



**Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
8 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 He 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

*Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a Get Connected card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates, and fellowship opportunities.*

### 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

*Susan and Abbey Reid*

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are burning. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle remembering the words of the Gospel of John: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Christ is our light!

**He has come to dispel the darkness!**

Christ is Emmanuel, God with us!

**He has come to bring light and life to all people!**  
 So come, let us join our voices together,  
**And let us proclaim the coming of our Savior and King!**

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

ADESTE FIDELES

**THE BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by His holy Child, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of His birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which He died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

**THE HYMN 49****Once in Royal David's City**

IRBY

*Gloria Shelton, soloist**(Congregation joins on stanzas 2-4)***THE FIRST LESSON****Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**

Matt Bristow

**THE CAROL 2****Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

HYFRYDOL

**THE SECOND LESSON****Genesis 22:15-18**

Claire Winton

**THE CAROL****Sing We the Song of Emmanuel**

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this the Christ who was long foretold. Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, promise of dawn now our eyes behold. God most high in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim: Great and glorious, Love has come to us, join now with the hosts of Heaven.

*(Congregation stands and joins)*

Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne. Helpless He lay, the invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son. O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before Him fall. Grace and majesty, what humility; come on bended knee, adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel; joy and peace for the weary heart. Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the light overwhelms the dark. Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the Gospel ring. God has made a way, He will have the praise; tell the world His name is Jesus. *Gloria!*

<b>THE THIRD LESSON</b>	Isaiah 9:2 and 6–7, Micah 5:2	Kelsey Wilberforce
<b>THE CAROL 44</b>	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS
<b>THE FOURTH LESSON</b>	Isaiah 11:1–4a, 6–9	Lyle Bristow
<b>THE CAROL 48</b>	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	Es Ist Ein' Ros'
<b>THE FIFTH LESSON</b>	Luke 1:26–35, 38	Vivien Wambugu
<b>THE SOLO</b>	<b>Magnificat</b> <i>Jaclyn Metcalf, soloist</i>	Keith and Kristyn Getty
My soul will magnify the Lord: I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of His favor. For He has done great things for me; He was mindful of His servant. Every age shall call me blessed. The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son; for He who promised is mighty in remembering His mercy. My soul will magnify the Lord for His grace to those who fear Him through every generation. The proud He scatters to the wind as the ruler's strength is broken, and the rich are left with nothing. The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied; our Portion and our Treasure, our Hope and Help forever.		Luke 1:46–55
<b>THE SIXTH LESSON</b>	Luke 2:1–7	Rev. Julia Metcalf
<b>THE CAROL 24</b>	Away in a Manger	CRADLE SONG
<b>THE SEVENTH LESSON</b>	Luke 2:8–16	Josie Whitley
<b>THE ANTHEM</b>	Run, Ye Shepherds to the Light	Michael Haydn
Run, ye shepherds, to the light! For joyous news I carry. Joy fills all the starry night. Come quickly, do not tarry. In lowly manger bare come see the infant there, a child, the King of Glory! With all your might, rush toward the light, the star of ancient story.		
<b>THE EIGHTH LESSON</b>	Matthew 2:1–12	Rev. Wambugu

**THE NINTH LESSON****John 1:1-4, 9-14**

Josiah Price

**THE CAROL 31****Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

**THE HOMILY****What Child is This?**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

**THE OFFERTORY****O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Hayes

*Lydia Gray, soloist*

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 His Life was the Light of all. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never 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

*(Please lift your candle on the final stanza)*

**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

**◆ Please stand**

### **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](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube),  
 and the FPC Website: [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://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](mailto: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-5<sup>th</sup> 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 (5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) and High School (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) 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](https://www.instagram.com/ukirktulsa) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at [jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org).

*For more information on any of the above, please contact the church office at 918-584-4701 or [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org).*

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa links

Website: [FirstChurchTulsa.org](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org)

YouTube: [FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube](http://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-of-tulsa)

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

[Linktr.ee/FirstChurchTulsa](https://linktr.ee/FirstChurchTulsa)



**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*