



***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 7, 2024  
8:00 AM  
KERR CHAPEL

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

# ***First Sunday after Epiphany***

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

## **The Words of Preparation**

Paul effectively told the Corinthians in their presumed spirituality not to boast about their spiritual condition. We are in a perilous position, says the apostle, if once we allow ourselves the indulgence of thinking that sin does not matter. They thought that the combination of the sacraments and their spiritual experiences was sufficient to protect them from falling away. They were relying (in an almost quasi-miraculous way) on God-given means of grace and God-given experiences, rather than on God himself in Christ.

David Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians*

## **The Welcome**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

## **The Introit**

Behold That Star!

Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

*Breana McIntosh, soloist*

*Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder. Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.* There was no room found in the inn for him who was born free from sin. The wise men came on from the East, to worship him, the Prince of Peace. *Refrain.* A song broke forth upon the night, from angel hosts all robed in white. "Glory to God, world without end. Peace on the earth, good will to men." *Refrain.*

## **◆ The Call to Worship**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

**Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

But emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

**So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** *Philippians 2:5-11*  
Therefore, let us stand in honor!  
**And let us worship God!**

- ◆ **The Opening Hymn** 31      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing      MENDELSSOHN
- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**      Elder Solomon Tsuma

**The First Reading**      John 3:14-21

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, your love is beyond our comprehension. You did not spare your own Son but gave him up for us all. Yet, we confess that all too often we have loved the darkness instead of the light. We have rejected Jesus in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Lord, in these moments, we bring our sin and our shame into the light, and we lay it at your feet. We ask you to restore, to renew, and to forgive us. Then, by the power of your Spirit, help us to walk in your way and to delight in your will. Through Christ our Lord we pray...*(in silence)*

### **The Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel, that God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Truly, there is forgiveness and new life for everyone who calls upon his name! **Alleluia! Amen!**

### **The Response of Gratitude**      Victory In Jesus

I heard an old, old story how a Savior came from glory, how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me! I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory!  
*O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me 'ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him; He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood!*

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing power revealing, how He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see. And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit" and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory! *Refrain.*

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory, and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea, about the angels singing, and the old redemption story, and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory! *Refrain.*

◆ **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**                                  Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of your holy word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and



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:** Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, 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, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Jo Carolyn Rushing, Cyndi Russell, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Laura Stevens on the death of her sister, Karen Morey, on January 1.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Meg Hubler, a member since 1999, died on December 31; Robert Shaw, a member since 2003, died on January 3.

### **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 loving memory of Bob and Ruthie Huffman. Flowers were given by the Huffman family.

**Our *Letters of Blessing* today goes to** Warren Hubler and Sara Shaw.

**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*, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



## **First Church Updates**

**It is Stewardship Season!** Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. 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.

**Intercessory Prayer:** Please let us know if you would like the Guild of Intercessors to pray for you, your family members, or your friends. Pastors and members of the Guild will pray over your request. All prayer requests will be treated in a confidential manner. If you have a prayer request, call Paula Peterson, Chair, at 918-296-5548 or 918-688-2163 or email at *mandppeterson@msn.com*.

**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.

### **Events This Week**

**Epiphany Bonfire and Plunge today!** Bring your greens for the bonfire and plunge into the water of the lake. The event will include a homily, cookies, and hot cider and cocoa by Lake Parthenia at Camp Loughridge.

**Seasons Women's Gathering, January 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Miller Library**  
Do you crave meaningful friendships that will last? Are you looking for deeper connections? Come join us in our next session of "We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship" as we explore our relationship with Jesus at the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Bring along a friend!

**Conversation with the Mission Study Team on January 10:** The Mission Study is a required step of the pastor transition process that includes an assessment of where the church is presently. It also provides opportunities for conversation within the community of faith about the future of our ministry. Join them in Stephenson Hall at 6:15 p.m. and find out more about this step in the transition process.

### **Wednesday Night Downtown**

*Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – AWANA, POW, AMASS, and Confirmation begin on January 10. Adult classes start on January 17 at 6:15 p.m.*

**Tolkien and the Christian Life :** What does Middle Earth have to do with Jesus? Join Rev. Dan Hutchinson for an exploration into the biblical and theological themes (sovereignty, nature of good and evil, creation and restoration, home, the work of Christ, etc.) that arise from the world and writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. No prior knowledge of Lord of the Rings is required! Starts on January 17 and ends on February 7.



**How To Read the Bible (Hermeneutics):** Learning to study, understand, and embrace the Word of God is an essential adventure for every follower of Jesus Christ. 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. Every week will include biblical and theological reflection, robustly validated relational insights, and weekly “marriage hacks” to help move any relationship from surviving to thriving.

**Seekers Bible Study:** Rev. Wambugu Gachungi leads an in-depth study of the Sunday morning sermon scriptures in room E104. Come and enjoy praying together, studying the Bible, and engaging in lively questions and discussions.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**Chili Cook-Off:** On Sunday, January 21, after the 11:00 a.m. service, join us for the Annual Chili Cook-Off to benefit activities and needs at Anderson Elementary School. If you would like to enter your award-winning chili, visit the atrium table today and sign up or contact Cindy DeVore at 918-630-2636.

**The January Series:** Begins on January 15 through February 2 at 11:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall.

**Inquirers Class** – Join us on Sundays, January 21, 28 and February 4, 11 in the Miller Library from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Scan the QR code below.



**Heart for the Lord** – Women’s Bible study begins on Thursday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Kirkland Library in the Bernsen.

**Parenting Brown Bag Book Discussion:** 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 E100 from 11:30 am. to 1:00 p.m. The remainder dates are February 8, 25, March 7, 28, April 11, 25, and May 9.

**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

January 8	Seasons Women’s Gathering
January 10	Conversation with Mission Study Team
January 10	AWANA, POW, AMASS, Confirmation Begin
January 17	WNDDT Adult Classes Begin
Jan. 15 – Feb. 2	January Series
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11	Inquirers Class
January 21	Annual Chili Cook-Off
January 18	Heart for the Lord- Women’s Bible study
Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 22	Parenting Brown Bag Book Discussion

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### TODAY 1/7

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel	
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall	
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall	
5:00 pm	Epiphany Bonfire and Plunge at Camp Loughridge	
9:30 am	Adult Sunday School Hour	
	<i>Cornerstone</i>	The Story E102
	<i>Covenanters</i>	Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation E101
	<i>Faith and Family</i>	Heidelberg Catechism Prayer Room
	<i>Forum</i>	“Who is This Man”, John Ortberg E200
	<i>Harbingers</i>	“The Reason for God”, Timothy Keller E202
	<i>Morning Glory</i>	Prayer and Fasting B318
	<i>Young Parents</i>	Birthright Living Legacy E205
	<i>Foundations</i>	Romans E104
	<i>Reflections</i>	The Tabernacle E103
	<i>Shepherds</i>	Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up E203
	<i>Sojourners</i>	“Soul Keeping”, John Ortberg E204
	<i>The Vine</i>	Bible Study E100
	<i>Westminster</i>	“Who Is This Man”, John Ortberg Tower Room
	<i>Young Adults and Ukirk Discovery Bible Study</i>	E201

### Monday 1/8

10:00 am	Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
6:30 pm	Seasons Women’s Gathering, Miller Library

### Tuesday 1/9

9:30 am	Precepts Bible Study, E100
7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study, E313

### Wednesday 1/10

5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm	Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
6:15 pm	Mission Study Team – Informational Forum, Stephenson Hall

### Saturday 1/13

8:30 am	Before the Rooster Crows, E103
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