



***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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MARCH 10, 2024  
8:00 AM  
KERR CHAPEL

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

# ***Fourth Sunday of Lent***

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

## **The Words of Preparation**

There is a pattern to complaining; it is habit forming. The tendency among people is to go beyond where one left off the last time, to become ever more egregious, ever more outspoken. Rarely does a complaining person become milder in his complaints. Finally, complaining becomes self-destructive.

Ronald B. Allen

## **The Welcome**

Rev. James Estes

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

## ◆ **The Call to Worship**

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,  
**To proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,**  
To the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

**For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.**

How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts!

**You, O Lord, are exalted forever.**

Psalm 92:1-5, 8

## ◆ **The Opening Hymn** 371

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

## ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Eric Olson

## **The First Reading**

John 3:1-15

## **The Prayer of Confession**

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,

**Yet too often we practice pride.**

You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,

**Yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.**

You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,

**Yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.**

You freely forgave and healed,

**Yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.**

You lived a perfectly holy life,

**Yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.**

You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,

**Yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.**

You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,

**Yet too often we deny you.**

You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

**Yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.**

**Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory ...*(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**

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

### ◆ **The 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**    The 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**

I Will Wait for You    Kauflin, Merker, Getty, Townend  
*Gloria Women; Gretchen Bashforth, director*

Lord, from the depths I call to You; Lord, hear me from on high and give attention to my voice when I for mercy cry. Out of the depths I cry to You, in darkest places I will call; incline Your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways, how could I come before Your throne? Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze; I stand redeemed by grace alone.

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You; on Your word, I will rely. I will wait for You, surely wait for You, till my soul is satisfied.*

So put your hope in God alone; take courage in His power to save. Completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave. *Refrain*

Now He has come to make a way, and God Himself has paid the price, that all who trust in Him today find healing in His sacrifice. *Refrain*

*I will wait for You, I will wait for You; through the storm and through the night. I will wait for You, surely wait for You, for Your love is my delight.*

O Israel, put your hope in God, for mercy is with Him and full redemption from their sins His people He'll redeem.

### **The Second Reading**

Numbers 21:4-9

### **The Sermon**

The Challenge of Patience

Rev. James Estes

## **The Call to the Table**

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

*Breana McIntosh, soloist*

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you; be not afraid, I have called you by name.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the  
floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire you will not be  
consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting;  
my love for you shall have no end. Isaiah 43:1-4

## **The Celebration of Communion**

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

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

## **The Sacrament of Baptism**

Joel Donohue, Clerk of Session

Norah June Crane, daughter of Christopher and Lauren Crane

◆ **The Closing Hymn** 303 Jesus, Lover of My Soul ABERYSTWYTH

## ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

## **The Postlude**

Improvisation on the tune CRUCIFER

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**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:** Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Lara Elias-Campbell, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, B. J. Dollahon, Judy Doyle, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Elaine Horkey, Joyce Kunkel, Judith Land, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Cyndi Russell, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Bob Swofford, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, Susan Waldie, and Dayne Weierbach.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Kirt Bankston on the death of his mother, Linda Sue Bankston, on February 29; to Charlene Gaddy on the death of her sister, Nita Lattie on March 2; to Chris Crane on the death of his grandfather, and to Chip Edwards on the death of his mother-in-law.

## 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 that adorn the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Gordon McCune and Margaret Blair McCune by Anne McCune.

**Our Letters of Blessing today go to** Kirt Bankston and Charlene Gaddy.

**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

**We are wrapping up Stewardship Season!** If you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2024, the Stewardship committee looks forward to receiving it. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

**Our Annual Congregational meeting** is set for next Sunday, March 17, at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. Rev. Hutchinson will offer his “State of First Church” message, a number of reports will be shared, and the “Year-in-Pictures” will be viewed.

**Pastoral Prayer:** Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive 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 March mission project** is supporting Presbytery Disaster Assistance by collecting items for hygiene kits. They will be collecting the following: hand towels, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, individual bars of soap, toothbrushes, (single) and band-aids. Please place gifts in the donation box in the atrium on Sundays or mail your check to the church, payable to Presbyterian Women.

**Calling all Greeters** and those interested in being a Greeter! Tamra Bird our Greeter Chair is gearing up for Holy Week and we need your help! Please contact Patricia Hall *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918-310-1028 if you are interested in serving!

**Interested in Ushering?** An Usher has the spirit and heart to serve people. They help the service run smoothly by presenting a joyful and courteous attitude, making others feel welcome and comfortable; they provide visitors with help finding restrooms, nurseries; they hand out bulletins, and provide

other information regarding the church. If this is you, please contact Dick Campbell at [rlcampbell@cox.net](mailto:rlcampbell@cox.net) or Scott Swanson at [rscottswanson@gmail.com](mailto:rscottswanson@gmail.com).

**Easter Lilies:** On Easter Sunday, bright white lilies will adorn the church building. As each flower silently trumpets the Resurrection, it also serves to remind us of the life of someone who was, or is, special to a church member. If you wish to honor someone by contributing to the lily fund, click the QR code below by March 18.



**The Board of Deacons** organizes a brunch for the singers, ringers and instrumentalists participating in the Easter morning worship services. Food is dropped off at the atrium entrance by members of the congregation on Easter morning between 7:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. To sign up to bring a dish, which should be in a disposable container and serve at least 8, please visit the table in the atrium on March 10 or 17 or use the QR code. For more information or questions, please contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or [kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).



## Events This Week

**Seasons Women's Gathering:** Tomorrow, March 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Miller Library - Come Join us in our next session of *We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship* as we learn to discern where we need to set healthy boundaries in our friendships while loving well. Bring along a friend!

**Wednesday Night Downtown Gathering:** Wednesdays through March 27, at 6:15 p.m., in Stephenson Hall, dinner at 5:15 p.m. **Journey Through the Wilderness:** Come together for a time of worship, contemplation, pastor-led



reflection, and table conversations about following the Lord in an unknown season in the wilderness. Though we face challenges, we are reminded time and again that God is faithful and trustworthy. This week's topic is The Challenge of Patience (Numbers 21:1-20) "What do you do when you fell alone?"

**Prayer in the Chapel:** Join together from 10:40-10:55 on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

## Upcoming Events

**Holy Week Prayer Vigil: Thursday, March 28 at 9 p.m. through Easter Sunday, March 31 at 7 a.m.** The prayer vigil is a continuous chain of prayer that begins on Maundy Thursday and continues until sunrise on Easter Sunday to stand with Jesus through his suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Sign up for a thirty-minute slot to ensure an unbroken prayer chain by clicking on the QR code below. A registration table will also be in the atrium on March 17 and 24.



**Holy Week at a Glance:** Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 24, with our standard services at 8, 8:30, and 11:00 in the Great Hall. Stephenson Hall will be combined with the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. On the Thursday of Holy Week, there is a seder meal at 5:00 p.m. and a service of shadows at 7:30 p.m. Friday, we meet in the chapel at noon to hear the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross. On Easter morning, you are invited to the camp at 6:30 a.m. for our annual sunrise service before our standard services at 8:00, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**SEDER MEAL WITH REGISTRATION LINK NEEDED**

**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

March 17	Annual Congregation Meeting
March 28	Seder Meal
March 28	Maundy Thursday Service
March 28	Holy Week Prayer Vigil Begins
March 29	Good Friday Service
March 31	Easter Sunday

**Next Sunday, March 17 there will be no adult  
Sunday School classes!**

**The entire first church family is invited to  
the Congregational Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in  
Stephenson Hall.**

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

**TODAY 3/10**

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

**Monday 3/11**

- 10:00 am     Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 12:00 pm     Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
- 6:30 pm      Season's Women Gathering, Miller Library

**Tuesday 3/12**

- 9:30 am      Precepts Bible Study, E100
- 4:00 pm      Men's Bible Study, E313

**Wednesday 3/13**

- 10:00 am     Watercolor Through Lent, Tower Room
- 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, Choir Room

**Thursday 3/14**

- 9:30 am      Hearts for the Lord Bible Study, E313

**Saturday 3/16**

- 8:30 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

*No Adult Sunday School Classes **next Sunday, March 17.***

*Join us at 9:30 a.m. in*

*Stephenson Hall for the Annual Congregational Meeting*

**The First Church Pastors**

Daniel Hutchinson, M. Div., *Interim Senior Pastor*

James Estes, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*

Wambugu Gachungi, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*

Julia Metcalf, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*