



**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
11 p.m. worship, Sanctuary**

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully-devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

Christ our God Incarnate

The Words of Preparation

In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down;...down to the very roots and seabed of the Nature e has created. But He does down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.

C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

"Yes," said Queen Lucy. "In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."

C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

THE PRELUDE

Miniatures for Christmas

Ron Pearson, organist

Dale Wood

THE WELCOME

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

THE INTROIT

I Heard the Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along the unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said. "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way, the world revolved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men!

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Pierson Family

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are burning. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle remembering the words of the Gospel of John: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Christ is our light!

He has come to dispel the darkness!

Christ is our light!

He has come to bring light and life to all people!

Come! Let us stand in honor!

And let us worship God!

◆ **THE CAROL 41****O Come, All Ye Faithful**

ADESTE FIDELES

◆ **THE LITANY OF CHRISTMAS**

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have beheld His glory!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus, Son of the Living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Lord:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Jesus, Joy of the Highest heaven, and crown of all creation:

Glory to You, O Lord!

Christ is born! Give Him glory! Christ has come down from Heaven! Receive Him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt Him! O earth, join with the angels and sing to the Lord! O you nations, join the choirs of heaven and praise Him in joy, for He has been glorified!

Alleluia, Amen!◆ **THE CAROL 31****Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

◆ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Elder Elizabeth DeVore

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19****THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. Wambugu

Almighty God our Heavenly 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. Like Adam and Eve so long ago, we question Your goodness, doubt Your promises, and reject Your authority. Yet, according to Your great faithfulness, You pursue us with salvation; even to the point of taking on flesh and bone. On this night, we ask that You would forgive us our sins and by Your Spirit's power, so awaken our hearts that we might draw near and receive Christ in a manger; our Savior, and our Lord...*(in silence)*

THE PROMISED FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Christ, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him, He has reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His Cross. Therefore, we proclaim that there is indeed forgiveness for anyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia, Amen!**

◆ **THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 40****Joy to The World!**

ANTIOCH

◆ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

◆ THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried; on the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through His prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE GOSPEL STORY, PART 1

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Jacob Hand

THE ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 11:1

THE GOSPEL STORY, PART 2

Luke 2:1-7

Lucy Donohue

THE CAROL 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

THE GOSPEL STORY, PART 3

Luke 2:8-16

Emily Willard

THE ANTHEM

O Children Come

Worship Team

Hear the cry from Bethlehem, "O children come." Son of God now born to men, O children come. Bring your troubles, bring your fears, bring the needs that draw you near, find the hope of all the years – O children come! O children come! Peace on earth good will to men; O children come. Righteous rule that will not end, O children come. Lay down all your bitterness, turn from sin's toil and distress, find His grace and perfect rest – O children come! O children come! Where the Father's grace has walked, O children come. Where you see the hurt and lost, O children come. Show the mercy shown to you, gifts of kindness to renew, love from hearts sincere and true – O children come! O children come!

THE GOSPEL STORY, PART 4

John 1:1-4, 9-14

THE HOMILY

What Child is This?

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

THE OFFERTORY**Chill of the Nightfall**

Hal Hopson

Chill of the nightfall, lamps in the windows, letting their light fall clear in the snow; bitter December bids us remember Christ in the stable long, long ago. Silence of midnight, voices of angels, singing to bid night yield to the dawn; darkness is ended, sinners befriended, where in the stable Jesus is born. Splendor of starlight high on the hillside, faint is the far light burning below; kneeling before Him shepherds adore Him, Christ in the stable long, long ago.

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE CAROLS DURING COMMUNION**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home; coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, You're coming soon to reign; King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold; "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King": The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SOLO**O Holy Night**
Jeffrey Metcalf, soloist

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born. Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His Gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord; then ever, ever, praise we, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of all. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4-5

THE ANTHEM**Night of Silence**

Daniel Kantor

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise. Fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon. Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light. Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing. Breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

THE CAROL**Silent Night**

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

(Please extinguish candles and bring them to the receptacles at the doors of the Sanctuary following worship.)

THE BENEDICTION**THE POSTLUDE****In Dulci Jubilo**

J. S. Bach

Welcome to the First Church community!

Merry Christmas! We are so glad to welcome you on this holy day; your presence adds to our joy.

If you do not have a home congregation, we warmly invite you to worship with us. We are a Presbyterian Church that is Evangelical in nature, meaning we take seriously the good news that life is found in Jesus Christ alone, and that this life is on offer to the whole world! We also place ourselves in the historic Reformed tradition, and we seek to be faithful to the Lord of the Church and the apostolic tradition that we have received.

Consider worshipping with us each Sunday morning. You will find service times below. Come and lift up your heart and your voice each week with God's people.

For nursing mothers and parents of infants and small children, the family bathroom and Patterson Lounge are available as spaces to use during worship. Please follow the signs outside of the North Sanctuary doors.

Below, you will also find ways to cultivate faith and friendships, as well as places to serve the common good in Jesus' name. We are glad that you are here, and we pray every blessing upon you and those precious to you.

Sunday Morning Worship

- 8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel (traditional worship and weekly communion)
- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall (contemporary worship and weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary (Traditional worship with choir)
- 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall (contemporary worship and weekly communion)
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall, Bernsen Center (Tulsa International Fellowship and monthly communion).

Our 11:00 Sanctuary Service:

Broadcast, Cox Channel 3, live at 11:00 a.m.,
 Rebroadcast, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.
 Streamed on Facebook, Youtube, FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube,
 and the FPC Website: www.firstchurchtulsa.org

Growing Your Faith!

Adult Discipleship

- Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. (14 classes available.)
- Weekday Bible studies.
- KGroups – Home-based fellowship groups.
- Wednesday Night Downtown – Full programing for all ages.
 - Optional Dinner 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall for all
 - 6:00 p.m. AWANA Clubs for children through grade 4
 - 6:00 p.m. Middle School (Pathfinders), High School (Exodus)
 - 6:15 p.m. Adult Classes
- Pastors' Studies
 - Rev. Dan Hutchinson, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
 - Rev. Wambugu Gachungi, Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.
- Quarterly spiritual retreats and other opportunities for prayer and spiritual formation

Tulsa International Fellowship: Join with others from across the world for a time of worship and fellowship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall, Bernsen Center.

Young Adults: First Church is committed to providing a place for Young Adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Newcomer Gathering: Join us for coffee, bagels, and fellowship on Sunday, January 18- Explore what it means to become a member of First Church and learn about our family of faith! Ask questions, learn about First Church, and get to know other newcomers and members.

Presbyterian Women: Monthly fellowship and Bible study meetings.

Serving the Master!

Helping Hand Ministry: Helping to prevent evictions and keep the utilities on, Helping Hand Ministry provides funds to those in need of a hand up. Come and see the good being done any Monday or Tuesday from 9-noon.

Guild of Intercessors – Intercessory prayer group that believes prayer is powerful and life-changing.

Faith Partners: A ministry offering compassion, resources, education and hope for those affected by addiction.

Deacons: Join the Deacons in serving those in need – the sick, the isolated and lonely, to any who may be overwhelmed or distressed – both within and beyond this community of faith.

Hope is Alive: Join the deacons in one of eight annual visits with the residents of Hope is Alive community. Come witness God's power, quietly forging radical life transformation in those suffering from addiction.

Global Mission Trips: Serve Christ in the world through mission partnerships around the world.

Works of HeART: Weekly art class for clients at the Day Center for the Homeless.

Masterwork Academy For Faith and Fine Arts: Come encourage K-5th graders daily after school as they grow in the disciplines of music, visual art, ballet, theater, fitness and Bible study.

Marion Anderson Elementary School: There is always a way to be a blessing at Anderson, our partner in education school: be a weekly lunch buddy, help in the classroom, read to a student, or serve at a community night.

Children's Ministries: Serve with us in the church's Nursery, Preschool, or Elementary ministries by teaching, planning, or rocking babies.

Telecare: Help us keep in touch with homebound members and those who need encouragement.

Music Ministries!

First Church strives to glorify God across the broad spectrum of musical language. From children's, youth choirs, and bells to the adult Chancel Choir, Contemporary Worship Team, and TIF band, plus Rejoice Ringers, Overtones handbell choirs, and Gloria women's choir, there is a place for you to use your musical gifts at First Church.

Next Generation Ministries! (Cradle to College)

Children's Ministries: We are committed to coming alongside families as they raise their children in the faith of Jesus Christ. We focus on Spiritual Education, Worship, Service, and Fellowship by offering Sunday morning programming, Awana, VBS, and special events throughout the year.

FPC Youth: A community of Middle School (5th - 8th) and High School (9th - 12th) students who seek to grow in their relationship with Christ; encouraging one another in the day-to-day and living as the Church here and now.

UKirk College Ministries: Designed to reach, teach, and love college-aged students throughout Tulsa so they may be life-long followers of Jesus Christ. Find us on Instagram at @ukirktulsa or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the church office at 918-584-4701 or www.firstchurchtulsa.org.

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa links

Website: FirstChurchTulsa.org

YouTube: FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube

Facebook: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

Instagram: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.instagram.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

LinkedIn: [@FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/first-church-tulsa)

Twitter/X: [@1stChurchTulsa](https://twitter.com/1stChurchTulsa)

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THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS AND ORGANIST

Daniel Hutchinson, *Interim Senior Pastor*, James Estes, *Associate Pastor*
 Rev. Julia Metcalf, *Associate Pastor* Wambugu Gachungi, *Associate Pastor*
 Ron Pearson, *Organist and Music Director*