



Glimpsing God's Redemptive Work

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

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 19, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 AM

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

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The Words of Preparation

A Christian is a strange person. He is both dead and alive, he is miserable and glorious. He consists of contraries. He is dead in regard of corruption and miseries, and such like, but he is alive in regard of his better part, and he grows two ways at once . He grows downwards and upwards at the same time; for as he dies in sin and misery, and natural death approaching, so he lives the life of grace, and grows more and more till he end in glory.

Richard Sibbs, 1639

The Welcome

Rev. James Estes

The Introit If With All Your Hearts, from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

Brad Morgan, soloist

Ye people, rend your hearts, and not your garments for your transgressions: Even as Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the Word of God. I therefore say to you, forsake your idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil. “If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me.” Thus saith our God. Oh! that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence!

The Call to Worship (from Psalm 100)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

◆ **The Hymn** 210 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past ST. ANNE

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Allison Biggs

The First Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21

The Prayer of Confession Rev. Julia Metcalf

God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts. Like the scribes who witnessed Jesus' miracles of healing and heard his proclamation, yet spurned belief, we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts. We confess the many times that our pessimism has caused others to doubt themselves and your Spirit, the times that our criticism has wounded others, the times that our dejection has dampened the enthusiasm of those inspired by your Word and work. O God, forgive us and in your mercy renew us, that with open hearts we may believe and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others...*(in silence)*

◆ **The Response of Gratitude** Here is Love William Rees

Here is love vast as the ocean, loving kindness as the flood: when the Prince of life, our ransom, shed for us His precious blood. Who His love will not remember? Who

can cease to sing His praise? He will never be forgotten throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion fountains opened deep and wide. Through the floodgates of God's mercy flowed a vast and gracious tide. Grace and love like mighty rivers poured incessant from above. Heaven's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

In your truth you do direct me by your Spirit through your Word; and your grace my need is meeting as I trust in you, my Lord. Of your fullness you are pouring your great love afresh on me, without measure, full and boundless, drawing out my heart to Thee.

◆ **The Assurance of Pardon and Affirmation of Faith**

(The Heidelberg Catechism Question 56)

Q. 56. What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

A. That, for the sake of Christ's reconciling work. God will no more remember my sins or the sinfulness with which I have to struggle all my life long; but that he graciously imparts to me the righteousness of Christ so that I may never come into condemnation.

The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen, Amen.**

The Second Reading Colossians 3:1-17

The Sermon A Happy, Holy Obscurity

...you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 379 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less SOLID ROCK
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude**

First Church Updates

Today

Our *Letter of Well-Wishing* (placed just outside the door of this space) is directed today to Dr. Kevin Brown with Asbury University in Kentucky.

This Week

Ash Wednesday, this Wednesday leads us into our Lenten journey.

Come and share a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall and join us for worship in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. The imposition of ashes is a most moving part of this service.

Spiritual Disciplines Retreat, Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at Camp Loughridge, led by Rev. Julia Metcalf. Join a gathering of disciples for a quiet day to draw close to the Lord. We will spend time in prayer, reflection and rich conversation with fellow Christians growing in

faith. The cost to attend is \$10 and includes breakfast and lunch. Click QR code below to register. For more information, contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1019.



Mark Your Calendar

Stay Close to the Master: Wednesday nights during Lent, beginning March 1, Stephenson Hall, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Sign-up today in the atrium to reserve your place. We gather for a time of worship followed by discussion around the tables. Dr. John Ortberg, who will preach here on the Sunday after Easter, offers a ten-minute video devotional, followed by questions and conversations at the tables. First Baptist Church, North Tulsa, and their pastor, Rev. Anthony Scott, will be joining us.

All-Church Retreat: Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2023 at New Life Ranch Frontier Cove. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Wes Vander Lugt. Detailed information, schedule and registration will be available soon.

Ongoing Ministries

Young Adults – First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook, Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Dan Hutchinson at 918-301-1040.

Internship Opportunity– Are you a college student who loves the Lord Jesus and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program. For more information, contact Steve Wilson at swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Presbyterian Women's February Mission project benefits the Presbyterian Disaster Resistance. Please bring items for hygiene kits: hand towels, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, bath-sized, individually wrapped bars of soap, new single toothbrushes, and band-aids. Look for their mission box in the atrium.

Opportunities to Serve the Master

Children's Ministry opportunities – Invest your time with the youngest members of our congregation!

Two Second Grade Sunday School Classroom Assistants - Join us once a month to assist the lead Sunday school teacher in the classroom. Duties include assisting with crafts and helping with the lesson. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Two Awana Substitute Leaders - Join us on Wednesday evenings 6:00 -7:30 p.m. when needed. Fill in as a group leader by moving children to activity stations and helping with scripture memory.

Infant/Nursery/Preschool 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Baby Rockers - Help rock babies in the infant room. Sunday School Classroom Assistant - Help the classroom lead teacher with lesson, craft and general playtime.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sarah Savage at ssavage@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1011, Rachael Tsuma at rkamaru@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1006 or Erin Barnhart at ebarnhart@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1004.

Chancel Choir: If you love to sing and spread the Good News through music, you're invited to add your voice to the Chancel Choir.

Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Contact Ron Pearson at rpearson@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1013 or Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1012.

Memorial Service Greeting Ministry: Serve as a greeter for memorial services, with approximately a one-hour commitment. Memorial

services are usually on weekday afternoons and sometimes on Saturdays. If interested, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1029.

Volunteers are needed to help print the weekly bulletins. We have an opportunity for you to work with us on Thursday afternoons for 3 – 4 hours each week. If you are interested, please contact Dionna Schooley at dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-301-1015.

Masterwork Academy is all about the arts—of serving, of being available, of encouraging, and of being a friend. Of course, we're all about dance, art, music, theater, fitness and learning the Bible too. We're not looking for skill, we're looking for heart. If yours beats with the love of Christ and you have an weekday afternoon from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. to spare, please contact Jenette McEntire at jmcentire@masterworkacademy.org or Laura Voth, lvoth@masterworkacademy.org/918-954-1100.

Seeking writers and photographers - We have volunteer opportunities to serve in our communications area as a writer or photographer. We publish a quarterly magazine and semimonthly newsletter; we are seeking people who would love to tell or illustrate our stories. To volunteer, contact Louann Buhlinger at lbuhlinger@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-740-7055.

Do you enjoy the gift of hospitality? Assist with First Family dinners, Pentecost Sunday and Pancake Breakfast; host dinners in your home or help with special events such as Fall Festival and Breakfast on Boston. For more information, please contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org/918-3001-1028.

Introducing two new choirs for children and youth! Registration is now open for both the *First Church Choristers* children's choir (for grades K-4), and the *Celebration Singers* youth choir (for grades 5-12). These choirs will sing for special events and services in the life of FPC and in the community. Join by February 26 to sing with us for the Chancel

Choir Spring Concert on Sunday, April 23. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. For more information and to register contact Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1012 or scan the code below.

First Church Choristers (insert blue circle code) or
<https://firstchurchtulsa.org/event/first-church-choristers-rehearsal/2023-02-26?d=2023-02-26>



Celebration Singers (insert black circle code) or
<https://firstchurchtulsa.org/event/celebration-singers-youth-choir-rehearsal/2023-03-05?d=2023-03-05>



Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Paul Dick, Donna Droege, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Linda Hopkins, Mike Hopkins, Elaine Horkey, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Bill Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Laurie Sundborg, Mike Tidwell, Susan Waldie, and Carolyn Wilcott.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Dambisa Hara, a member since 2022, died on February 13.

Worship Notes

The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annette Vickery by Gene Vickery and family.

Services are broadcast and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube.

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.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 2/19

8:00 am Worship, Kerr Chapel
 8:30 am Worship, Stephenson Hall
 9:30 am Gatherings and Classes
 11:00 am Worship, Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 2/20

11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
 6:30 pm Season's Women's Gathering, Stephenson Hall

Tuesday 2/21

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 2/22

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
 12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
 5:15 pm Ash Wednesday Soup Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Saturday 2/25

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY: Adult Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Cornerstone	Minor Prophets	E102
Covenanters	<i>Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church That Transforms</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Neuroscience: The Impact of Technology on Our Kids: "Faith"</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Salvation-God's Best Gift to Us</i>	E200
Harbingers	<i>Hearing God</i>	B318
Morning Glory	Prayers and Bible Study	E201
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Faith and Physics	Stephenson Hall
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	<i>Judges</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Old Testament Connections/Fulfillment</i>	E203
Sojourners	Kark Barth Dogmatics	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	<i>The Life You've Always Wanted</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>Theology Brewed in an African Pot</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	New Testament Overview	E104