



***God's Covenant  
Faithfulness:  
In Season and Out of  
Season***

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

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JANUARY 28, 2024  
8:00 AM  
KERR CHAPEL

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

# ***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***

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

## **The Words of Preparation**

Jesus also wants emphatically to address the death question, humanity's most haunting dread. Even the manna generation died—the people who came closest in world history, B.C. to having divine food. But Jesus' Bread is "*coming down right now...*" so that human beings may continually be feeding, right now and forever, on this manna that transcends generations and that gives itself on and on.

Dale Bruner, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary*

## **The Welcome**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

*(Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register.)*

## **The Introit**

Holy Manna

George Atkin/William Moore

*Gloria Women's Choir*

Brethren, we have met to worship, and adore the Lord our God; will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the word? All is vain, unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down; brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sisters aided him; will you help the trembling mourners, who are struggling hard with sin? Tell them all about the Saviour, tell them that He will be found; sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

## **◆ The Call to Worship**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise! Say to God,

**"How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."**

Come and see what God has done:

**he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.**

He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

**There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

**I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

**But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

**Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!**

*Psalm 66:1-7, 16-20*

◆ **The Opening Hymn**

**O God Beyond All Praising**

THAXTED

1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship You to -  
2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen-dor in time must sure - ly  
3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we

5  
day and sing the love a - ma - zing that songs can - not re -  
die, its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to You the Lord Most  
9 bring, that we who know Your fa - vor may serve You as our

13  
pay; for we can on - ly won - der at ev' - ry gift You  
High; but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is  
King and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or

16  
send, at bles - sings with - out num - ber and  
sown, though small in mor - tal sta - ture, to  
ill, we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and

19  
mer - cies with - out end: We lift our hearts be -  
hea - ven's gar - den grown: for Christ, your gift from  
rise to bless You still: To mar - vel at Your

22  
fore You and wait up - on Your word, we  
hea - ven, from death has set us free, and  
beau - ty and glo - ry in Your ways, and

hon - or and a - dore. You, our great and might - y Lord.  
we through Him are gi - ven the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Paul Mungai

### **The First Reading**

John 6:41-51

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Rev. James Estes

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come before you this day carrying our sin and our shame. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways and in rejecting You, the source of all life. Forgive us for looking for life apart from You. Forgive us for when we take offense at your word. Forgive us for when we are slow to listen. Forgive us for when we fail to love You wholeheartedly and for when we fail to love our neighbor with Your love. For the sake of Christ we pray...*(in silence)*

### **The Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel, that in Jesus Christ there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon his name!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

## ◆ **The Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

## ◆ **The Response of Gratitude**      The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

## ◆ **The Affirmation of Faith**      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 Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **The Offering**

One Bread, One Body

John Foley, arr. Lloyd Larson

*Jewel Pierson and Savannah Whalen-Harden, soloists*

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. Refrain. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. Refrain. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. Refrain.*

### **The Second Reading**

Exodus 16

### **The Sermon**

God's Provision

And the Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" (*Exodus 16:11-12*)

## **The Celebration of Communion**

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

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

## **The Ordination/Installation of Officers**

*(class of 2026)*

### **The Prayer for Blessing: Trustees**

\*Ricky Jones

Bill Lawson

Jennifer Porter

### ***Elders***

DD Blackman  
Jenni Dollahon  
Jerry Hall  
Kim Hall  
Bill Huffman  
Betty Marshall  
Paul McEntire  
Jan Miller  
Mary Lee Torbert

### ***Deacons***

Diane Austin  
Lisa Berry  
Dave Davis  
\*Amy Fiegener  
David Grigg  
Andrew Hand  
Nelly Ndungu  
Jana Neal  
Kate Swan  
Clare Williams

*(\*ordained in this service)*

### **THE QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS**

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our Church as authentic and reliable expositions of what scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the People of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further peace, unity and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

**(Deacons)**, will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**(Elders)**, will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

### THE QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

JOEL DONOHUE, CO-CLERK OF SESSION

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept them as officers chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
2. Do we agree to pray for them, encourage them, to respect their decisions and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

#### ◆ The Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always: Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

## ◆ The Charge and Benediction

**The Postlude**

Ode for St. Cecelia's Day

G. F. Handel

+ + +

**Greetings in Christ!** We are so glad to have you worshipping with us this morning. We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you! Please contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org)). For general information, you can follow the QR code.



### **Parish Register**

**Prayers for Healing:** Nifemi Aruna, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Elaine Horkey, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Judith Land, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, Elsie Osterholt, Judy Pollard, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Jo Carolyn Rushing, Cyndi Russell, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Bob Swofford, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, Susan Waldie and Dayne Weierbach.

### **Worship Notes**

**Services are broadcast** 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](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube).

**Please notify the church** if you have 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).



**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.

**The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today:** Given to the glory of God and in appreciation for Ron Pearson, the Choir, the Worship leaders, and the Musicians of First Church by the Metcalf family.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** Alao and Tina Aruna.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



## **First Church Updates**

**We are wrapping up Stewardship Season!** If you have not already, please turn in your pledge for 2024! Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Lord Jesus Christ. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

**Pastoral Prayer** – Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you're interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text *@pastorfpc* to "81010".

**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* or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

**Internship Opportunity** – Are you a college student who loves God and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program. Contact Steve Wilson at [swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org) for more information.

## **Wednesday Night Downtown**

*Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall*

*Classes at 6:15 p.m.*

**Tolkien and the Christian Life:** Join Rev. Dan Hutchinson for an exploration into the biblical and theological themes that arise from the world and writings of J.R.R. Tolkien.

**How To Read the Bible (Hermeneutics):** John Shelton teaches an inductive methodology that emphasizes studying books of the Bible as wholes and context. Students will gain confidence to approach all genres of scripture and to see the plain meaning of the text; the class meets in room E100.

**From Surviving to Thriving In Your Relationship** – Join Rev. James Estes and Dr. Tom Philp in room E103 for a four-week exploration of four core characteristics of a thriving marriage.

**Seekers Bible Study** – Rev. Wambugu Gachungi leads an in-depth study of the Sunday morning sermon scriptures. Come and enjoy praying together, studying the Bible, and engaging in lively questions and discussions.

## **Events This Week**

**The January Series** – Every weekday through February 2 at 11:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. Lunch begins at 11:15 a.m. and the cost is \$7. To make reservations for lunch, please go to the First Church Tulsa webpage.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Parenting Brown Bag Book Discussion** – February 8, 25, March 7, 28, April 11, 25, and May 9 - Bring your lunch and discuss with other parents *Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine* by Michele Borba. Learn the answers to questions such as: Is my child struggling or thriving? What is the difference between a “striver” and a “thriver” mindset? And many more. Led by Sarah Savage, Director of Children’s Ministries in room E100 from 11:30 am. to 1:00 p.m.

**Spiritual Retreat** on Saturday, February 10 in the Lodge at Camp Loughridge will be led by Rev. Julia Metcalf. Come join a gathering of disciples for a quiet day to draw close to our Lord Jesus Christ and to fill your cup with the overflowing graces of our Lord by spending time in solitude and silence, Lectio Devina and imaginative prayer, along with reflection and conversation. The cost for this event is \$10 and includes breakfast and lunch. Click the QR code to register.



**Watercolor Through Lent** – Wednesdays February 14 – March 27, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Tower Room. This creative art class will be led by Mary Lee Weaver and will use traceable images to create beautiful watercolor cards combined with biblical teachings based on the book *The Ignatian Workout for Lent* by Tim Muldoon. No previous art experience needed. Cost is \$20 and includes all supplies. Click QR code below to register.



**Ash Wednesday Service:** 6:30 – 7:30 in the Sanctuary. A family friendly service where we receive the ashes and begin our journey through Lent with the words, “From dust you have come, and to dust you will return. Stay close to the master.”

**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

February 10

Spiritual Retreat

February 11

Youth Sunday

February 11

Super Bowl of Caring

February 14

Ash Wednesday

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### TODAY 1/28

- 8:00 am      Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am      Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 am     Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

### Monday 1/29

- 10:00 am     Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 11:30 am     January Series, Stephenson Hall
- 12:00 pm     Men's Monday Bible Study, E103

### Tuesday 1/30

- 9:30 am      Precepts Bible Study, E100
- 7:00 am      Men's Bible Study, E313
- 11:30 am     January Series, Stephenson Hall

### Wednesday 1/31

- 11:30 am     January Series, Stephenson Hall
- 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm      Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm      Adult Classes

### Thursday 2/1

- 9:30 am      Hearts for the Lord Bible Study, E313
- 11:30 am     January Series, Stephenson Hall

### Friday 2/2

- 11:30 am     January Series, Stephenson Hall

### Saturday 2/3

- 8:30 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

### Adult Sunday School Classes for **NEXT Sunday, 1/28** at 9:30 a.m.

<i>Cornerstone</i>	<i>The Story</i>	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	<i>Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation</i>	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	<i>14 Talks by Age 14</i>	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	<i>Who is This Man, John Ortberg</i>	E200
<i>Foundations</i>	<i>Romans</i>	E104
<i>Harbingers</i>	<i>The Reason for God, Timothy Keller</i>	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	<i>Prayer and Fasting</i>	B318
<i>Reflections</i>	<i>The Tabernacle</i>	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	<i>Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up</i>	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	<i>Soul Keeping, John Ortberg</i>	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	<i>Who Is This Man, John Ortberg</i>	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults/Ukirk</i>	<i>Discovery Bible Study</i>	E201
<i>Young Parents</i>	<i>Guest Speaker</i>	E205

## ***Thankful for those called to Lead: Class of 2026***

### ***The Office of Trustee***

Trustees are responsible for stewarding the care of all congregational investments, under the authority of the Session.

Ricky Jones  
Bill Lawson  
Jennifer Porter

### ***The Office of Deacon***

The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed...or anyone in distress. (*Presbyterian Book of Order*)

Diane Austin	Andrew Hand
Lisa Berry	Nelly Ndungu
David Davis	Jana Neal
Amy Fiegener	Kate Swan
*David Grigg	Clare Williams

*(\*Previously ordained as an Deacon)*

### ***What is the significance of this call for you?***

It's an incredible honor and blessing that someone noticed I have a heart to serve. God is stretching me and challenging me to do things, in His name, that I never thought I would be called to do. *Diane Austin*

I was heavily involved in volunteer and church duties for years. I had taken time off from those duties in recent years to help with my new grandchildren and to assist and enjoy my elderly parents. My father passed away last May and the call to be a Deacon came shortly thereafter. In some way I felt like Dad prompted the call. I knew it was time to re-engage and I am honored to take up the call.

*Lisa Berry*

The significance of the call to become a Deacon is extremely significant. My desire to serve has been growing and was intensified on the FPC Ireland mission trip. To find out that I had been nominated shortly after returning home, was a confirmation to me that the Lord was indeed granting my desire to serve the local Body of Christ and those that He places in my path. *Dave Davis*

It is an honor to be trusted with the work of a Deacon. I have had a very blessed life and I am looking forward to serving others. *Amy Fiegenger*

I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve as a Deacon at First Church. This church community has meant so much to my family and being a deacon is a way for me to give back! *David Grigg*

It is important for me to help serve the church and listen to the needs of the congregation. *Andrew Hand*

I feel Honored to be called as an officer of the Church. It's a great opportunity to act as a servant of God for His people. *Nelly Ndungu*

Being called to serve as a deacon is very humbling for me and a role I take seriously. I am honored and excited to serve our church and community with the help and continual guidance of my Savior Jesus Christ. *Jana Neal*

It is a joy and honor to serve as a Deacon. I am honored to be called and I look forward to serving the Lord, His Church, and this local body of Christ alongside those I have come to know and love. *Kate Swan*

First Presbyterian Church Tulsa has always been a large part of my life. Growing up, I attended with my grandparents and immediate family. I observed my mother in leadership roles within the church and the pride she had to be called by God to serve. I feel honored and privileged to serve as an officer and to be a voice of leadership in the church. I hope that in this role I can connect with other members of our church who are physically here as well as those who attend church from a distance. *Clare Williams*

## ***The Office of Elder***

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (*Matt. 20:25*), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. (*Presbyterian Book of Order*)

DD Blackman  
Jenni Dollahon  
\*Jerry Hall  
Kim Hall  
Bill Huffman

\*Betty Marshall  
Paul McEntire  
Jan Miller  
Mary Lee Torbert

*(\*Previously ordained as an Elder)*

### ***What is the significance of this call for you?***

First, I am so honored. I love our church and congregation and am so proud to be a part of it. This is a very exciting time at FPC and I am happy to be part of the leadership.  
*DD Blackman*

It's an honor to serve in any capacity. This church has been an integral part of my family's life and I'm glad to be able to give back and be a part of session.  
*Jenni Dollahon*

At this point in my life, I feel as if I *have* been called. I am going to do whatever it takes to not let Him down!  
*Jerry Hall*

It is a humbling honor to be placed in this position of trust and leadership. I pray that this calling will be beneficial to the church and will serve God's purpose.  
*Kim Hall*



This is an opportunity to learn and expand my faith. The church is an anchor in my family and I look forward to help guide the future of the church.

*Bill Huffman*

I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve and help further God's plan for this beautiful congregation.

*Betty Marshall*

I hope to be of service to this wonderful community of faith.

*Paul McEntire*

I am humbled to be chosen to provide spiritual guidance, support pastoral leadership and help make important decisions within the FPC congregation. With God's help! I hope to contribute to the spiritual health of a community I love.

*Jan Miller*

Humbled to have been called to serve. Pray that I will follow God's will in this role.

*Mary Lee Torbert*