



## ***From the Heart:*** *Letters to the Flock (2)*

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*Called to make fully-devoted followers of  
Jesus Christ:*

*Inwardly Strong  
and  
Outwardly Focused.*

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October 22, 2023  
Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

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

# ***Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost***

*Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.*

## **The Words of Preparation**

That is why faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience...Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is...Peace with God means conflict with the world --for the goad of the promised future stabs inexorably into the flesh of every unfulfilled present.

Jürgen Moltmann

## **The Prelude**

## **The Welcome**

Dr. Miller

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

## **The Prayer amid Wars and Rumors of Wars**

Major-General Jack Briggs  
USAF, retired.

## **The Call to Worship**

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**My only comfort --in life and in death-- is that I belong, body and soul not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ --Who loves me and gave Himself for me. (Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1.)**

Our only Hope --in life and in death?

**Yes, Christ alone! Christ alone!**

Come, stand in honor, lift your voices and sing your faith!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Hymns of Joy** Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

*Worship Team*

*Acolytes: Jacob Case, Kamryn Chaney, James Doverspike*

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone!  
What is our only confidence that our souls to Him belong? Who  
holds our days within His hand? What comes apart from His  
command? And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ in  
which we stand!

*O sing, hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal! O sing, hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess: Christ our hope in life and death!*

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good!  
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's  
blood! Who holds our faith when fears arise! Who stands above  
the stormy trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh? Unto  
the shore the rock of Christ! *Refrain.*

Unto the grave what will we sing? Christ He lives! Christ He lives!  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him!  
There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be  
destroyed, and we will feast in endless joy --when Christ is ours  
forevermore! *Refrain.*

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less      SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and  
righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly  
lean on Jesus' name!

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant, His blood supports me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain.*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! *Refrain.*

## ◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Rev. James Estes

### **The Old Testament Reading** Psalm 130 (Responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?**

**But with You there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits --and in His word I hope;

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning!**

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

**And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

## **The Blessing of the Young Disciples**

*Are You Hope-full?*

*Christian Hope:*

*The confident expectation that Jesus is faithful to His promises.*

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Simeon Estes

Jeremiah 29:11

According to the Lord's great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Athena John-Bowman

I Peter 2:9

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Isla Bristow

Romans 15:13

Let us keep holding tight the hope we confess, for the Promise-Maker is faithful to His promises.

Caleb Shelton

Hebrews 10:23

Jesus said, "I am with you always."

Abigail Estes

Matthew 28:20

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light that leads to Life."

Noa Castillo

John 8:12

All of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!, Amen!"

Charlotte Foon

II Corinthians 1:20

## **The Sacrament of Baptism**

Co-Clerk Amy Scheiper

Teddi Ann Field, daughter of Andrew and Kara Field

## **The Response**

There is Hope

There is hope now for the hopeless; there is victory all can know!  
For Christ's tomb lies bare and broken, and death's power is  
overthrown.

*Jesus Christ, my hope forever --hope unlike the world can bring;  
Your steadfast love beyond all measure, there is hope in Christ my  
King!*

There is hope for sons and daughters, who have wandered on  
their own; hear the songs of joy from heaven as the lost are  
welcomed home! *Refrain.*

Hallelujah, Hope of heaven, precious treasure of my life! All my  
joy is in Your presence; I am Yours and You are mine! (2x)

I will wait until I see Him though the twilight turns to night; for my  
hope is not defeated, It will greet His dawning light! *Refrain.*

### **The New Testament Reading** Romans 12:9-13

#### **The Sermon** From the Heart: Letters to the Flock (2)

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and In His word I hope. Ps. 130:6

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

#### **The Offertory** How Great Thou Art arr. Craig Courtney

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!*

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 burden 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 there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! *Refrain.*

## **The Joys and Concerns of the Church**

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

#### **◆ The Hymn     He Will Hold Me Fast**

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
for my Savior loves me so --He will hold me fast!*

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He can hold me fast! Refrain.

I could never keep my hold, He must hold me fast;  
for my love is often cold, He must hold me fast! Refrain

I am precious in His sight, He will hold me fast;  
those He saves are His delight, He will hold me fast! Refrain

He'll not let my soul be lost, Christ will hold me fast;  
bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast! Refrain

#### **◆ The Charge and Benediction**

#### **◆ The Postlude     Improvisation on the tune SOLID ROCK**

## First Church Update

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**A heartfelt welcome to each and all** as we gather in this House of Prayer. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

**The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Robert Perryman, by his wife and daughter Carolyn and Lisa Perryman.

**Our *Letters of Blessing* today go to:**

Temple Israel, B'nai Emunah, Chabad, Tulsa

### Today

**Stewardship:** a season of prayerful and intentional consideration of our blessings –and how we might faithfully “steward” them in ways that serve the Lord’s purposes. The Session is already examining the 2024 FPC budget. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.





**Thanks for your ongoing prayers in this time of transition.** Dr. Miller's retirement is set for Reformation Sunday, October 29. Today, our worship schedule is as follows:

8:15 Sanctuary  
11:00 Sanctuary  
11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast

**Next Sunday --October 29**

**Reformation Sunday**

A Festival Sunday!

One service, 11:00 Sanctuary

Dr. Miller concludes his ministry here at FPC.  
His Sermon: *From the Heart: Letters to the Flock (3)*.

*A thirty-minute extension of worship next week  
will follow immediately in the sanctuary.  
A light lunch and some fun will follow in the Stephenson.*

**Reformation/Festival Sunday schedule of events**

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; Sanctuary

Worship with Dr. Miller, "From the heart: Letters to the flock"

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.; Sanctuary

Special presentations honoring Dr. Miller

12:45 p.m., Stephenson Hall and Courtyard

Light lunch will be served.

1:15 p.m., Stephenson Hall

Closing celebration and skit honoring Dr. Miller

**\*Childcare provided until the end of the special presentations in the Sanctuary. Please pick up your children before heading to lunch.**

**Pastor's Class, today at 9:30, in Stephenson Hall: We welcome Major-General Jack Briggs and his wife, Margaret** among us this morning! General Briggs will share reflections on the Russian/Ukrainian war, and the war in the Middle East. He will also speak to his own transition from the military (31 years) to serving as the President of a Rescue Mission in Colorado.

**Next Sunday, Dr. Miller will share a personal word** at 9:30 in the Stephenson.

**Fall Festival at Loughridge is today! 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Celebrate friends and family with fun activities for all ages. The *First Church Pitmasters* will serve their barbeque; hayrides, music, trunk or treat, and much more. Dinner: \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, \$22 for families –and free for children 3 and under. Avoid the long lines and prepay for your meal by clicking on the QR code below .



**Registration is now open for the Children's Nativity Musical!** The nativity musical is open to children aged 3 through high school. This year, it will be presented twice: Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 24 at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., starting November 5. Scan the QR code to register – the deadline is Thursday, November 2.



**A very helpful look into the future of pastoral leadership** here at FPC can be found at [firstchurchtulsa.org](http://firstchurchtulsa.org); look for the highlighted word

“transition”. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the Transition team by sending your inquiries to [FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Pastoral Prayer** - Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition! If you’re interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text “81010” to [@pastorfpcc](https://www.textmessage.com/@pastorfpcc). You will receive a prayer prompt delivered via text message each Tuesday at 7:09 a.m. that will encourage you to pray in a specific way for the week. Each week will follow the path of pastoral transition, as we walk it together as a congregation at First Church.

**Gifts to the Millers** – There are many ways to express gratitude and celebration! If you are so inclined to give any physical or monetary gift, please give directly to the Millers. (IRS and Board of Pension rules and regulations do not allow for the church to receive funds and then pass them on to Jim and Diane.) However, if you would like to make a tax-deductible gift in Dr. Miller’s honor, Jim and Diane ask that members consider the *Pastor’s Pilgrimage Fund*.

## **Events This Week**

### **Wednesday Night Downtown**

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

**Dr. Miller’s offers personal reflections on the last 31 Years.** Join him as he reflects upon his pastoral experience as he shepherded “this little flock” through the years. There will be fond memories and great thanksgiving as we all consider the overflowing blessings of our time with Jim and Diane, David, Courtney (and Austin!) and Jonny.

**Petra’s Kids Ministry** Mara – Gen African Festival has been rescheduled to December 1 in Stephenson Hall.

## Mark Your Calendar

**Deacons Day of Care** – Saturday, October 28. Teams will deploy to the home of First Church members who have requested help with yard work and light home-maintenance jobs. To offer your help, use the QR code. To request a team to visit your home on October 28, please call Julie Steiner at 918-640-6955.



**Fall Festival at Loughridge happening today!** from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Come and celebrate friends and family with fun activities for all ages. The *First Church Pitmasters* are preparing barbeque and there are hayrides, music, and trunk or treat. Dinner: \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, \$22 for families –and free for children 3 and under. Avoid the long lines and prepay for your meal by clicking on the QR code below .



**Support Camp Loughridge** at the Fall Fundraiser on Friday, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Temple Conference Center at Camp Loughridge. A festive evening with friends, dinner, music and a silent auction. Register online or at the atrium table.

**Spiritual Retreat** – on Saturday, November 11, from 8:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m. in the Miller Library. Join us in for a spiritual retreat led by Rev. Julia Metcalf where we'll focus on various prayer methods of offering our prayers to God. The cost for this event is \$10 and includes breakfast and lunch. More details to come. To register and reserve your spot, click on the QR code.



**Book Table Annual Sale** – on Sundays, November 12 and 19, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the atrium. Visit the book table in the atrium and choose from an array of titles on sale for one to five dollars.

**Keith and Kristyn Getty** and their band return to First Church on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. for their ***Sing! An Irish Christmas*** concert tour!! Tickets are on sale now at [www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23](http://www.firstchurchtulsa.org/Getty23). Adults are \$10 each; free tickets are available for children 17 and under, with the purchase of an adult ticket. Young adults 18 – 21 can attend free with an ID; an RSVP is required. Tickets are going fast, so don't wait!

**Music Lovers! The Chancel Choir** invites you to their annual Fall concert on Sunday, November 19, at 5:00 in the Sanctuary. Come and enjoy a program of favorite seasonal anthems, featuring the modern masterpiece, *Te Deum*, by Mark Hayes, which uses an ancient Christian text set to an exciting new musical language.

Other titles include the Bach favorite, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, the much-loved *God So Loved the World*, by John Stainer; a beautiful John Rutter arrangement of *Be Thou My Vision*, for choir and harp, and the famous Mack Wilberg arrangement of *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, which has become a favorite of audiences everywhere.

The Choir will be joined by a professional orchestra; a reception will follow in the Atrium.

Please join us for an hour of inspiring choral classics that will please your ears and lift your soul!

## 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, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

**The Celebration of Christian Marriage:** Courtney Miller married Austin Stember on October 7.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Dr. Clio Robertson and Ms. Hannah Damron were baptized on October 8. Georgia Blake Gerow, daughter of Carley and Blake Gerow, was baptized on October 15. Everett Patrick Rhoa, son of Laura and Mark Rhoa, was baptized on October 15.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Larry Tromp on the death of his mother, to Judy Miller on the death of her sister, to Patricia Neel Titus on the death of her sister, Teresa Suzanne Norvell, on October 4, and to Jill Metcalf on the death of her brother, Jim Hitt on October 10.

**With Gratitude for the Resurrection:** Tom Hughes, a member since 1986, died on October 18. Services for Tom are set for this Thursday, Oct. 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## 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.

**Military Prayer List:** for Veterans Day, the Guild of Intercessors is updating its Armed Forces Prayer List. If you would like the Guild to pray for a loved one or friend who is on active duty, please contact Sandy Curtis (918-742-6249; [sd.curtis@cox.net](mailto:sd.curtis@cox.net)) by October 30.

**First Church's Realm all-church online directory** will be activated soon. This secure directory will only be accessible to other First Church members. To access it, members must have logged on to Realm to create an account. If you have not done so yet, you may contact Kathy Wilson at *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org* and request a Realm invitation to be emailed to you. If you prefer not to log on but would like all or some of your contact information hidden from other members, please let Kathy know and she can adjust your privacy settings for you.

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### **TODAY 10/22**

- 8:15 am Worship, Sanctuary  
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104  
Cornerstone, Heidelberg Catechism, E102  
Covenanters, Driving Through History – Acts to Revelation, E101  
Faith and Family, Kids the Core Beliefs of Christianity, Prayer Room  
Forum, Who Is This Man?, By John Ortberg, E200  
Harbingers, When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, E202  
Morning Glory Class, Confronting Jesus, B318  
Young Parents, Guest Speaker, E205  
Pastor's Class, General Jack Briggs, Stephenson Hall  
Foundations, Letters of Paul, E104  
Reflections, The Intertestamental Period, E103  
Shepherds, The Light Of Christ, E203  
Sojourners, Jesus in Galilee, E204  
The Vine, I John, E100  
Westminster Class, Maccabees, Tower Room  
Young Adults and Ukirk, Bible Study, E201  
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary and Great Hall

### **Monday 10/23**

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall  
11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library  
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103  
7:00 pm Overtones Rehearsal, Bell Choir

### **Tuesday 10/24**

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

### **Wednesday 10/25**

- 9:30 am Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100  
11:30 am Pastor's Class, E104  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall  
6:00 pm Pastor's Fun Night  
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Saturday 10/28**

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103