



*The Joyful Longing
of Advent:*

The Messiah Draws Near

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

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

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

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel

The Words of Preparation

John the Baptist is famous for many things, but the central and most important role he has in the New Testament is to point away from himself and towards Jesus. N.T. Wright

The Welcome

Rev. James Estes

The Introit

Creation Will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

Gloria Women; Gretchen Bashforth, director

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord, all creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. Refrain. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more; a child will lead them all. Refrain. Isaiah 11:6

The Lighting of the Advent Candle (2) Joy

David and Teresa Raybourn

Light the candle of peace today, the Giver of peace is here!
Welcome the peace we fight and cry for, but only Christ can give.
Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.
Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.

◆ The Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

BEECHER

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ Is Nigh," It seems to say,
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."
Wakened by the solemn warning let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from Heav'n; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven. That when next He comes in glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, with His mercy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Cathy Laird

The Old Testament Reading Leviticus 26:1-3, 13-20

The Prayer of Confession

O gracious and gentle and condescending God, God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort: we confess before you the evil of our hearts; we acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Too often have we thus both offended and grieved you, O long-suffering Father. Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing you have promised the peacemakers, who shall be called your children. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

The Invitation to Embrace the Good News

God, being rich in mercy, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace. **Alleluia! Amen!**

The Response

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ANGEL'S STORY

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** The Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 46. How was Christ humiliated?

A. For our sakes, Christ emptied himself of his own glory and took on the form of a servant, and so was humiliated in all the poor circumstances involving his conception and birth, life on earth, death, and after his death until he was resurrected.

Q. 47. How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

A. Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth in that being from all eternity the Son of God in the bosom of the Father, it pleased him in the fullness of time to become the son of man, born of a woman from a poor family and into conditions that were even worse than ordinary.

The Prayers of the People

The Hymn 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

The New Testament Reading John 1:19-29

The Sermon

I am not the Messiah

Among you stands one whom you do not know... John 1:26

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Lift up your heads, Ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

A helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
from earthly use for Heaven's employ, adorned with prayer,
and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

The Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

Worship Notes

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.

Today's "Letter-of-Well-Wishing" is directed to Case Boshuizen.

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

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.

First Church Updates

A warm welcome to you all! It's the second Sunday of Advent, a word that means, "*coming near*". We pray that you sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving this world that He loves in His name.

The Blessing of Stewardship! The Session is at work shaping the vision for FPC's ministries in 2023, and your "Estimate of Giving" will make all the difference in their efforts. Please remember the Lord's Church as you consider how your blessings will be shared, and submit your "Estimate of Giving" card for 2023. Let's resolve to give of our best to the Master!

Consider this spiritual discipline on your way to Bethlehem: beginning Dec. 1, read one chapter of Luke's gospel each day. By Christmas Eve you will have finished reading this gospel and awake on Christmas morning with a fresh sense of joy and thanksgiving.

This Week:

Wednesday Night Downtown, - This Wednesday, 6:15, with dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall. Adult class offerings include:

First Church Mission Series

This Wednesday: December 7 – Tom Boone from *The Outreach Foundation* shares details on how ministry in Poland and Lithuania is progressing with Ukrainian refugees. He also brings news about evangelism among the Iranian diaspora in eastern Europe.

Seeker's Bible Study – Rev. Wambugu takes a deep dive into the sermon texts on Leviticus, in room E104, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.

Advent Workshop – Today from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge, Temple Conference Center. Lots to do for kids and adults! Come, create special memories at Advent Workshop! We'll provide all the supplies for crafts. Cost is \$10.

Presbyterian Women's December mission project is Emergency Infant Services. Donations may be put in the acrylic box at the reception desk. Your gifts are given to EIS to purchase diapers, formula, food, clothing, etc. If you would like to bring any of those items to the church, a container will also be available in the atrium on Sundays.

Mark the Date!

Pilgrims in the Footsteps of the Master –mark the date: the FPC Israel trip in February meets next Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m. in room E104.

Add your voice to the Chancel Choir during our Christmas services this year! You're invited to join the choir on Christmas Music Sunday, Dec. 18, and our Christmas Eve services. The rehearsals are a joy: Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and 14 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. You'll make new friends and be blessed by singing the message of the angels: *Glory to the newborn King!* For details, contact Ron Pearson at rpearson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1013.

Wednesday, December 14 – Children’s Ministries hosts *Jammies for Jesus*. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:00 p.m., in Stephenson Hall. Cost: \$10 per family. We will have our regular gathering for Pathfinders and Exodus.

***Pastor’s Fun Night* to kick-off the new year for AWANA and WNDT!**
More details to come. O boy!

Chili Cook-Off - Sunday, January 22. If you would like to enter your chili, contact Cindy DeVore at cindy_devore@hotmail.com. The proceeds from the “popular vote” will go to Anderson Elementary for their spring field trips.

Mark your calendars! All-Church Retreat: March 24-25, 2023: New Life Ranch.

Parish Register

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

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Terry Thomas, a member since 2004, died on November 27.

Don’t Forget: Faith Partners Addiction Ministry – First Church is a member of a nationwide fraternity called *Faith Partners*. They provide intervention, education, and recovery support to individuals

and families suffering from addiction. Questions? Please call the Church office (918-584-4701) and leave your number. A team member will return your call.

Christmastide Services:

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

(all are candle-lighting)

3:00 p.m.	Carols and Communion	Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	Children's Pageant	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
11:00 p.m.	Watchnight and Communion	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Sunday, January 1, 2023: New Year's Day

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

THIS WEEK

TODAY 12/4

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 12/5

11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Tuesday 12/6

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 12/7

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
5:30 pm Gloria Choir
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area
6:15 pm Various Adult Classes
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 12/10

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	The History of Acts	E102
Covenanters	Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church That Transforms	E101
Faith and Family	Advent Series	3rd floor Pastors Study
Forum	Advent Series	E200
Harbingers	<i>All the Places to Go</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Prayers and Bible Study	E201
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Contemporary Concerns & the Christian Faith	Steph. Hall
Pastor's Study 2	Advent Series	E104
Reflections	Christian Life in Ordinary Time	E103
Shepherds	King David	E203
Sojourners	Women in the Genealogy of Jesus	E204
The Vine	Advent Series	E100
UKirk	Advent Series	E104
Westminster	Theology Brewed in an African Pot	Tower Room
Young Adults	Advent Series	E104