



**Vespers Service**  
**December 20, 2020**

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*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa*

*Born by grace in 1885*

## Vespers Service December 20, 2020

### **Prelude**                    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that  
mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine  
advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's  
dark shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with  
heaven's peace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

### **Welcome & Invitation to Worship**

### **Songs of Praise**

#### Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and  
nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the  
sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the  
sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye,  
O come ye, to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him, Born the King  
of angels!

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let  
us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of  
heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let  
us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

### It Came Upon A 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,

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending  
low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and  
slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the  
wing; O rest beside the weary road, and 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.

### Angels We have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly  
song?

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo; gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

## Prayer of Confession

### Response to Confession

What Child is this?

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds  
watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels  
sing; haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is  
pleading.

*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through the cross be borne for me,  
for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of  
Mary.*

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving heart enthrone Him.

*Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the  
angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with  
healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no  
more may die. Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us  
second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **Christmas Affirmation of Faith**      John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All

things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 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. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **Homily**

The Joy of Christmas

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

## **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

## **Songs of Response**

### Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go, tell it on the mountain. Over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

*Go, tell it on the mountain. Over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angels chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

*Go, tell it on the mountain. Over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God  
sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

## Worship Notes

**The Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary** are given to the glory of God by the Halliburton family --with gratitude for the "Greens Teams" past and present, who have beautified the season over the past fifty years.

**We give special thanks to the Greens Decorating Team:** Judy Brill, Minnie and Gary Casteel, Bevan, Laura and Will Keith, Mary Anne and Tom Marberry, Amy and Lance Tate, and Sherye Halliburton.

**The festive exterior wreaths are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:**

- George, Daphne, Geordie and Mark Matson, and Michael and Janice Dorndorfer by the Matson Family.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.
- Vivienne Couper Edwards and Duncan Fuller by their families, Ellen, Lindsey, and Emily Fuller, Sophia and Connor Dunaway and Duncan Dougall.

**Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord** may be given electronically at [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org) or text 405-276-4141.

**For those who need 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](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## First Church Update

**We're grateful for a congregation that continues to give generously** in ways that further the ministries of Christ. The Session is putting together the 2021 budget. Thank you for returning your "estimate-of-giving" cards, which will enable the Session to do its best work.

**"Let the little children come to me!"** During this season when many are not able to serve in children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., would you be willing to wrap the arms of Jesus around these little ones –perhaps once a month? Please contact Courtney Miller at 918-301-1009 or [cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Vespers – Carols Sing Along** - Join us for Vespers tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Courtyard for a time of beautiful worship and carols. Outdoor heaters will keep you warm!

**Our annual *Christmas Joy Offering*** is today. You will find envelopes at the end of each pew. Please drop your envelope in the offering plate. Your gift goes to the PCUSA Board of Pensions and supports those who have served as missionaries, pastors, and Christian educators.

**Share the joy of Christ with First Responders** who have served faithfully amid this difficult year. The Tulsa Police Chaplain has invited congregations to offer words of encouragement via Christmas cards. Check out the Welcome Desk in the Atrium, find a blank Christmas card, and add your word of good news! Place it in the gift-wrapped drop box.

**Nativity Activity Bag Pickup** - This year on Christmas Eve, we will worship at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with a service called, "A Family Christmas." For those of you who are not attending in person, your children can still participate by watching online and using the materials in a provided Nativity activity bag including costume headpieces, coloring book and crayons, nativity stickers, and an LED candle. Just drive through the porte cochere Monday through Wednesday, December 21 – 23, noon to 1:00 p.m. and pick up the number of bags needed for your family!

**FPC University Ministries:** (Follow us at *@ukirktulsa* for updates)

“**Gather**” is fellowship and worship for 18-24 year-olds, whether University students or not. We will resume Tuesday evening, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 in the Miller Library.

“**Grow**” is Sunday School for 18-24 year-olds, whether University students or not. We will resume Sunday morning, January 3 from 12:15-1:30 in the Miller Library.

**Exodus Alumni Reunion Lunch**, Join us today after worship to see friends old and new in the Kirkland Reception Room in the Bernsen Center. Lunch, cocoa, and cookies will be served!

**Presbyterian Women’s** mission for December is Emergency Infant Services, we will be collecting funds to purchase food, diapers and formula. Also, gently used clean clothing, blankets, socks, coats, sweaters and of course toys will be greatly appreciated. The container will be in the atrium.

**Considering First Church as your spiritual home?** We’d love to welcome you to our “no-strings-attached” Inquirers Class. We’ll join together in room E104, Sundays, January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, at 9:15 a.m. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918 301-1028 or *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

**The January Series**, a free 15-day lecture series from Calvin College continues, but will look different in 2021. This year the Series will be completely virtual. Each presentation will be available January 6 – 26, from 11:30 to 12:30 and can be viewed on your own device. You will need to register, and can find the link at *https://calvin.edu/january-series/*. For more information please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

**Faith Partners Addiction Ministry** is available for confidential conversation and support during these difficult days. If you or a loved one are struggling with the effects of addiction we are here for you. We have either walked in your shoes or have specialized training. You’re encouraged to call the staff liaison, Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028, for more information.

**First Church is a praying community!** You'll find a prayer request card in the sanctuary pew or the Friendship Register. Place it in the offering plate at the doors of the sanctuary, or in the prayer request box at the *Welcome Center* in the Miller Atrium. Pastors and members of the Guild of Intercessors will uphold your concerns in prayer.

**Serve the Master and love on His children!** The Masterwork Academy welcomes you! Perhaps you can give an hour, perhaps a day. Leaders are needed from noon-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you'd like to know more about how you can be a part of this beautiful ministry, email Kelly Brown at [kbrown@masterworkacademy.org](mailto:kbrown@masterworkacademy.org) or call 918-370-0207.

**Director of Operations – Would you like to serve Christ in this way?**

This position provides oversight and leadership amid all of the operations of the Church. Key areas include management and maintenance of Church facilities and grounds, oversight of human resources and benefits, accounting, information technology and food services. Requirements include: a Bachelor's degree in business or equivalent, work experience in related fields, strong communication skills, problem solving and analytical skills and commitment of Christian faith. If you are interested, email your resume to Tonye Briscoe at [tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## **PARISH REGISTER**

**Prayers for Healing:** Jane Azlin, MaryAnn Blackburn, Billy Boyd, Roy Cail, Joan Hastings Camp, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Donna Gilliam, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Dottie and Walt MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Jan Miller, Pamela Neumann, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Janie Quint, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Ben Thomas, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Gwendolyn Mira Crowe, daughter of Paige and J.J. Crowe, and Sophia Grace Miller, daughter of Abby and Brett Miller, were baptized on December 13.

Dear First Church families and friends,

We're all aware of the increasing transmission of this COVID virus. And we all want to do whatever we can to diminish the risk for those who gather here.

As we make our way into our Christmas celebrations the First Church Session has enacted a "mask-always" protocol for events here at First Church, including worship.

It will be a great day when we can lift these protocols --but for now we ask you to abide by these expectations-- that we hope and pray will serve the common good.

## **COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

*Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30*

No Sunday School classes next week. Join us  
for a waffle breakfast in Stephenson hall

### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Today** 12/20/20

**Worship and Events**

8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m. **Sanctuary and Great Hall**

5:00 p.m. Vespers Evening Worship – Courtyard

**Wednesday** 12/23/20

Ensemble Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m., Choir Room

**Thursday** 12/24/20

2:00 p.m. Carols and Communion (Stephenson Hall)

4:00 p.m. A Family Christmas (Sanctuary)

7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

11:00 p.m. Watch-night Christmas and Communion (S.H.)

*(There will be no childcare but the Miller Library and  
room 106 will be available to take your children.)*

**Saturday** 12/26/20

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



***Let every heart prepare Him room; O Come, let us adore Him!***

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC: TODAY**

December 20

A morning of joyful carols and rich choral ensemble music

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

*(all are candlelighting services)*

- 2:00 p.m. Carols and Communion (Stephenson Hall)
- 4:00 p.m. A Family Christmas (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 p.m. Watch-night Christmas and Communion (S.H.)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 11:00 a.m. The Joy of Christmas! (Kerr Chapel)

**FESTIVAL SUNDAY**

December 29

- 9:30 a.m. Waffle Breakfast (Stephenson Hall)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
  - One service only
  - No Sunday School

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Thursday, December 31

- 11:00 p.m. Watch-night Service (Sanctuary)

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance  
by:

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

or

using the QR code below.



Vespers service, December 20, 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF TULSA

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