



# ***The Work of Christ... And of His Church***

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

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DECEMBER 3, 2023

8:00 AM

KERR CHAPEL

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa*

*Born by grace in 1885*

## ***First Sunday of Advent***

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

### **The Words of Preparation**

With Christ in faith a wholly new life begins. It is not a restored life, and it is not a rejuvenated life either. It is not even a life reborn out of its origin. The resurrection of Christ has no historical prototype. It is something completely new in history. It is the beginning of the new creation of everything.

Jürgen Moltmann

### **The Welcome**

Rev. James Estes

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

### **The Lighting of the Advent Candle (1) Hope**

*Anna Milligan and Janet Drummond*

Advent reminds us of the coming of the eternal Son of God, long awaited, much prayed for, the Fount of every blessing. As He came so long ago to Bethlehem, so He comes yet again today, ready with a blessing for whomever will receive it! The central prayer of Advent can be put into a single word, *maranatha!*

“Come, Lord Jesus!”

**Alleluia! Amen!**

- ◆ **The Hymn** 2      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus      HYFRYDOL
- ◆ **The First Reading**      Isaiah 40:1-5      Elder Jeanette Kern

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we can feel that we are in exile, residents of a place that is so unlike the home you are preparing for us. And we have been here so long that we sometimes hardly seem strangers anymore—as if this will be our place forever, and that our true home is a fading memory or a childish dream. In this foreign land we cry out, come, Emmanuel, come! Come, remind us that where

the King is, there is your kingdom; and that by your spirit you are subversively showing your humble, gentle dominion over all things. And allow us, by the power at work within us, to know and make known that unknowable mystery by which you draw all things into your unchallenged rule; even your self-emptying love. Amen.

## **The Good News**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. **Alleluia! Amen!**

## **The Response**

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

### ◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** *(The Nicene Creed)*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the virgin Mary, and became human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Joys and Concerns of the Church**

### **The Prayers of the People**

**The Offering**     O Come, O Come, Emmanuel     arr. Lloyd Larson  
Emma Myatt and Hannah Johnson, soloists

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, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
*Refrain.*

**The New Testament Reading**     John 14:1-14

**The Sermon**     New Life: Real, Impossible, Contingent

### **The Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

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

**Hymn** 11     O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?     VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## **◆ The Charge and Benediction**

### **The Postlude**

**We welcome you on this first Sunday of Advent!** Advent is a word that means “*coming near*”. During this season, we remember that Christ has come, that Christ comes to us today, and that Christ will come again. Whatever you bring with you here today, we pray that you will sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving in His name.

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

### **Parish Register**

**Prayers for Healing:** Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, 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, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Atalia Chisolm Ekwempu, daughter of Phyllis and Somto Ekwempu, was baptized on November 26.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Carolyn Perryman on the recent loss of her sister.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Frances Patterson, a member since 1973, died on November 24, and David Dunning, a member since 1975, died on November 29.

## 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*.

**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*.

**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 for today's worship service in the Sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Heather Davis, and our respective parents: George and Armenta Davis, Earl and Ruby Enkey, by Jerry and Patricia Hall and family.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** the Chancel Choir.

**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.

**For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership**, check out the website at *firstchurchtulsa.org* and look for the highlighted word “transition”. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Transition Team by sending your inquiries to *FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

**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.

**Presbyterian Women’s December Mission Project** is Emergency Infant Services. EIS provides help for children 5 and under. They will be collecting funds for diapers in the collection box in the atrium.

**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* for more information.

**The Gift Back Mission Market** is open in the atrium on Sunday, December 10 and 17. Honor your family and friends with the gift of music. First Church is helping our partner school in Nairobi launch a music education program. All gifts will be used to establish this program for local students. For more information visit us at the table in the atrium.

## Events This Week

**Monday School** - Rev. Dan Hutchinson will teach on December 4 and 11. His topic will focus on what it means to be Orthodox, Reformed, and Evangelical. The lesson begins at 12:00 p.m. in Kirkland Library with an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Bernsen Reception Room.

### Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

**Seekers Bible Study**, room E104 - Rev. Wambugu

**6 Great Dates**, room E103 - Jerry and Anne McCoy, and  
Rev. Dan Hutchinson

**Jesus, the Light of the World**, room E100 - Duff Points

## Mark Your Calendar

**Annual First Ladies Christmas Luncheon** on Sunday, December 10 in the Miller Library after the 11:00 worship services. There is no charge but an RSVP is required. Please reserve your place by clicking the QR code below or by calling Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029.



**Seasons Women's Gathering** – Join us for our next session of “We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship” as we explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Bring a friend! We meet on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Library.

**Celebrating Christmas Together** – Share the love of Christ and the love of First Church by adopting an Anderson elementary student for Christmas. Your donation of \$50 will be used to fill a gift bag. Each sponsored student will receive a Christmas story book, game, socks,



and a sweatshirt. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 15, as our congregation travels to Anderson Elementary to celebrate together. If you would like to volunteer, please scan the QR code in the atrium.



**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

December 4	Sing! An Irish Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
December 15	Celebrating Christmas Together
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day Service, Kerr Chapel
Jan. 15 – Feb. 22	January Series

**Christmas Services:**

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24:

*(all are candle-lighting)*

11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary and Great Hall
5:00 p.m.	Nativity Musical	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
11:00 p.m.	Watchnight and Communion	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel

Sunday, December 31, 2023: New Year's Day

9:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast, Atrium and Stephenson Hall
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary

**COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

**TODAY 12/3**

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

**Monday 12/4**

- 10:00 am     Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 11:30 am     Monday School, Kirkland Library
- 11:45 am     Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

**Wednesday 12/6**

- 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm      Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm      Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

**Saturday 12/9**

- 8:45 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes for **NEXT** Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

<i>Cornerstone</i>	Advent Series	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	Advent Series	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	Advent Series	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	Advent Series	E200
<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Advent Series	B318
<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker	E205
<i>Pastor's Study/Foundations</i>		
	Advent Series	E104
<i>Reflections</i>	Advent Series	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Advent Series	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	Advent Series	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	Advent Series	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>		
	Advent Series	E201