



***Embracing the Mystery:  
And Your Role in  
God's Drama***

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

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2021  
8:00 AM  
KERR CHAPEL

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

# ***Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost***

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

## **The Words of Preparation**

One of the great difficulties is to keep before our minds the question of Truth. People always think you are recommending Christianity not because it is true but because it is good. One must keep on pointing out that Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## **The Welcome**

## **The Entry Into Worship**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

Lucy Donohue, soloist

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus. *In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.* I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of righteousness shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain.* I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain.*

## **◆ The Call**

"Look!" says the Lord, "I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. One who trusts will not fear!" Isa. 28:16

**No one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid:**

**that foundation is Jesus Christ.**

I Corinthians 3:11

Jesus Christ: the sure Foundation! Come, let's stand in honor, sing  
our joy,  
**And let us worship God!**

◆ **The Hymn** 417 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation REGENT SQUARE

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Dr. Jim Bailey

**The Gospel Reading** Psalm 32:1-7

**The Prayer of Confession** Rev. James Estes

Lord of mercy and grace, King David knows the joy that comes when sin is both confessed and forgiven. Teach us to be mindful about *our* sin —and awaken us to the blessing that comes in honest confession in your throne-room of grace. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers... (*in silence*)

**The Invitation to Embrace God's Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness —for all who call upon Him! **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Response**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown!*

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wonderous beauty I see; for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary! *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown!*

◆ **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 1:15-23

**The Sermon** Prayer: Entering the Deep End of the Pool Dr. Miller

*...that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you.*

*Ephesians 1:18*

**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** 467 How Great Thou Art O STORE GUD

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** Improvisation on the tune REGENT SQUARE

## ***Worship Notes***

**Welcome to worship!** We gather today to exalt Jesus, open our hearts to His presence, and pray for the Holy Spirit's awakening! A special and heartfelt welcome to folks that are new here. 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 each 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 (fourth floor) *Tulsa International Fellowship*
- 5:00 p.m.**  
Vespers – Outdoors: Courtyard (Regular Sunday Evening Worship)

**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 Harold E. Kunkel, Sr. and in honor of Harold Kunkel, Darryl Kunkel and Cheryl Kunkel Moore, given by Joyce Kunkel.

**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, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Terry Diacon, Donna Droege, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Luke Fravel, Caroline Fravel Jones, Glenda Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jan Miller, Rosemary Priest, David Osterholt, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Bob Swofford, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Larry Don Johnson, a member since 2014, died on September 3; Joan Hastings Camp, a member since 1967, died on September 5.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Marcia Tromp on the death of her mother, Fay Kramer, on September 11, and to Anita Anthony on the death of her father.

### We Welcome These New Members

#### Profession of Faith

George DeShurley\*

#### Reaffirmation of Faith

Claire Armstrong

Lara Davis

#### Certificate of Transfer

Abby and Sam Boehning

Micah Davis

Carol and George Graham

Randie Lewis

Janie and Dr. Jim Mulkey

Nancy Pellegrino

Kristen Weeldreyer

\*pending baptism

## Sermon Notes

How do we grow up into Christ?  
What does Christian maturity look like?

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians with three high-octane chapters describing what we do first: *We sit —and simply marvel at what God has done in Jesus Christ —by His Spirit!*

Key words in Ephesians:

Sit, Walk, Stand

1. Our position in Christ: SIT (chapters 1-3)
2. Our life in the world. WALK (chapters 4-5)
3. Our attitude to the Enemy STAND (chapter 6)  
(Watchman Nee)

The Apostle Paul is playful, extravagant, and totally engaging as he tells us what is going on in this God-created, Christ-saved, Spirit-blessed world into which we have been born and are now growing up.

The primary language that we use as we grow up in Christ, which is to say as we practice resurrection, is prayer.

(Eugene Peterson)

In Ephesians 1, Paul joins praise and prayer together:

- 1) A joyful benediction (1:3-14),
- 2) A great intercession (1:15-23).

Paul's prayer: 1:15-23: ...that we will come to know:

1. God —through Jesus Christ
2. The hope to which He has called us
3. The riches of our inheritance
4. His immeasurable power

If God's "call" looks back to the beginning, and God's "inheritance" looks on to the end, then surely God's "power" spans the interim period in between.

(John Stott)

## First Church Updates

**We're glad to welcome each of you** in worship this morning! If you're new to First Church, please feel free to participate in any of the events offered below.

**Our Fall teaching ministry** continues this week, with *Monday School*, *Precepts*, *Wednesday Night Downtown* dinner and classes, and *Awana*. Dr. Miller's *Pastor's Study* resumes both today at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 11:30 a. m. Pastor Dan Hutchinson begins a year-long Survey of the Bible at 9:30 a.m. this morning.

**Little Lambs!** Every Monday at 10:00 a.m. Bring your children (birth to pre-school) to share in Bible stories, singing and prayer –while playing and getting to know other families. Contact Phillip Bowman with questions at [pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org) or 918-630-1786.

**Monday School! Every Monday: 11:30 lunch, class, noon. Led by Dr. We Vander Lugt**, our Theologian-in-Residence this fall. The Bible is one story, a story of relationships formed, deformed, and transformed with God, each other, and the world. Over fourteen weeks, we'll explore this theme of transformed, mutual relationships—what we're calling “kinship”—throughout the Bible and how it relates to our own lives and discipleship today. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., to reserve lunch, contact Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019.

**Precepts** -Tuesdays, at 9:30 a.m. in room E100. Denise Rounds leads this class on the study of 2 Corinthians.

**Interested in theological discussions?** Join the **Downtown Theological Roundtable** for a discussion of Martin Luther's *On the Bondage of the Will*. Held on Wednesdays, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in room 206. Please call or email Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or [pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org) to sign up or with any questions.

**The Pastor's Class**, led by Dr. Miller, resumes today, at 9:30 a.m., in Stephenson Hall –continuing our study of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. The same class meet each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. To RSVP for lunch at the Wednesday class contact Hannah Elliott at [helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Wednesday Night Downtown**

*dinner at 5:15 p.m. (Stephenson Hall)  
and class at 6:15 p.m.*

To reserve dinner, call or email Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or [helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org).

***Beauty is Oxygen: How the Arts Help Our Souls Breathe*** taught by Dr. Wes Vander Lugt, our new Theologian-in-residence will be in Stephenson Hall. Beauty is everywhere, but what does it have to do with becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ? In this study, we will explore the pivotal role of beauty and the arts in knowing God, flourishing in our full humanity, and following Jesus with vibrant wisdom in a grayscale world.

**Seekers** taught by Rev. Wambugu Gachungi will be in room E103. Join us each Wednesday night for a verse by verse study of the fall sermon series.

**Old Testament Survey: Today**, and each Sunday morning at 9:30, Rev. Dan Hutchinson leads a class through the Old Testament. Join us if you are looking for a place to connect or interested in diving into the larger story of scripture. The class is held on Sundays, 9:30 a.m. in room E104. All ages are welcome.

**Grow your spiritual life** this fall by joining a small group to discuss the book *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows* by James Bryan Smith. Groups begin the week of September 20 for nine weeks. Interested in joining, hosting or leading a group? Please contact Phillip Bowman at 918-630-1786 or [pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org) for more information.

**Caregiver questions for those struggling with mental illness** - Where do I find help? How do I understand what is happening? How do I cope? First Church is offering the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Tulsa) *Family to Family* class on Mondays, September 20 – November 8 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Bernsen Reception room. The class covers the basics of mental illness, how to support the individual, what to do in a crisis, and self-care. Registration is **REQUIRED**. For more information and to register, contact NAMI Tulsa at 918-587-6264.

**Join the Deacons Saturday mornings in October for Days of Care!** We will be serving members that need help on outside home projects. See the QR code below or the church website for the signup link. If you or someone you know needs assistance contact Elizabeth DeVore at [eldevore7@gmail.com](mailto:eldevore7@gmail.com)/918-728-5327 or Joe Land at [dogfaceboy@aol.com](mailto:dogfaceboy@aol.com)/918-232-1306).

**Young Adults (20s and 30s):** Whether you are single, married, or anywhere in between; new to faith or looking for deeper theological engagement, we are committed to helping young adults discover their place in Christ and the local church. There are lots of ways to get involved through Sunday School, small groups, community nights, and service. If you are interested in learning more, contact Dan Hutchinson at [dhutchinson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:dhutchinson@firstchurchtulsa.org) or Elizabeth DeVore at [eldevore7@gmail.com](mailto:eldevore7@gmail.com).

**People grieve for many reasons:** the loss of a loved one, losing a job or career, the end of a marriage or relationship, etc. **Pathways to Hope** is a five-week class, led by Rev. Wally Johnson, that utilizes the Psalms of Lament to explore ways to cope with grief. It will be held in the Miller Library on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. starting on October 6 and continuing through November 3. Participants may bring a lunch with them or order a boxed lunch (\$6) when registering for the class. Class size is limited to allow for social distancing. Online registration is available using the QR code below or by contacting\_Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.



**C. S. Lewis' The Great Divorce tickets are on sale now!** FPC has purchased a block of tickets to attend the Sunday, October 10 performance. It will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Tulsa PAC in the Chapman Music Hall. There are limited tickets so call to purchase yours today! If you purchased a ticket or had requested a ticket, please contact Dionna Schooley at 918-301-1015.

**Keith and Kristyn Getty Concert rescheduled for Spring 2022.** The Getty Concert planning team has made the difficult decision to postpone the concert with Keith and Kristyn Getty originally scheduled for Tuesday, September 28. The good news is that the Gettys will be coming to First Church on Friday, April 8, 2022. Ticket holders should hang onto their tickets; they will be honored on the new date. If you are not able to attend next spring, please request a refund by contacting Kelle Roberts at [kroberts@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kroberts@firstchurchtulsa.org) or (918) 301-1033. We look forward to worshipping and singing "Christ Our Hope" with you and the Gettys next spring!

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

### On Site:

Bible Walk	Soul Keeping	E101
Covenanters	<i>Lies My Preacher Told Me</i>	E205
Faith and Family	<i>Symbol or Substance?</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Eschatology</i>	E200
The Niche 2.0	Bible Study	207
Pastor's Study	Mere Christianity	Stephenson Hall
Reflections	<i>The God Who Knows Your Name</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Proverbs</i>	E203
Sojourners (All Ages)	<i>Heroes of Faith</i>	E204
Young Adults (20's and 30's)	<i>Old Testament Survey</i>	E104

### On Site and Zoom:

The Vine (Singles/couples)	<i>Acts</i>	E100
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## EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Today 9/19/21

- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary and Great Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Vespers, Courtyard

### Monday 9/20/21

- 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 9/21/21

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

### Wednesday 9/22/21

- 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 5:45 p.m.
- Awana 6:00 p.m.
- POW and Amass Exodus 6:00 p.m., Powerhouse
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m., Choir Room

### Saturday 9/25/21

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



# SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 17

Ron Pearson Organ Concert

**September 19, 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 Right

Back Left - Back Right

or

going to the link: [bit.ly/fpcregister](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



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