



***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.*

**NOVEMBER 7, 2021
8:00 AM
CHAPEL**

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

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m., Chapel

The Words of Preparation

We must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. Hebrews 2:1

We must actively cultivate a Christian life. *For holiness is not a condition into which we drift.* We are not passive spectators of a sanctification God works in us. Rather, we must purposefully “put away” all conduct that is incompatible with our new life in Christ, and “put on” a lifestyle compatible with it. John Stott

The Welcome

The Introit His Eye Is On The Sparrow Charles Gabriel, arr. Mark Hayes
Breana McIntosh, soloist

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for Heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He; His eye is
on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. *I sing because I'm
happy, I sing because I'm free, for His eye is on the sparrow, and
I know He watches me.* “Let not your heart be troubled,” His
tender word I hear; and resting on His goodness, I lose my doubt
and fear. Though by the path He leadeth but one step I may
see; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
Refrain.

The Call to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me: bless His holy Name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits:
He forgives all your sins, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the Pit;

He crowns us with steadfast love and mercy, and satisfies us with good as long as we live!

We have cause to lift our hearts! Come, bless your Redeemer, sing your praise,
and let us worship God!

- ◆ **The Hymn** 223 O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer STUTT GART
- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Dr. Joe Dillsaver

The Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Prayer of Confession Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Merciful God, Lover of your creation, Redeemer of sinners, we live in a scrambled world of life and death, blessings and curses. We come into your holy presence as the people of Israel came so long ago: messy, lost, puzzled, and needy – people marred and disheveled by sin. Thank you, Lord, for welcoming us into your throne-room of grace. Surround us in your forgiving love, create in us a clean heart and gift us, for Jesus' sake, with Your indwelling Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

Good News

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 Response

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine; heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood!

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song; praising my Savior all the day long!

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I, in my Savior, am happy and blessed. Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness and lost in His love! *Refrain.*

◆ 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 Epistle Reading Ephesians 5:1-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love –as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving.

Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Sermon

Character Notes?

Thanksgiving is our dialect... Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. Wake up from your sleep, climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! Ephesians 5:4, 16

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** 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** Voluntary on the tune CWM RHONDDA Paul Manz

◆ Please Stand

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Election of Officers

Each year the congregation is charged with identifying leadership within this family of faith. A nominating team gathers to wait upon the Lord, consider the needs of the Church, and present to the congregation their sense of the Lord's leading. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of this task. It is one of the most significant responsibilities delegated to any committee.

We are grateful for the special and prayerful consideration that the 2021 Nominating committee brought to this task and we offer to the congregation the following persons whom we believe God is calling into specific leadership positions within First church:

Elders – 2024

Laurel Baird
Allison Biggs
Mark Brown
Larry Ewing
Stephanie Madsen
Urbanus Masaku
Steve Metcalf
Paul Mungai
Denise Rounds
Karen Woolman

Deacons – 2024

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

Trustees – 2024

Jane Crain
Pam Farris
Steve Caldwell

2022 Nomination Committee

Janet Bull
Jenni Dollahon
Bill Huffman
Phil Rounds
Barbara Sanders
Porter Shults
Solomon Tsuma

With gratitude to the 2021 Nominating Committee:

Dru McQueen, Chair, Dacia Bird, Vice-Chair, Linda Campbell, Taylor Conley, Jan Creveling, Sam DeVore, Julianne Hand, Juddy Kanyeki, Holbrook Lawson, Gary Mathews, Mike Miller, Jennifer Morgan, Jennifer Philp, Jason Pugh, David Raybourn, Carol Rowland, Amy Scheiper

Sermon Notes:

Ephesians 5:1-14

Paul begins this chapter with another “*therefore*”. In brief he is saying, *because of what God has done –we are called to live differently: sacrificially, walking in love, forgiving as we have been forgiven.*

So what does faith have to do with works? We can easily conclude that the answer is “nothing,” that works are excluded from faith. After all, Paul makes clear that we’re “*saved by grace through faith (and that this is not our own doing)*” –so what possible difference could my actions really make in all of this?

Think of yourself as a farmer for a moment, cultivating the blessings that have been given to you. The farmer is gifted with fertile soil, a warm sun, soft rain. All of these (and many more!) are God-given. Without them farmer could do nothing. But the farmer knows God’s blessings are intended to be cultivated. There are specific practices, vital and necessary practices, that are essential to ensure a fruitful crop. Together, God’s gifts and our proper use of them, our collaborative efforts, cause a joyful harvest.

God’s gifts *without our cultivation of them* do not bring about His intended harvest.

So Paul is not reluctant to use imperatives when it comes how we should live. A quick glance at Romans chapter 12 (and Paul’s 25 commands) should dispel any notion that God’s grace in salvation means no collaborative effort on our part.

In Ephesians 5:3-5, Paul speaks cautionary words that we need to take seriously. The culture in which he writes is similar in so many respects to our own: savvy, informed, prosperous, prone to license and immorality, dismissive of any direction when it comes to ethics.

But Ephesians 5:10 puts everything in focus: “*Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord*” –*and do that!* This is low-hanging fruit –available to each of us and all of us! It can set our ethical compasses toward true north.

Evelyn Underhill, a deeply devout English writer, puts it this way:

I feel the regular, steady, docile practice of corporate worship is of the utmost importance for the building-up of your spiritual life.....No amount of solitary reading or prayer makes up for humble immersion in the life and worship of the church.

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.

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 Dick and Barbara Horkey, given by Elaine Horkey.

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*.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jeanette Anderson, 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.

First Church Updates

Thank you for your faithful giving to support the ministries of this congregation! 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!*

Our annual Congregational Meeting is set for today: to elect officers --immediately following the 11:00 service in the Sanctuary.

In the footsteps of Jesus! FPC's pilgrimage to Israel: May 25 – June 9. An information gathering meets immediately after worship today in room E104. Dr. Miller leads the discussion.

Festival of Faith: This coming weekend! Dr. Jerry Root, expert on C. S. Lewis. He speaks Saturday night (Nov. 13) at 6:30 p.m. in the Stephenson Hall, and again at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson on Sunday. Invite your friends!

The Guild of Intercessors Veterans Day Prayer List has been updated. Pick up a copy from the racks in the Narthex or Atrium and join us in praying for these men and women.

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

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering luncheon: Thursday, November 11 at noon in the Miller Library. Our guest speaker is our own staff member Kelle Roberts speaking on her Memory Pillow Ministry. Please RSVP to Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

City-Wide Thanksgiving Worship: Monday, November 22, 7:00 p.m. This year we meet at the historic First Baptist Church, North Tulsa, Rev. Anthony Scott, Pastor. 1414 North Greenwood Avenue.

Mark your calendars: Thanksgiving Day Worship, Thursday, November 22, 11:00 in the Kerr Chapel. Following worship, the Deacons host a scrumptious dinner in Stephenson Hall for those who may be alone during the holiday. To make your reservations, contact Kathy Wilson at (918) 301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org. To sign up online:



Kings in Judaea – a nativity play by Dorothy Sayers, Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Make plans now to bring your family and friends to see Kings in Judaea and stay for dinner and discussion at 6:15 p.m. The play is one of 12 dramas from “The Man Born to be King,” a series written by Sayers depicting specific periods in Jesus’ life. It will be performed by members of First Church, feature songs from a vocal ensemble, and include presentations from Director Bruce Long and Theologian-in-Residence Wes Vander Lugt. Admittance to the play is free and dinner will be \$10. To pay for dinner online:



Dancing toward Delight –Thursday, December 9, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lewis Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Bernsen - Join us for an evening of dance instruction, relational reflection, and Christmas cheer led by Wes and Stephanie Vander Lugt. No previous dance experience or partner is necessary, and anyone is welcome to come, learn, and enjoy. Instruction begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. Come early, enjoy some refreshments, and make sure to wear shoes that slide (no rubber soles)! Space is limited, so sign up here to reserve your spot.



The Presbyterian Women's November mission supports the Coffee Bunker, a ministry providing transitional services to veterans. Gifts may be placed in the acrylic cube at the Reception Desk or mailed to Kathy Wilson at the church.

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.

The C. S. Lewis movie *The Most Reluctant Convert*, has been called a *Tour de Force!* Cinemark has extended their viewings for one week starting Thursday, November 12. Bring some friends!

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

On Site:

Bible Walk	Dr. Jerry Root's class	Stephenson Hall
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	Dr. Jerry Root's class	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	Dr. Jerry Root's class	Stephenson Hall
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:

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 11/7/21

- 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 11/8/21

- Guy's Monday Bible Study 11:45 a.m., Room E103
- Monday School 12:00 p.m., KRC
- Little Lambs 10:00 a.m., Outside Playground

Tuesday 11/9/21

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

Wednesday 11/10/21

- Pastor's Study 11:30 a.m., Stephenson Hall
- Youth Praise Band 5:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- WNDR 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 11/13/21

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

November 7, 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 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.

