



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

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

May 7, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, *He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead* —to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

I Peter 1:3

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

◆ **The Hymn** 122 Thine is The Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

◆ **The Call to Worship**

More than conquerors? Is that what you believe? What about job loss, and promises broken, and the death of someone you love? And how can you sing, “*No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life?*” What about injustices and the slandering of reputation and the brokenness all around us?

In all these things we are more than conquerors —through Him who loved us. For we are convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord!

Romans 8

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Psalm 24

Lift your hearts and your voices —to the King of Glory!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn**

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He has done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God. The vilest offender who truly believes that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain.*

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain.*

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Jeanette Kern

The Old Testament Reading Psalm 80:19; Job 19:25-27

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, you have defeated sin, death and the devil. Your presence restores us to Life and redeems our sinful ways. You promise that one day all tears will be wiped away. Forgive us for yawning at this news. Forgive us, good Lord, for our complicity in sin. Awaken us to your living presence, cause our hearts to be reborn to a living hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit —that we may take joy in you and collaborate in your purposes. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to embrace God's Gift

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness —for all who call upon Him!
Alleluia! Amen!

The Response Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! DARWALL'S 148TH

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song! For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide as we in mission magnify the Crucified! In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

◆ **The Eastertide Affirmation**

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved –if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that *He appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses*. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God; He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Jesus, My Lord Eugene Butler *Gloria Choir; Gretchen Bashforth, director*

Jesus, my Lord, up from the dead, come walk by my side and break me some bread; quicken the life of crying and dread. *Jesus, my Lord, my Lord, my Lord.*

Jesus, my Lord, out on the road, come walk by my side and lighten the load, by day and by night, on bed and the road. *Refrain.*

Jesus, my Lord, high on the hill, come walk by my side to tell me your will; silence the war in quiet and still. *Refrain.*

Jesus, my Lord, down on the earth, come walk by my side from dying to birth; hasten the word in all of the earth. *Refrain.*

The New Testament Reading Luke 24:1-12

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship.

The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?"

Then they remembered Jesus' words.

They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

The Sermon

Credible Witnesses? Peter's Story

...the women's story seemed to be an idle tale —and the apostles did not believe it.

Luke 24:11

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*sung by congregation*)

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Jim and Ann McCune.

Today

It's time to consider leadership within First Church! Please see the back of today's bulletin (pp. 10-11).

This Week

"Significant Essays" by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller continues his Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Seasons: Spring Fling! Tomorrow from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Join us for a special evening with guest speaker Lindi Collins who will encourage our hearts with a devotion entitled "Crowns of Glory" and teach our hands—creating flower crowns to take home!

Praying to Pentecost - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon: Thursday, May 11, noon, Miller Library. The honorary Lifetime Membership will be presented, and Laura Stockbridge will share her pilgrimage on the *Camino de Santiago*. Reservations through Circle Leaders or Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 by Monday, May 8.

Presbyterian Women: Mother's Day cards available to help benefit women affected by domestic violence. The design artist this year is our member, Mary Lee Weaver. Pick up your cards today in the atrium.

Wednesday Night Downtown

5:15 dinner

6:15 Celebrate Awana!

Mark Your Calendar

Second Annual Kids Fishing Derby! Camp Loughridge, May 20.
To register, visit the table in the atrium today.



Glimpses of Grace - Please join us on Sundays in June, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary - as members of the First Church community share their personal testimonies of how Jesus Christ has been at work in and through their lives. These stories will inspire you and enrich your faith. The series begins on Sunday, June 4; David Osterholt will share his story.

Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

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.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Anita Ewing, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: The following confirmands were baptized on April 30: Ife Aruna, daughter of Tina and Alao Aruna; Carol Gitau, daughter of Loise Gitau and Peter Kagari; Jarrett Kamande, son of Lucy and Peter Kamande; David Masaku, son of Grace and Urbanus Masaku; Morgan McIntosh, son of Breana and Jacob McIntosh; and Joshua Nsereko, son of Deborah and Eddie Nsereko.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Terry Diacon, by his family.

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 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*.

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.



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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 5/7

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Monday 5/8

- 11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
- 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
- 6:30 pm Season's Women's Gathering, Stephenson Hall

Wednesday 5/10

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm Awana Awards, POW and Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm Adult classes, various locations
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 5/13

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	<i>Apostles' Creed</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Mere Christianity</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>The Heidelberg Catechism</i>	Prayer Room
Forum	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E200
Harbingers	<i>Eternity is Now</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Young Parents	John Ortberg Study	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
Pastor's Study 2	New Testament Overview	E104
Reflections	<i>King David</i>	E103
Shepherds	<i>Study of Elijah</i>	E203
Sojourners	<i>Study of James</i>	E204
UKirk	New Testament Overview	E104
The Vine	<i>Study of Jonah</i>	E100
Westminster	<i>The Greatest Commandment</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	New Testament Overview	E104

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

*After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."
-Matthew 20:28*

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

ELDERS (THE SESSION):

Responsible for the governance of the church.
They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

DEACONS:

The "heartbeat" of the church, ordained for the purpose of "ministering to those in special need."

TRUSTEES:

Stewards of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

THE OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Identifies leaders God has called and prepared to serve our congregation.

Currently Serving Elders

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
<i>Maxwell Asare</i>	<i>Laurel Baird</i>	<i>Brett Crane</i>
<i>Dacia Bird</i>	<i>Allison Biggs</i>	<i>Elizabeth DeVore</i>
<i>Janine Burlin</i>	<i>Mark Brown</i>	<i>John Harper</i>
<i>Debbie Favell</i>	<i>Larry Ewing</i>	<i>Jessica John-Bowman</i>
<i>Rusty Gaddy</i>	<i>Stephanie Madsen</i>	<i>Jeanette Kern</i>
<i>Patrick Kirunda</i>	<i>Urbanus Masaku</i>	<i>Jaclyn Metcalf</i>
<i>Elisa Mangesho</i>	<i>Steve Metcalf</i>	<i>Eric Olson</i>
<i>Anne McCoy</i>	<i>Paul Mungai</i>	<i>Jacob Thompson</i>
<i>Amy Russell</i>	<i>Denise Rounds</i>	<i>Solomon Tsuma</i>
<i>Jim Scheiper</i>	<i>Karen Woolman</i>	<i>Faith Wambugu</i>

Currently Serving Deacons

<u>Class of 2023</u> Sheri Allen Keith Campbell Michael Homan Cindy Johnson Lucy Kamande Clint McQueen Dylan Seibert Ed Slier Julie Steiner Shannon Thomas	<u>Class of 2024</u> Tina Aruna Bette Cromer Sandy Curtis Quentin Franklin Carter Mathews Buddy Neal Valentine Ndunga Dan Richmond Grace Shelton Scott Swanson	<u>Class of 2025</u> Anita Anthony Tyler Bird Nancy Blocker Beryl Bolo Brandon Evans Jeremy Foon Nick McMillan Janet Mercer Gladys Njino Cissy Ssettimba
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Currently Serving Trustees

<u>Class of 2023</u> Todd Schuster Robert Pielsticker Bill Lawson	<u>Class of 2024</u> Steve Caldwell Jane Crain Pam Farris	<u>Class of 2025</u> Dr. John Frame Ken McQueen Barrett Powers
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Please fill out the ballot form that was given to you by the ushers.