



***The People  
of  
God in Worship***

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

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**OCTOBER 18, 2020  
8:30 AM  
STEPHENSON HALL**

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

# ***Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost***

*8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall*

## **The Words of Preparation**

I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity...  
I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold  
me, God's wisdom to guide me....Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me.... I arise today through a mighty  
strength, the invocation of the Trinity... *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

## **The Welcome and Call to Worship**

The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together.  
**The signposts of God are clear, and point out the right road.**  
The life-maps of God are right, showing the way to joy.  
**The directions of God are plain....His decisions are accurate –  
down to the nth degree!** *Psalm 19:7-9, The Message*  
Great is the Lord,  
**And greatly to be praised!**  
Let us stand, sing of His greatness, and let us worship God!  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

## **The Songs of Praise**

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the  
worlds Thy Hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling  
thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee: how great Thou  
art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to  
Thee: how great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear  
the birds sing sweetly in the trees. When I look down, from

lofty mountain grandeur and see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain.*

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the Cross, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin! *Refrain.*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain.*

**The First Reading** Ezekiel 34:11-16

Rev. James Estes

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, Great Good Shepherd of the flock, you come among us to search for the lost, to bring us back from places of darkness and danger. You come to find us when we stray, to bind up the injured, to strengthen the weak. O, dear Christ, thank you for coming today, for searching us out this morning, for lifting us up in your love and mercy. Come to us amid our sin and sorrow. Awaken our hearts to receive and welcome you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.....  
*(in silence)*

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been. Come broken-hearted, let rescue begin. Come find your mercy, O sinner come kneel. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

*Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame; all who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer come home, you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.*

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed. Come sit at the table, come taste the grace. There's rest for the weary, rest that endures; Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.

*Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame; all who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer come home, you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.*

Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are. There's joy for the morning, O sinner be still; Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

*Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame; all who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer come home, you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for all those who call upon Him!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### **The Response**

Called Me Higher

I could just sit; I could just sit and wait for all Your goodness, hope to feel Your presence. And I could just stay; I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel You; hope to feel something again.

*But You have called me higher; You have called me deeper and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord. You have called me higher; You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord; where You lead me.*

I could hold on; I could hold on to who I am and never let You change me from the inside. I could be safe; oh I could be safe here in Your arms and never leave home; never let these walls down. *Refrain*

I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life. I will be Yours; oh, I will be Yours for all my life. *Refrain*

### **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 New Testament Reading**    Acts 16:1-10

### **The Sermon**

Catching God's Directives: Restraints and Constraints?    Dr. Miller  
*The Holy Spirit blocked their way.....the Spirit of Jesus prevented them.... Acts 16:6-7*

### **The Invitation to the Table** **Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Blessing  
Sharing of the Bread and Cup  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**The Closing Song**

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, Be Thou my true Word. I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord. Thou, my great Father, and I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart. High King of heaven, My treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, when victory is won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**The Charge and Benediction**

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**Worship Notes:**

**The flowers for today's worship service in the Sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in memory Dr. Jerry Sisler.

**You may give your weekly tithe and offering to the Lord** electronically at [www.firstchurchtulsa.org](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org) or text 405-276-4141.

**FPC Legacy Society: keeping the “Lord’s Will” in “our Will”** gives us an opportunity to advance the Kingdom beyond our lifetime! Have you included the *First Church Foundation* in your will?

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

**To notify the church of a birth, death, illness, hospitalization, change of address/phone number in your family or to request a pastoral visit at home or in the hospital, please contact Beverly Carter (918)301-1015 or [bcarter@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:bcarter@firstchurchtulsa.org).**

## **First Church Update:**

**“Let the little children come to me!”** We have great news: more children are returning to Sunday School at 9:30 and to the nursery at the 11:00 o’clock hour! Everybody’s delighted by this --but it also presents us with an urgent need. During this season when many are not able to serve, would you be willing to wrap the arms of Jesus around these little ones –say once a month? Please call: Courtaney Miller at 918-301-1009 or [cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:cmiller@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Bridging the Divide! This Wednesday night, Oct. 21!** You’re invited to a new WNDT series focused on the city we love and the chasms that can divide us. This week we begin with an FPC all-pastors’ panel discussion. Next week and in subsequent Wednesdays, African-American pastors Terry Buxton, Anthony Scott, and Mel Cooper will join us, each taking a Wednesday night to share their perceptions. Join us: This Wed., Oct. 21, 6:15 p.m. in the Stephenson Hall. Optional dinner at 5:15 p.m. Please RSVP for dinner.

**10:10 Pastor’s Message** live on [Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa) every Tuesday and Thursday.

## **FPC University Ministries:**

**UKirk Fall Party!** 18-24 year-olds are invited for socially-distanced s'mores, pumpkin painting, great food, and more on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. We will be in the backyard of the Metcalf House: 3850 S. Florence Place, Tulsa, OK, 74105. Invite your friends!

**"Grow" A UKirk 'Lunch and Learn.'** Open to all 18-24 year-olds. Lunch is served alongside a lesson that intertwines faith and life. Every Sunday beginning November 1 at 12:15 p.m. in classroom E201.

**Thursdays: Weekly Prayer Service** - 5:30 p.m. in the Miller Library. Invite your friends.

**Storytime with Courtney Miller** – Tune in on Saturdays at noon on *Facebook.com/FPCChildrens*.

**First Church seeks a full-time administrative assistant** who will serve in the areas of local and global mission. In addition, this individual will support our Tulsa International Fellowship, our new members and women's ministries. We're looking for a team player who possesses strong verbal and writing skills, and proficiency in Microsoft Office applications. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Tonye Briscoe at [tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:tbriscoe@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**First Church is a praying community!** You'll find a prayer request card in the Sanctuary pew or the Friendship Register. Place it in the offering plate at the doors of the sanctuary, or in the prayer request box at the *Welcome Center* in the Miller Atrium. Pastors and members of the Guild of Intercessors will uphold your concerns in prayer.

**Fall Festival: next Sunday, October 25, 3:00 p.m., Camp Loughridge!** Carnival games, a hayride for family units and a fair-themed food truck. Tickets, \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, \$20 per family. Because it will be difficult to socially distance, masks are encouraged for this event. Carnival-goers are invited to attend the Vespers worship service at 5:00 p.m. Tickets available at the event or you may purchase your tickets at [firstchurchtulsa.org/FallFestival20](http://firstchurchtulsa.org/FallFestival20). If you would like to volunteer, please contact Katie Williams, [klbarbour@gmail.com](mailto:klbarbour@gmail.com).

**Serve the Master and love on His children! The Masterwork Academy** welcomes you! Perhaps you can give an hour, perhaps a day. Leaders are needed from noon-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you'd like to know more about how you can be a part of this beautiful ministry, email [Kelly Brown](mailto:Kelly.Brown@masterworkacademy.org) at [kbrown@masterworkacademy.org](mailto:kbrown@masterworkacademy.org) or call 918-370-0207.

**For Veterans Day, November 11:** the Guild of Intercessors is updating its Armed Forces Prayer List. If you have loved ones on active duty and would like to include them on this list, please contact the Guild by Friday, October 16: Paula Peterson (918-296-5548 or [mandppeterson@msn.com](mailto:mandppeterson@msn.com)), Monte Prater (918-446-6418 or [monteprater@aol.com](mailto:monteprater@aol.com)).

**Presbyterian Women:** the Presbyterian Women's Circle is collecting items for the *Day Center for the Homeless*. This includes hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks. There is a box in the Atrium to donate items.

## **PARISH REGISTER**

**Prayers for Healing:** Jane Azlin, Billy Boyd, Roy Cail, Joan Hastings Camp, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Fred Droege, Allan Edwards, Wandie and Mary Fitzpatrick, Pat Ford, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Harvey Hunt, Larry Don Johnson, Maggie Jones, Joyce Kunkel, Annelle Lanford, Amy Lesh, Dottie and Walt MacMillan, Laurence Mansur, Bob Matthews, Jo Matthews, Jan Miller, Pamela Neumann, David Osterholt, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, David Perkins, Don Perry, Sue Phelps, Rosemary Priest, Janie Quint, Stephen Riungu, Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Rick Spellman, Helen Marie Sisler, Cissy Ssettimba, Nancy Tholen, Bill Weinrich, and Jack Williams.

**The Celebration of Christian Marriage:** Carly Chalmers and Barrett Powers were married on October 3; Haley Surface and Joey Drago were married on October 10.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Karen McCay, a member since 1990, died on October 12.

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### **Sermon Notes:**

Acts 13-14 narrates what we call the "first missionary journey" of Paul and Barnabas (focusing on Cyprus and Galatia [south Turkey, today]).

Acts 15 is the all-important “Jerusalem Council”, the first council of the Church.

Acts 16-17 narrates what we call the “second missionary journey”, when Paul links up with Silas, (focusing on Macedonia and Achaia, [northern and southern Greece, today])

God’s Guidance:

Both Negative and Positive  
Circumstantial and Rational  
Personal and Corporate

# **COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!**

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30**

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Faith and Family                      | 204             |
| Sojourners (All Ages)                 | E204            |
| The Vine ( <i>Singles/couples</i> )   | E100            |
| Young Adults ( <i>20's and 30's</i> ) | E201            |
| Pastor's Class                        | Stephenson Hall |

## **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### **Today 10/18/20**

#### **Worship and Events**

8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and Great Hall

5:00 p.m. Vespers Evening Worship – Camp Loughridge

### **Monday 10/19/20**

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Little Lambs             | 10:00 a.m., Outdoor Playground |
| Guy's Monday Bible Study | 11:45 a.m., Room E103          |
| Monday School            | 12:00 p.m., Kirkland Library   |

### **Tuesday 10/20/20**

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Precept Bible Study | 9:30 a.m., Room E100 |
|---------------------|----------------------|

### **Wednesday 10/21/20**

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pastor's Study            | 11:30 a.m., E104           |
| WNDT Dinner               | 5:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall |
| Bridging the Divide       | 6:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall |
| Theology of Parenting     | 6:15 p.m., Miller Library  |
| Gloria Choir Rehearsal,   | 5:30 p.m., Choir Room      |
| Ensemble Choir Rehearsal, | 7:00 p.m., Choir Room      |

### **Saturday 10/24/20**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Before the Rooster Crows | 8:45 a.m., Room E103 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|

Please help us with contact tracing and attendance by filling out the information below and leaving the program on the pew as you leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ or Guest \_\_\_\_\_

**Seating Location: (Please circle where you are sitting.)**

Front Left - Front Center - Front Right

Back Left - Back Center - Back Right

Left Balcony - Center Balcony - Right Balcony

or

going to the link: [bit.ly/fpcregister](https://bit.ly/fpcregister);

or

using the QR code below.



*October 18, 2020, Stephenson Hall*

