First Church TULSA
1885



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
8 a.m. worship, Kerr Chapel

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

Generosity of God

The Words of Preparation

Worry; worry, worry, worry, worry; worry just will not seem to leave my mind alone.
Ray LaMontagne, *Trouble*

Ignorance of providence is the ultimate of all miseries; the highest blessedness lies in the knowledge of it. John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

THE WELCOME Rev. J. Cameron Beaty

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 **O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee** arr. Dale Wood
Meredith Tally, soloist

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way. Teach me Thy patience; share with me, O share with me a closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live.

◆ **THE CALL TO WORSHIP** **Isaiah 40:21-22; 25-26**

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in.
"To whom will you compare Me?" says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see; who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name.

◆ **THE OPENING HYMN 73** **For the Beauty of the Earth** DIX

◆ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION** Elder Jackie Allison

THE FIRST READING **Job 12:7-13**

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, we confess that we so often fix our eyes on the troubles of this world rather than on the Kingdom of God. As a result, we doubt Your goodness and Your promises. Forgive us, LORD, for focusing only on what we can see. Strengthen us by the

Spirit to trust You, walk by faith, and rest confidently in sovereign grace. We pray this in the name of Christ our King…*(in silence)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON **Romans 4:23- 5:2**

But the words "it was counted to Him" were not written for Abraham's sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE** **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 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 1**

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

THE SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERTORY 283 **We Give Thee but Thine Own** SCHUMANN

◆ **THE SECOND READING** **Matthew 6:25-34**

THE SERMON **Birdwatchers and Botanists** Rev. J. Cameron Beaty

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution
Prayer of Blessing
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN** 30 **O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** AZMON

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE **Improvisation on the tune** AZMON

Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship! 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 Christ's presence and the warmth of this congregation.

If this is your first time worshiping with us, please come to the Miller Library after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for First Connections. You will be welcomed by our staff and receive a gift. For more information, fill out a *Get Connected* Card or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or *emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Nifemi Aruna, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Gary Casteel, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, Judy Doyle, Larry Doyle, Daphne Faries, John Favell, Debi Foster, Janice Garbart, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Esther Harper, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Amy Lesh, Margaret Martinson, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Lea Mungai, David Osterholt, Carolyn Perryman, Dennis Powon, Helen Quiring, June Shults, Bob Shipman, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Kinnee Tilly, Marcia Tromp, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, Janetta Williamson, and Rhonda Wilson.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Poppy Sharp Poplin, daughter of Jake and Mesa Poplin, was baptized on November 8.

The Joy of New Life! We Welcome: Juliet Trotzuk, daughter of Dylan and Jane Trotzuk, was born on November 6.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Large-print Bibles are also available.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Alex Smith.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of the Chancel Choir who so faithfully serve the congregation each Sunday with their musical talents, by The First Church Family.

Please notify the church of any pastoral need, a change of address, phone number, or other important family news. Contact Grace Masaku at *gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918-301-1029.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at *firstchurchtulsa.org*, by texting 405-276-4141, or using the QR code.

Words for today's music are covered by CCLI License #1445558 and CCS PERFORMmusic License #PML11227

FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone you know is in the hospital or needs a pastoral visit, please contact Grace Masaku at *gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918-301-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

Do you or a loved one need prayer? Complete the card in the pew and put it in the offering plate or the box at the Welcome Center in the Atrium. The Guild of Intercessors prays for individuals each day, trusting that God hears and responds. You may also contact Grace Masaku in the pastoral care office at *gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918-301-1029.

First Friends in the Pews: As a church, we are called to show hospitality. You may be someone's very first Friend in the Pew. Please be attentive and welcoming to those around you, as we all seek to be "First Friends in the Pews." Share your stories of joyful hospitality with Jerry McCoy at *jerome-mccoy@utulsa.edu.*

Congregational Calls: The Session has approved an effort for elders, deacons, and staff members to call every member of FPC in the coming weeks. The purpose of these calls is to ask how the church can better support members' life in Christ. General responses from these calls will be reported back to Session to ensure that the church is meeting the needs of our members. Confidential requests will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

Follow Your Treasure; Find Your Heart – Stewardship 2027

***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Matthew 6:21**

Called to make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ – inwardly strong and outwardly focused. This is the mission of First Church.

Our 2026 budget was $4,721,385 for our 1,500-member church. That is $3,148 per member. Investment and rental income equal $1,100 per member, making the net expense $2,055 per member. In 2026, a generous and faithful 37% of members pledged. Our goal for 2027 is to increase pledges by at least 10% through new pledges. A $100,000 matching gift is available for any new pledges for 2027.

If pledging isn't part of your spiritual journey, now is the perfect time to join this group of faithful givers, follow your treasure, and find your heart!

HAPPENING TODAY

Chancel Choir Fall Concert: The Chancel Choir invites you to their annual Fall Concert today at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. You will be inspired by the *Coronation Mass* by Mozart, and other shorter works that focus on Jesus, the King. A professional orchestra will join the Choir; reception to follow. Invite a friend!

Book Table Sale: Visit the book table in the atrium today and November 22 to choose from an array of titles on sale.

Book Table: You can purchase *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis,* for Rev. Cameron Beaty's Monday classes which will begin on November 30.

New Hymnals: You will notice that our new *Sing!* hymnals are now in use. You may dedicate these new hymnals in honor or memory of a loved one for $20 per copy. Monetary gifts supporting the hymnal replacement project may also be given without a dedication. To support the hymnal project, scan this QR code and fill out the dedication form online.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

GriefShare is a 13-week program for people who are grieving the loss of a person who was dear to them. It is a Christian program that provides guidance on how to move forward on our grief journeys, as well as offering support and encouragement through the facilitators and other attendees. Our classes meet every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in room E104. If you would like information, please contact Grace Masaku at *gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918-301-1029.

Young Adults Downtown: Each Wednesday evening, we begin at 5:15 p.m. with an open table, which is a designated young adult table during WNDT dinner, to meet new people and get connected. At 6:15 p.m., you can participate by choosing a church-wide class or volunteering with our children or youth. At 7:30 p.m., we will reflect by gathering for the Young Adult Debrief—a conversation that connects the evening's learning and service to faith in everyday life.

November Men's Monthly: Join us Thursday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m. for an inside look at the OU Cancer Center construction site. Charlie Stephenson will lead us on a tour of the facility, followed by a brief conversation about his work and how his faith intersects with what he does. It's a chance to connect with other young men, learn from a mentor, and explore how faith shapes our everyday lives. To make reservations, please scan the QR code.

Tulsa International Fellowship Thanksgiving Praise Night: Join us on November 20 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. in Stephenson Hall for an evening of worship as we give thanks in worship celebrating God's goodness and faithfulness. Childcare will be provided. All are welcome.

Presbyterian Women Groups: Esther Circle meets on the third Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in room 202; the Priscilla Circle meets on the first Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in room 206; the Soup Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon in the Miller Library; the Project Day group meets on the first and last Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in room 405.

Sunday School Classes: We have a variety of classes offering in-depth Bible study, Christian history and doctrine, prayer, and fellowship on Sunday mornings. For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at 918-301-1019 or *emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org*. Scan to view class descriptions.

Wednesday Night Downtown
WNDT Classes
5:15 p.m. (dinner) in Stephenson Hall
Children and youth classes start at 6:00 p.m. and adult classes at 6:15 p.m.

Courage, Dear Heart – Stories of Heroic Sacrifice and Surrender to Jesus — Pt. 2: Join us in room E100; led by Rev. James Estes, we will explore the lives of men and women who cried out to God—and followed Him when He answered. Drawn from the Christian Heroes Then and Now series, their stories reflect deep courage and sacred surrender. From privilege to poverty, each reached a point of deep dependence on God, where true bravery was born and faith became contagious.

Your Faith in Christ: How to Share It: Join us in room E102: led by Jerry McCoy, you will learn how to share your faith through testimony and biblical motivation. This eleven-week practicum includes strategies you can use to help new believers grow in Christ.

The Story of God and Man: An Overview of Christian Faith and Practice: Join us in the Miller Library, led by Greg Berkhouse; whether you are new to the Christian faith or you are a long-time disciple who still has questions, this course will put together the foundational pieces of theology (the study of God) for you. This eleven-week overview of the Christian faith and practice will increase your knowledge and strengthen your confidence regarding what we believe as devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Seekers Bible Study: Join us in room E104 as Rev. Wambugu Gachungi leads an in-depth Bible study, often following the week's sermon scriptures and exploring how to apply the Word to our lives today.

Weekday Classes: If you are interested in a weekday class, please scan the QR code or contact Elizabeth Massey at *emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org/* 918-301-1019 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service: First Church members and friends who find themselves without family nearby during the holidays are invited to the 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day worship service in the Chapel. A Thanksgiving meal will follow after the service, hosted by the Deacons, in Stephenson Hall. There is no cost, but an RSVP is needed to allow the kitchen to plan for the meal. To register, please use the QR code or you may contact Grace Masaku at 918-301-1029/*gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org*. The registration deadline is November 19.

Young Adults Friendsgiving: Join the Young Adults group for food and fellowship on Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Greg and Rachel Berkhouse. Please bring a side dish, dessert or drink to share. For more information scan the QR code.

Lunch with C. S. Lewis: Join us on Mondays November 30, December 7 and 14 at 11:45 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. Rev. Cameron Beaty will lead a discussion on The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Presbyterian Women's November Mission: PW are collecting funds to donate to the Coffee Bunker, a local non-profit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, active-duty members, National Guard Reservists and their families. Collected funds will be used to purchase holiday meals and to provide scholarships. Donations may be placed in the collection box located at the welcome desk in the Atrium on Sunday mornings during the month of November.

Sing with the Choir for Christmas: You are invited to add your voice to the Chancel Choir for the 4th Sunday of Advent, known as Christmas Music Sunday, on December 20 at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. You are also invited to sing with us for Christmas Eve worship at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. services. To prepare, it only requires that you attend our Wednesday night rehearsals on the following dates: December 2, 9, and 16. We meet from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor choir room. We have a robe that will fit you! Click the link (or scan the QR code) by Sunday, Nov. 29 to let us know you're coming!

Praying for the Unreached: The Mission Committee encourages our church family to pray for the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Join us by praying for one unreached people group each day. Scan the QR code for daily prayer prompts for unreached people groups.

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 11/15		
	8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
	8:45 am	Rejoice Ringers, 309
	8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
	9:15 am	First Church Choristers, 308
	11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary and Great Hall
Monday 11/16		
	12:00 pm	Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
	7:00 pm	Overtones Rehearsal, 309
Tuesday 11/17		
	9:30 am	Precept Bible Study, E102
Wednesday 11/18		
	5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
	5:45 pm	Gloria Women's Choir, 308
	6:00 pm	Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
	6:15 pm	Adult Classes
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Thursday 11/19		
	10:00 am	Hearts for the Lord, E313
Saturday 11/21		
	8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., November 22

Cornerstone	*Philippians*	E102
Covenanters	*Daniel*	E101
Faith and Family	*Book of John*	206
Families w/Young Children	*Ephesians*	Tower Room
Foundations	*The Word of God Written*	E104
Harbingers	*Jesus the King*	E202
Morning Glory	*Rebuilding Foundations of Our Christian Living*	B318
Reflections	*Genealogical Gems of Jesus*	E103
Shepherds	*Why the Reformation Still Matters*	E203
Sojourners	*Philippians*	E204
Sowers	*Gaining Wisdom Through the Arc of Life*	E205
The Vine	*Jesus the King*	E100
Westminster Forum	*The Hidden Christmas*	E200
Young Couples	*Lesson on Love*	E201

The First Church Leaders
Cameron Beaty, M. Div., *Senior Pastor*
James Estes, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*
Wambugu Gachungi, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*
Julia Metcalf, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*
Ron Pearson, M.M., *Music Director and Organist*