



## **Embracing the Mystery**

***Emmanuel:***

***God-With-Us***

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

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 5, 2021**

**8:00 AM**

**KERR CHAPEL**

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

# ***Second Sunday of Advent***

*8:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel*

## **The Words of Preparation**

In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; ...down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature he has created. But He goes down to come back up again and bring the whole ruined world up with him. C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

## **The Prelude**

O Come, O Come Immanuel

Natalie Sleeth

*Abrianna DeLeon and Mason Hopper, soloists*

O come, O come, Immanuel, come now to earth and with Thy people dwell, the world awaits from heaven a holy sign. O come and show to us the light divine. O come, O come, Immanuel, as age to age the prophets did foretell; Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall. For Thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high; gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh. O come, O come, Immanuel, and free Thy children, Israel. Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless all with everlasting love.

## **The Welcome**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candle (1) Hope, (2) Peace**

*Gary and Minnie Casteel*

*(The candle of hope is burning. This morning, we light the candle of peace, remembering that Jesus is the prince of peace. Amidst the tumult of our world; amidst the chaos, violence, anger, and division we experience, Jesus comes as our peace to bring peace and to call us into peace. In him, the words of the prophet Isaiah are being fulfilled):*

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isa. 2:4)

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. (Isa. 11:6)

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

The King of kings has come and he is coming again to rule with peace and justice.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Therefore let us stand in honor,  
**And let us worship God!**

- ◆ **The Hymn 5**      Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence      PICARDY
- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**      Elder Katie Williams

**The First Reading**      Isaiah 40:1-11

**The Prayer of Confession**      Rev. Wally Johnson

Almighty and Everlasting Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. You offer us your very self, and yet we are slow to receive you; reluctant to crown you as Lord. You offer us your peace, but too often, we prefer the conflict and chaos of having our own way. Lord, in your mercy, pardon and forgive us. Cleanse us by the blood of Christ, and renew us by the power of your Spirit. Hear us now, as we pray... *(in silence)*

## **The Assurance of Pardon**

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Therefore hear and believe the good news of the gospel: that in Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon his name!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### ◆ **The Response of Gratitude** 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** (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 Second Reading** Mark 1:1-8

## **The Sermon**

Prepare the Way!

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

*And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie." (Mark 1:7)*

## **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** 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

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

◆ Please Stand

## Worship Notes

**The flowers for today's worship service in the Sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Heather Davis, and our respective parents: George and Armenta Davis, Earl and Ruby Enkey, by Jerry and Patricia Hall 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](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## Parish Register

**Prayers for Healing:** Jeanette Anderson, Jane Azlin, Johanna Boshuizen, 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, Caroline Fravel Jones, Ray Kenney, 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, Terry Thomas, Mary Lee Torbert, Quendy Veatch, Dayne Weierbach, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Kadzo Dama Tsuma, daughter of Rachael and Solomon Tsuma, and Ryder Youngblood Weierbach, son of Cindy and Dayne Weierbach, were baptized on November 28.

## Sermon Notes:

Mark 1:1-8

Advent is all about God's drawing near, His *in-coming* presence. "God was in Christ," says Paul, "reconciling the world to Himself." (II Cor. 5:17)

The opening line in Mark's gospel gets our full attention:

**"The beginning of the good news  
of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."**

You could call this *the title* of Mark's gospel.

Mark sets his purpose out at the very beginning --through these first eight verses of his gospel.

Indeed, in his very first line, he presents it concisely and emphatically: *Jesus is the Messiah [the Christ], the Son of God*. He draws his readers into this story --with the goal of persuading them to embrace this good news. You'll remember that Jesus [Yehoshua = Joshua] means "God is salvation".

Most NT scholars believe Mark's Gospel to be written with Roman Gentiles in mind. Because of that, he rarely quotes the Hebrew Scriptures --since they would mean little to a Gentile audience.

Nonetheless, he begins his story of good news with a quotation from Isaiah 40, verse 3:

*A voice howling in the wilderness --prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!*

And it becomes apparent very soon --and in all four of the gospels-- that we don't get to Jesus without first meeting his cousin, John the Baptizer. He is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy --so Mark believes-- the *howling voice* in the wilderness.

All Israel expected a “Next-to-Last” Man”. Malachi says it will be Elijah. Isaiah says it will be a “Preparer”. The NT gospels, says Dale Bruner, declare: *“Here he is! John the Baptist: the much awaited “Next-to-Last Man”.*

John’s arrival comes with a sense of urgency, demanding our full attention. He speaks loudly. One writer puts it this way: *People speak loudly for three reasons: when others are distant, deaf, or angry –and the human race is all three.*

John believes his message is vital –crucial for people both to hear and receive. And each time he appears he insists on putting the law of God front and center.

*Repent!* is his demand. Baptism is the visible sign.

JP Meier, in his book *The Marginal Jew* summarizes John’s baptism message this way:

*Repent –within: one must change one’s mind and heart about what is important in life –and then change one’s outward life accordingly.*

Thank God for John! We need his attention on the law of God. For as Paul says: *through the law comes the knowledge of sin.* The law warns, admonishes, indicts.

Or, as Martin Luther declares: the Law is intended to drive us to our knees at the foot of the cross in abject desperation –before the living, and gracious, God.

*“Come to me,”* Jesus says *“–all you who are weary and heavily burdened”.* This is His invitation. And it is very good news, indeed!

## First Church Updates

**We're glad to welcome you** on this the second Sunday of Advent! Our prayer is that you'll sense the presence of the living Christ here among us – and the warmth of this expression of the Body of Christ, First Church, Tulsa.

**This afternoon! Dec. 5, 5:00 p.m. the play, *Kings of Judaea*, will be presented in the FPC sanctuary!** Bring your family and friends –and then stay for dinner and a lively discussion with a panel, including Bruce Long, the Director. Admission to the play is free.

**Dancing toward Delight** – Over 50 are signed up and only a few places remain. This Thursday, December 9, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Lewis Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Bernsen Center – Led by Wes and Stephanie Vander Lugt. Instruction begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. Come early, enjoy some refreshments, and make sure to wear shoes that slide (no rubber soles)! Sign up here to reserve your spot.



**Celebrating Christmas Together** - In the Atrium, watch for the *Celebrating Christmas Together* sign-up table today! And mark your calendar for Friday, December 17, as we celebrate Christmas with the students and faculty at Anderson Elementary. Each sponsored student will receive a Bible, a board game, a story book, socks and a sweatshirt - all in a festive First Church bag.

**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.

**Presbyterian Women** – The November mission for December is Emergency Infant Services. They are collecting funds to purchase diapers and other items needed. Gifts may be placed in the acrylic cube at the Reception Desk.

*The Priscilla Circle:* Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Barnett.

*The Soup Group:* Thursday, December 16, noon in the Miller Library.

*The Esther Circle:* Thursday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. in E-202.

**Keith and Kristyn Getty Concert, April 22, 2022, in the FPC Sanctuary!**

Give your loved ones the gift of joyful music and worship. From this Friday, through Friday, December 31, save \$5.00 OFF the price of each ticket. The discount is automatically applied at checkout. Purchase tickets at [www.FirstChurchTulsa.org/Getty22](http://www.FirstChurchTulsa.org/Getty22). After December 31, tickets will return to the regular price of \$35 each. All tickets are General Admission seating.

**Has the Lord prospered you this year? Ron Pearson and Dr. Miller invite you to consider an over-and-above gift for the much-needed renovation of the Chapel organ.** This is a capital project, and includes the full restoration of the eighty-year old organ. It will ensure that the next generations are able to be lift their voices in the Chapel and be led in worship --to the glory of God! You may choose to give your gift over a three-year period beginning this year. The Pearson-Miller team are ready to visit with you and respond to any questions you may have.

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

### On Site:

Bible Walk	Minor Prophets	E101
Cornerstone	Wesley Bible Curriculum	E102
Covenanters	<i>Making Sense of the Bible</i> by Adam Hamilton	E205
Faith and Family	Old Testament Survey	E104
Forum	<i>Incarnation</i>	E200
The Niche 2.0	Bible Study	207
Pastor's Study	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	World Religions	E103
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Advent Observations</i>	E204
Upper Room	Bible Study	E313
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	Old Testament Survey	E104

### On Site and Zoom:

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

## **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### Today 12/5/21

- 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
- 5:00 p.m.** Advent Play: *Kings of Judea*, Sanctuary

### Monday 12/6/21

- 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 12/7/21

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

### Wednesday 12/8/21

- 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., Choir Room
- 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 12/11/21

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

December 5, 2021  
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](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



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