesians 4:17-32

All commentaries point out that Ephesians has two main parts: what is *true* about the work of God in Christ and our life in him (chapters 1-3) and what to *do* in light of the gospel (chapters 4-6). If we transpose this structure into the metaphor of drama, **chapters 1-3** present the **casting call** into God’s drama and **chapters 4-6** are the **character notes** describing the kind of characters we are and how we should play our roles in the drama.

The **casting call** tells us who we are in the drama: we are chosen in Christ, adopted children of God, sinners saved by grace through faith, members of God’s household, the reconciled people of God. God decides to cast us this way not because we are naturally suited for the role but because of the great love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (3:19).

The **character notes** tell us how we should play our roles in the drama, having taken off our old street clothes (4:22) and put on the costume of our new role

(4:24). Paul covers a lot of ground here, telling us already toward the end of Ephesians 4 that we should be characters who:

- Speak the truth rather than speaking falsehoods (4:25)
- Express anger in godly ways (4:26)
- Work honestly rather than stealing (4:28)
- Share with the needy (4:27)
- Communicate with grace-filled words rather than evil ones (4:28)
- Express kindness and tenderness rather than bitterness, wrath, angry, contention, and slander (4:31-32)
- Forgive (4:32)

Even though it may seem daunting to build this kind of character, we have the assurance that God's power is working within us (1:19; 3:16, 20; 6:10). By God's power and grace, therefore, we are always being reformed in Christ to perform our role faithfully in God's drama.

First Church Updates

Stewardship campaign now through December 2021: Thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this congregation! By now you've received your stewardship package in the mail. Your gifts, your energy and your devotion are expressions of the presence of Christ in the world He loves. The Session of First Church is at work on the 2022 budget. Your commitment cards will greatly assist them in their work.

Pastor's reminder: *I'm confident that none of us, standing in the presence of Jesus at the end of time, will ever think: I shouldn't have given as generously as I did to the work of Christ through the His Church. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment. As we look ahead, let's give of our best to the Master!*

Check out the Book Sale in the Atrium! This Sunday, and next Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Book Table will offer books to lift your faith for \$3, \$2, and \$1. The price is hard to beat and the payoff is priceless.

All Saints' Day Remembrance Service: tomorrow, November 1, 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. This service of music and communion remembers with gratitude those who have died in the past year. A luncheon and a time of fellowship follows in the Miller Library.

This Saturday, Nov. 7, 3:00 p.m. A showing of the new movie on C.S. Lewis' life: *the Most Reluctant Convert!* We've rented the whole theater so bring your friends! Cinemark Tulsa at HWY 169 & 71st Street. Tickets: \$9.00 per person. Please reserve through Realm or email Phall@firstchurchtulsa.org and send a check to FPC attention Patricia Hall.



In the Footsteps of the Master! Interested in joining a pilgrimage to Israel? Dr. Miller leads a tour next May 25 to June 9. An informational meeting is set for next Sunday, November 7 at 12:15 p.m. in room E104. Please let us know you're coming: dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org, or 918-301-1015.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat, this Saturday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bernsen Center. Join us for this special one-day marriage enrichment retreat featuring member Tom Philp who is a marriage counselor, a message from a minister and lunch. Registration is \$8 per adult including lunch. \$3 for children. Register online by Wednesday, November 3 or call James Estes at 918-301-1010 with questions.



Christmas Eve Live Nativity! Last week to register! Join us as we journey to Bethlehem! Register online now through Monday, November 1. The Live Nativity is open to All children in grades K-8 – there's a role for EVERYONE! Rehearsals are from 12:15-1:00 p.m., every Sunday in November and December. If your student would like to try out for a speaking part or singing solo, auditions for those will be today in the Sanctuary after the 11:00 service. Please see: www.firstchurchtulsa.org/natreg21.

The Festival of Faith: Dr. Jerry Root, Saturday night and Sunday, November 13-14. Dr. Root, long-time professor at Wheaton College, and an expert on C. S. Lewis, will lead us on the theme: *The Blessing of C. S. Lewis*.

Called to help our new Afghan neighbors? Please register for the orientation meeting: this Wednesday, and Sunday, November 7 during the Sunday School hour. To register or questions, please contact Rev. James Estes at 918-301-1010 or jestes@firstchurchtulsa.org.

First Church is seeking an administrative assistant who supports the Mission, TIF, and New Member Outreach departments. Candidate must have excellent skills in Word, Excel, and Outlook. The role requires exceptional organizational skills, event coordination, and effective written and verbal communication abilities. Please send your resume to Tonye Briscoe at tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

On Site:

Bible Walk	True Christian Community	E101
Cornerstone	Wesley Bible Curriculum	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i> by Adam Hamilton	E205
Faith and Family	<i>Old Testament Survey</i>	E104
Forum	<i>Who Needs Christmas?</i>	E200
Pastor's Study	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	Attend Afghan Refugee meeting	
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Spiritual Formation through the writings of Teresa Avila</i>	E204
Upper Room	Bible Study	E313
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Old Testament Survey	E104

On Site and Zoom:

The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>The Good and Beautiful God</i>	E100
Shepherds	Creeds and Confessions	E203

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 10/31/21

- 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 1/1/21

- All Saints' Day Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel
- Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103
- All Saints' Day Luncheon 12:00 p.m., Miller Library
- Monday School 12:00 p.m., KRC
- Little Lambs 10:00 a.m., Outside Playground

Tuesday 11/2/21

- Precept Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Room E100

Wednesday 11/3/21

- Pastor's Study 11:30 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Youth Praise Band 5:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- WNDT Dinner 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall
- Gloria Choir 5:30 p.m.
- 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

Saturday 11/6/21

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

October 31, 2021

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.



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