



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026
8 a.m. worship, Kerr Chapel

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.



Mark, Part 1

The Gospel of the Kingdom

The Words of Preparation

The hands of the King are the hands of a healer and so the rightful King could ever be known.

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

So suffering is at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is not only the way Christ became like and redeemed us, but it is one of the main ways we become like Him and experience His redemption. And that means that our suffering, despite its painfulness, is also filled with purpose and usefulness.

Timothy Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering*

THE WELCOME

Rev. Cameron Beaty

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a Get Connected card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates and fellowship opportunities.

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

THE INTROIT

How Long, O Lord

Gloria Women's Choir, Gretchen Bashforth, director

O God, who hears our prayers, when will your kingdom come? With souls weighed down with cares, we call to you alone. Our path is dimmed by tears, our world cries out in pain, we long for heaven's peace; deliver us again. *How long, O Lord, till you make things right? How long, O Lord, till our faith is sight? How long, O Lord, till your kingdom comes? Lord Jesus, come.* When will the sick be healed? When will our sadness end? When will your light reveal the beauty of your plan? When will our hatred cease? When will your justice reign? When will your enemies revere your holy name? You surely know our grief, our sorrows you endured; your Spirit intercedes with groans too deep for words. Now make us sure in hope, steadfast until the end; we wait upon you, Lord, and trust your sov'reign hand.

◆ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 97)

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.

Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 47 Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

◆ THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

Elder Bill Huffman

THE FIRST READING**Psalm 34:15-18****THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Father in Heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting Your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake...*(in silence)*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**(Psalm 103:8-13)**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Alleluia! Amen.

◆ THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE**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 OFFERTORY****Come, Ye Disconsolate**

arr. Dale Wood

Randie Tacker, soloist

Come, ye disconsolate, where e'er ye languish; come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel; here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish; Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Joy of the desolate, light of the straying, hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure! Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly, saying, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure." Come to the feast of love! Come, ever knowing Earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove. Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing forth from the throne of God, pure from above; come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing Earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.

THE SECOND READING

Mark 5:21-42

THE SERMON

A Severe Mercy

Rev. Cameron Beaty

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN 614**

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

DEAR REFUGE

◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION****THE POSTLUDE**

Improvisation on the tune HANOVER

◆ *Please stand***Greetings in Christ!**

We are glad to welcome you to worship! 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 Christ's presence and the warmth of this congregation.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please come to the Miller Library after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for First Connections. You will be welcomed by our staff and receive a gift. For more information, fill out a *Get Connected Card* or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Nifemi Aruna, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Nelda Brown, Gary Casteel, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, Judy Doyle, Larry Doyle, Daphne Faries, Debi Foster, Janice Garbart, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Esther Harper, John Harris, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Amy Lesh, Margaret Martinson, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, David Osterholt, Carolyn Perryman, Dennis Powon, June Shults, Bob Shipman, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Kinnee Tilly, Marcia Tromp, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, Janetta Williamson, and Rhonda Wilson.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Suzanne C. Sartin, a member since February 1996, died on September 16.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Large-print hymnals and Bibles are also available.

Our Letters of Blessing today go to Brad Fuller and Rev. J. Cameron Beaty.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God in memory of Jeffrey Scott Steen by Frank and Leigh Ann Fore, Shirley Steen, Whitney Steen Mallot, and Tucker Steen.

Please notify the church of any pastoral need, a change of address, phone number, or other important family news. Contact Grace Masaku at 918-301-1029 or gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, by texting 405-276-4141, or using the QR code.



Words for today's music are covered by CCLI License #1445558 and CCS PERFORMmusic License #PML11227

FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone you know is in the hospital or needs a pastoral visit, please contact Grace Masaku at gmasaku@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-201-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

First Friends in the Pews: As a church, we are called to show hospitality. You may be someone's very first Friend in the Pew. Please be attentive and welcoming to those around you, as we all seek to be "First Friends in the Pews." Share your stories of joyful hospitality with Jerry McCoy at jerome-mccoy@utulsa.edu.

HAPPENING TODAY

Fireside Chats: A Young Adult Ministry is a Sunday evening gathering designed to create space for some deeper theological learning, particularly around Reformed Theology, as well as thoughtful questions and meaningful conversation. Join us at the home of Greg Berkhouse (2151 E 31st St, Tulsa, OK 74105) on September 20 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Redeemer Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King*.

New Hymnals: You will notice that our new *Sing!* hymnals are now in use. You may dedicate these new hymnals in honor or memory of a loved one for \$20 per copy. Monetary gifts supporting the hymnal replacement project may also be given without a dedication. To support the hymnal project, scan this QR code and fill out the dedication form online.



EVENTS THIS WEEK

Make a Joyful Noise! Registration is open for children's and youth music at First Church! Through choirs and handbells, young musicians will learn the fundamentals of music, explore sacred repertoire, and have opportunities to lead in worship throughout the year. There is a musical group for everyone: First Church Choristers (Grades K - 4), Rejoice Ringers Handbells (Grades 3 and up), and the Celebration Singers (Grades 5 - 12). For more information and to register, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Wednesday Night Downtown

5:15 p.m. (dinner) in Stephenson Hall

Children and youth classes start at 6:00 p.m. and adult classes at 6:15 p.m.

Praying the Psalms: Join us in the Sanctuary as Rev. Cameron Beaty leads us in understanding the Psalms and adopting the rich prayer practices that Christians have followed through the centuries.

Seekers Bible Study: Join us in room E104 as Rev. Wambugu Gachungi leads an in-depth Bible study, often following the week's sermon scriptures and exploring how to apply the Word to our lives today.

Young Adults Downtown: Each Wednesday evening. We begin at 5:15 p.m. with an open table, which is a designated young adult table during WNDT dinner, to meet new people and get connected. At 6:15 p.m., you can participate by choosing a church-wide class or volunteering with our children or youth. At 7:15 p.m., we will reflect by gathering for the Young Adult Debrief—a conversation that connects the evening’s learning and service to faith in everyday life.

Men’s Monday Bible Study: Led by Matthew Bristow and Elliot Forsyth, this study will meet on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. in room E103. This is an in-depth Bible study with other men. Each semester features a book of the Bible and discussion centered on life application. Lunch is available by reservation; the cost is \$7. For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at 918-301-1019 or emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Precept Bible Study: Led by Denise Rounds, this class meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in room E313. Learn how to study the Bible using the inductive method — a simple process that teaches you how to study and understand the Bible. For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at 918-301-1019 or emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Hearts for the Lord: Led by Cathy Laird, this class meets at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays, in room E313. This women’s class is devoted to studying God’s Word and strengthening their daily walk with Him. For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at 918-301-1019 or emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Sunday School Classes: We have a variety of classes offering in-depth Bible study, Christian history and doctrine, prayer, and fellowship on Sunday mornings. For more information, contact Elizabeth Massey at 918-301-1019 or emassey@firstchurchtulsa.org. Scan to view class descriptions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

This Sunday’s Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel
 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall
 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Great Hall (Our 11:00 a.m. Stephenson Hall and Great Hall will combine each Sunday through the summer months.)

Book Table: You can purchase Timothy Keller’s book, *Jesus the King*, at the book table to follow along with the sermon series.

Dr. Scott Sunquist: Next Sunday, September 26, we welcome special guest Dr. Sunquist, president and professor of missiology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He will speak on Saturday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall and on Sunday, September 27 at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall, and he will preach in the 8:00 Kerr Chapel service and the 11:00 Sanctuary worship service.

Lunch with C. S. Lewis: Starting on Monday, October 5, at 11:45 in the Miller Library, Rev. Beaty will lead us in conversations exploring C. S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters*. To reserve lunch (\$7), please click the QR code.



Save the Date! You are invited to the 53rd Annual Organ Concert presented by Ron Pearson on Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The University of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra will add their musical gifts to the program, and a reception will follow in the Miller Atrium. Invite a friend!

Fall Festival: Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Sunday, October 25 at Camp Loughridge. More details to come!

You are invited: Rev. Wambugu invites you to his son Spurgeon's wedding. Spurgeon and Natalie are getting married on Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary at First Church. A reception will be held in Stephenson Hall. Click the QR code for more information and to RSVP.



USE YOUR TALENTS

Flower Ministry: Every Sunday, flowers adorn the Sanctuary and Chapel, given in memory of or in honor of loved ones. If you would like to donate flowers, please email your information to Dionna Schooley at dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Job Opportunities:

If you are interested in the position below, please visit the First Church website or send your cover letter and resume to tmoseley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Associate Director of Youth Ministries: We are hiring a full-time Associate Director to mentor and encourage middle and high school students through intentional relationships, Scripture study, and prayer. This position helps develop fellowship, service, and outreach opportunities, supports Sunday School, Confirmation, and other youth programs, and encourages students to put their faith into practice. If you are passionate about walking alongside young people on their faith journey, we invite you to learn more and apply by contacting Toni Moseley at tmoseley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Associate Director of Early Childhood Ministries: We are seeking an Associate Director of Early Childhood Ministries to work alongside our Director of Children's Ministries in serving children from birth through Pre-K and their families. This person will help children know, love, and serve Christ by presenting God's Word in a safe and nurturing environment, selecting and developing age-appropriate curriculum, and recruiting, training, and coordinating volunteers. If you feel called to this important ministry, please contact Toni Moseley at tmoseley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

With gratitude for those whom the Lord has added to our number, we offer a warm and heartfelt welcome!

Certificate of Transfer

Joanne Bole
Haley McGlone

Reaffirmation of Faith

Phillip Butts
Hunter and Taylor Colvin
Kadin Falkensten
Robert Fries
Jean Gent
Greg Gatz
Deborah Kostek
Sam McGlone
Cal Wilcoxen
Bonnie and Denny Williams

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 9/20

8:00 am	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:45 am	Rejoice Ringers, 309
8:30 am	Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:15 am	First Church Choristers, 308
11:00 am	Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

Monday 9/21

12:00 pm	Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm	Overtone Rehearsal, 309

Tuesday 9/22

9:30 am	Precept Bible Study, E102
---------	---------------------------

Wednesday 9/23

5:15 pm	Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
5:45 pm	Gloria Women's Choir, 308
6:00 pm	POW, Amass Exodus
6:15 pm	Adult Classes
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday 9/24

10:00 am	Hearts for the Lord, E313
----------	---------------------------

Saturday 9/26

8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows, E103
---------	--------------------------------

Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., September 27

Cornerstone	Philippians	E102
Covenanters	<i>Daniel</i>	E101
Faith and Family	<i>Book of John</i>	206
Families w/Young Children	<i>Ephesians</i>	Tower Room
Foundations	The Word of God Written	E104
Harbingers	Jesus the King	E202
Morning Glory	Prayer and Sermon Texts	B318
Reflections	Scott Sunquist	E103
Shepherds	Scott Sunquist	E203
Sojourners	Grassroots Spirituality	E204
Sowers	Sabbath Rest	E205
The Vine	Class-led Study	E100
Westminster Forum	<i>The Case for Miracles</i>	E200
Young Couples	<i>Lesson on Love</i>	E201

The First Church Pastors

Cameron Beaty, M. Div., Senior Pastor
 James Estes, M. Div., Associate Pastor
 Wambugu Gachungi, M. Div., Associate Pastor
 Julia Metcalf, M. Div., Associate Pastor
 Ron Pearson, Music Director and Organist