



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
11 a.m. worship, Sanctuary

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 impulse to keep to yourself what you have learned is not only shameful; it is destructive. Anything you do not give freely and abundantly becomes lost to you. You open your safe and find ashes. Annie Dillard

The Father so delights in His eternal love for the Son that He desires to share it with all who will believe. Ultimately, the Father sent the Son because the Father so loved the Son—and wanted to share that love and fellowship. His love for the world is the overflow of His almighty love for His Son. Michael Reeves

THE PRELUDE

Andante Maestoso

(Overtones, Gretchen Bashforth, director)

THE WELCOME

Rev. James Estes

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 INTROIT

Blessed is the One

Craig Courtney

Breana McIntosh, soloist

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven. Blessed is the one whose sins are covered, the one to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, in whose spirit is no guile. You are my hiding place. You will preserve me from trouble, surrounding me with songs of deliverance. Refrain. You are my hiding place. You will preserve me from trouble. When mighty waters rise, they will not reach me. Blessed is the one, blessed is the one, blessed is the one, O Lord. Psalm 32:1-2,6-7

◆ THE CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 32)

O Lord, You are our hiding place.

You preserve us and surround us with songs of deliverance.

Your steadfast love surrounds all who trust in You.

Let all whom You have made upright rejoice!

Be glad in the Lord! Shout for joy! For Christ has sought us, found us, and made us His own.

With glad hearts, we submit to the yoke of Christ in His reconciling work.

Come, let us worship God.

Alleluia! Amen.

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 434

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

♦ **THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Elder John Harper

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 67

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, You have blessed us and caused Your face to shine upon us, that Your way might be known upon the earth and Your saving power among all nations. Yet we confess that we have often received Your gifts as though they were ours alone. We have been content to be blessed without being sent, reconciled without becoming reconcilers, found by Christ but not joined to Him in His great seeking of the lost. Forgive us for making parochial and inward what should be proclaimed from the rooftops and to the nations. Open us anew to Your gracious, global purposes. By Your Spirit, awaken us to the great joy of heaven, when one sinner repents, that it might become the great joy of this church. Forgive us for our contentment and even pride in lesser joys. Work in us and on us and through us so that Your way may be known upon the earth, Your saving power among all peoples, and that the nations may be glad and sing for joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord...*(in silence)*

THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 814 Go to Dark Gethsemane

Redhead 76

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (I Thessalonians 5:9-10, 23)

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. So, may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia! Amen.**

♦ **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!

♦ **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 BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES**THE SONG OF PREPARATION 415** I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

ASSAM

THE SECOND READING**Mark 3:7-19****THE SERMON****Called to Be Sent**Dr. Scott Sunquist,
President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**THE OFFERTORY****Rejoice, the Lord is King**

arr. Mack Wilberg

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore: *Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!* The Lord, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love; when He had purged our stains, He took His seat above: *Refrain.* His kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given: *Refrain.* Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and Judge shall come and take His servants up to their eternal home: *Refrain.* Amen!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER◆ **THE CLOSING HYMN 487****Lift High the Name of Jesus****LIFT HIGH THE NAME**◆ **THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION****THE POSTLUDE****Improvisation on the tune** LIFT HIGH THE NAME◆ *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, Gary Casteel, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, Judy Doyle, Larry Doyle, Martha English, Daphne Faries, Debi Foster, Janice Garbart, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Esther Harper, John Harris, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Amy Lesh, Glenn Leslie, 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: Nelda Brown, a member since September 1989, died on September 20.

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 the Matson Golf Committee and Robert Sartin.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God in memory of Gregg and Dorothy H. Layman, by Susan Layman and Peggy Welch Hoyt.

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.



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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

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

World Communion Sunday and First Family Dinner: Next Sunday, October 4, we join together at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as one family in Christ for worship and communion. After the service, join us in Stephenson Hall and the Courtyard for a First Family Dinner and a chance to celebrate God's faithfulness to First Church! Scan the QR code to prepay for lunch.



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 meets 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

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.)

Book Table: You can purchase C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* at the book table for Rev. Beaty's Monday lunch class.

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's *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.

OASIS RESPITE NIGHT – Oasis Ministry is hosting our first *Respite Night* on Friday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m. We need volunteers to be a buddy for each child during the evening, providing care, friendship, and support while their parents enjoy a few hours of respite. We are also seeking one medical volunteer (doctor, nurse, or EMT) to be on standby during the event to provide first aid or respond to a medical emergency. To volunteer, please contact Pattie Gross at pgross@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Praying for the Unreached: The Mission Committee encourages our church family to pray for the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Join us by praying for one unreached people group each day. Scan the QR code for daily prayer prompts for unreached people groups.



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.

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 9/27

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 and Great Hall

Monday 9/28

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

Tuesday 9/29

9:30 am	Precept Bible Study, E102
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Wednesday 9/30

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

Thursday 10/1

10:00 am	Hearts for the Lord, E313
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Saturday 10/3

8:45 am	Before the Rooster Crows, E103
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Adult Sunday School Classes at 9:30 a.m., October 4

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	<i>Genealogical Gems of Jesus</i>	E103
Shepherds	Insights into FPC's Mission Partners (Kenya, Ireland and the Asian Subcontinent)	E203
Sojourners	Grassroots Spirituality	E204
Sowers	<i>Book of Haggai</i>	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