



Taking Up Residence!
Empowered by the Mystery of
the Holy Spirit's Presence

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

June 18, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

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

Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Words of Preparation

Q. Since faith alone awakens us to share in Christ and all his benefits, where does this faith come from?

Faith comes from the Holy Spirit who works it into our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and strengthens it by the use of the sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Heidelberg Catechism, 1563: Lord's Day 25

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Prayer of Gratitude for Fathers (tune: *Faith of our Fathers*)

Father of blessings and Author of love: we lift our hearts for gifts from above! For Dads who love us and offer their care, wrapped up in flesh –your mercy to share! *Praise you, our God, dear Father of grace! In these who love, we see your face!*

The Call to Worship

Good news –no matter what you bring into this house of prayer:

“The Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go!” Joshua 1:9

Jesus said the same thing: “I am with you always!” Mt. 28:20

The Apostle Paul picked up on this joy: “Rejoice!” he said.

“Rejoice always --for the Lord is near!” Phil. 4:4 ff.

We have reason to sing our joy, each of us and all of us! Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** 229 From All That Dwell Below the Skies LASST UNS ERFREUEN

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Elder Elizabeth DeVore

The New Testament Reading Hebrews 10:1-10

Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same

sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, since the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, in your life, death and resurrection, you have freed us from sin’s prison, and offered us your new covenant, sealed in your blood. This is the most important news we will ever hear –and yet our lives are filled with distractions. Forgive us for how easily we take this all for granted. Forgive us for dismissing its importance and losing sight of its central and crucial place in our lives. Open our hearts that we might kneel in gratitude at the foot of the cross, offering heartfelt service to you as our deepest thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.....(*in silence*).

The Invitation to Embrace Forgiveness

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts! For in Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Response**

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portal 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 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 Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Jeff Reeves

Lucy Donohue and Courtney Miller, vocalists

Create in me a clean heart, make my spirit right and true. Guide me with your wisdom, Lord, as I seek to follow you.

God of creation and Lord of my life, show me how I can be more like you in all that I do, in word and thought and deed.

Create in me a clean heart, give me strength to trust and obey.
Call me with your voice of love to the light of your perfect way.
Refrain.

Restore in me your joy, the gift of life anew; and then shall my
mouth sing songs of praise, for all that comes from you. *Refrain.*
Psalm 51:10-12

The Second Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Sermon What's So New About the New Covenant

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. Jer. 31:33

I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.
Ezek. 36:27

The Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 418 God Bless Your Church With Strength Diademata
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude**

Today

Our *Letter of Blessing* goes to Kerry Wiley, on the death of her husband, Bruce.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rachell and Tom Deane, Jack Curtis and Jim Curtis, by Sandy and Bob Curtis and family.

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.



Glimpses of Grace today – 9:30 in the sanctuary! Elder Solomon Tsuma shares ways in which the Lord has intervened in his life. Next Sunday, we will hear from Anna Milligan. These stories will encourage all of us and enrich our faith.

This Week

Mid-Week Pastor’s Class continues: Wednesdays, 11:30 to 12:30.

Dr. Miller leads on significant essays by C. S. Lewis.

College Update for June and July – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us [@ukirktulsa](https://twitter.com/ukirktulsa) for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Precept Summer Bible Study – Denise Rounds leads a 6-session study entitled *Breaking Free from Fear*. Join us this Tuesday in E100, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., through July 18 (excluding July 4). For more information contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join Rev. Wambugu at his home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible Study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday through August 9 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Laura Stevens at lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

MUSIC LOVERS!! You're invited to a very special occasion on Friday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is hosting a Regional Convention which is expected to draw nearly 200 attendees from all over the USA; First Church was chosen as the venue for the closing event which will feature organists Ken Cowan and Bradley Hunter Welch, two outstanding performers with international credentials. This concert is free and open to the public. Invite your friends!

“Faith & Film” – An All-Church, summer Sunday School class that will explore how faith intersects culture on the silver screen. In July we will examine secular movies and search out Christian themes that emerge. In August, we will dive into Season 1 of *The Chosen* and review how scripture is messaged and depicted through this series. Pastors and lay teachers will lead our conversations in the Miller Library at 9:30 a.m. Stay tuned for more information.

Spiritual Retreat at Camp Loughridge – Save the date for a rich experience: Saturday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. at Camp Loughridge. Adults and families (with children of all ages) will have two separate paths of retreat through the morning. After lunch, the Aquatics Center opens for families — while adults without children will continue in the lodge through the afternoon. For more information or to register please contact lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org or click on the QR code below.



First Church has a serious teaching ministry. This fall we welcome Rebecca McLaughlin, author of many books, including: *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*. Consider putting this on your summer book list in preparation for a Saturday night with Rebecca (September 17)!

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! Why not add your voice to the Summer Choir during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service? Join us Sunday mornings for a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. If you've always wanted to give it a try, here's your opportunity – please join us! For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

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](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Special Needs Ministry is growing! We need volunteers to work with our young people who need a little extra help. If you are interested in serving at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. once a month or more, please contact Jackson Seibert at Jseibert@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Parish Register

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

The Celebration of Christian Marriage: Caitlin Russell married Nick Conetta on June 10.

With gratitude and joy we welcome our newest members! May the Lord bless each of these –and make them a blessing!

Profession of Faith

*Keith Jones

Reaffirmation of Faith

Dr. Bob Bruce	Esther Mbaka
Jan Bruce	Dennis Koori Mugambi
Tara Brumble	Frances Njau Mathea
Sam Grosso	Ruth Njau
Jenna Grosso	Nick Njau
Ron Hull	Trecy Njau
Michael Kauskey	Alice Nakimbugwe
Taylor Law	Dennis Powon

Certificate of Transfer

Dr. Deb Beeson	Paddy Sandefur
Pattie Gross	Judy Start
Eric Sandefur	

*Pending Baptism

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 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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 6/18

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 9:30 am Glimpses of Grace, Sanctuary: Solomon Tsuma
Gatherings and Classes
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Wednesday 6/21

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206

Saturday 6/24

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

**TODAY: All 9:30 Adult Classes will gather for Glimpses of Grace in the Sanctuary
except for Morning Glory, The Covenantors and The Vine classes.**