



From the Heart: *Letters to the Flock (3)*

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

*Inwardly Strong
and
Outwardly Focused.*

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023
Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

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

Reformation Sunday

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbi Dei

The church is Reformed and always in need of being reformed –
according to the Word of God.

The motto of the Reformation was not “*Forward!*” but
“*Backward!*” The Reformers wanted to recover something that
had been lost –not to follow the winds of a rising modernity.
If the church can never stand still, it is because we always need
re-orientation according to the Word of God that is over us.

Kevin DeYoung, Mike Horton

The Extended Prelude

The Combined Worship Team

The Church’s One Foundation arr. Janet Linker and Jane McFadden
Overtones Bells, Brass Ensemble, Organ

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

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

The Call to Worship

Reformation Sunday –a joyful celebration of the renewal and
reform of the Church!

And a glorious recovery of the gospel!

According to the Scriptures, God has done what we cannot do;

**He took on flesh and blood, entered time and space, in order to
reconcile the world to Himself;**

Jesus, God incarnate, took the penalty of our sin at the cross;

He was crucified, dead and buried.

But Jesus got up from the grave, defeating death and hell;

He is alive and loose in our world, working redemptively through His Spirit.

In Him the Church is revived, restored, and equipped to serve the common good in His Name.

This is nothing less than the re-creation of God's dream. This is why the great apostle says:

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come! Alleluia!

Amen!

II Cor. 5:17

The Anthem

The New Creation

Michael Bedford

*First Church Choristers, Gretchen Bashforth, Carol Tipton, Directors
Celebration Singers, Breana McIntosh, Hannah Johnson, Directors*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. And God brought us together in Christ, and God forgave us all our sins through Christ.

Refrain.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

The Call to Worship

Pastors: Dan Hutchinson, James Estes, Wambugu Gachungi, and Julia Metcalf

On October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk by the name of Martin Luther took quill to hand and penned his "95 Theses", nailing them to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Luther's act ignited a call to re-form the Church –calling all of us to reclaim the Bible as the supreme authority for all matters relating to faith and life.

The Reformation, then and now, lifts up the apostolic teaching of *justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone – and all to the glory of God alone!*

Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott was Luther's battle cry, and it's ours, too: *A Mighty Fortress is our God!* In every season, the living God

is our strong Tower, our mighty Fortress! We are called to be faithful –captive to the Word of God.

“Though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God has willed --His truth to triumph through us!”

The Reformation calls us to rediscover the apostolic good news: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself! A Mighty Fortress, indeed!

Alleluia! Amen!

- ◆ **The Hymn** 260 A Mighty Fortress is Our God EIN FESTE BURG
Acolytes: Joy Ebil, Sammy Hand, and Simeon Estes

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** The Rev. Timothy Blodgett
General Presbyter, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

The Reciting of Psalm 23 Mickey Shelton

The Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, good Shepherd of your often wayward flock: forgive us for thinking we can do life on our own; forgive us for deciding we don't need a Shepherd; forgive us for wandering away from You, for thinking that there are "greener pastures" apart from You; forgive us for taking Your presence and Your gifts for granted. In your mercy, find us wherever we have wandered, in your mercy draw us close and hold us tight. Strengthen us in grace and hope. Cause us to serve your purposes, and bring us home at the last. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...(silence)

The Response *(congregation joins on bold print)*

Do you feel the world is broken? **We do.**

Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do.**

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? **We do.**

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We do.**

Is all creation groaning? **It is.**

Is a new creation coming? **It is.**

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is.**

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.**

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory; He is.

Does the Father truly love us? **He does.**

Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.**

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves?

He does.

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.**

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory, is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is.

The Blessing of the Young Disciples Breaking News: Jesus loves you!

Sam Barnhart

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him; no one else can satisfy, I should come to him.

Jesus said If I am weak, I should come to him; no one else can be my strength, I should come to him.

For the Lord is good and faithful; He will keep us day and night. We can always run to Jesus: Jesus, strong and kind.

Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to him; no one else can be my shield, I should come to him. *Refrain.*

Jesus said if I am lost, He will come to me; and he showed me on that cross—He will come to me. *Refrain.*

The New Testament Reading I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13

Co-Clerks of Session: Amy Scheiper, Joel Donohue

The Sermon From the Heart: Letters to the Flock (3) *Love.*

Now that you have purified your souls *by your obedience to the truth* so that you have genuine mutual love, *love one another deeply from the heart.*

I Peter 1:22

The Offertory

God Is Our Refuge

Allen Pote

God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long. Refrain. He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long. Refrain.

The Remembrance

Amazing Grace

David Marshall, Piper

The Reminder

Psalm 23

Stuart Townend

Rev. Julia Metcalf, Jonny Miller

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me lie in pastures green. He leads me by the still, still waters, His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone, and I will trust in You alone, for Your endless mercy follows me, Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness, and He anoints my head with oil, and my cup, it overflows with joy, I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path, I will not fear the evil one, for You are with me, and Your rod and staff are the comfort I need to know.

The Joy of New Members within the Body of Christ! Patricia Hall

◆ The Hymn

Victory in Jesus

I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me. I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever! He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me e're I knew Him, and all my love is due Him; He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing, of His cleansing pow'r revealing. How He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see; and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory. *Refrain.*

I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory. And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea, —about the angels singing, and the old redemption story, and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory. *Refrain.*

The Notices: Following the Postlude Today

Elder Kim Jones

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

Overture to *Water Music*

G. F. Handel

We welcome brass quartet members Steve Haefner, Rob Bailey, Rod Clark, and Doug Fletcher, and thank them for their musical contribution to our service today. We also are deeply grateful for David Marshall, Piper.

For All the Saints Who Died in This Past Year
Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember with a deep gratitude the dear ones listed below. According to your baptismal promise, they are lambs of your own flock, sheep of your own fold, and sinners of your own redeeming. In joyful confidence, we commend them to you until that glorious day of resurrection – when the circle will be unbroken by your merciful grace. You alone are the Giver of eternal life. Hear us, today, as we give you thanks and praise, commending those we love into your care. **Alleluia! Amen!**

November, 2022

3 Mary Fitzpatrick
27 Terry O. Thomas

December

5 George Savage
11 Lou Glenn
14 Dick Teubner
31 Ron Griswold

January, 2023

21 Becky Lankford
26 JoAnn Gilbert

February

4 Jane Mulkey
12 Ruby Graff
13 Dambisa Hara
18 Paul Dick

March

1 Susan Shults
22 Pamela Neumann

April

3 Robin Hawkins
8 Cat Thompson
13 Anne Nunnelee
21 Cheryl Hawkins

May

7 David Morgan
18 Marsue Gent

June

2 Linda McGee
30 Patricia Wheeler

July

29 Larry Osterhout

August

24 Rosemary Priest
28 B. P. Loughridge

September

4 Beverly Dale

October

18 Thomas J. Hughes
23 Mary Ann Elliott

The above names – members of First Presbyterian Church who have died in the past year – do not include the many friends and extended family members of First Church who have also died this past year.

First Church Update

The Church is the lengthened shadow of Him “Who loved us and gave Himself for us.” It is His body, the community of believers, the family of God, the household of faith. The Christian life cannot be lived to the full apart from the Church. Church is to a Christian what home is to a child. *If you’re here for the first time, we pray you’ll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. Welcome Home!*

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given by the First Church family to the glory of God and in honor of Dr. Jim and Diane Miller. We’ll forever be grateful for his thirty-one years of faithful pastoral leadership –his unswerving love of Jesus and his compassionate care of this congregation.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to: Dr. Miller and his family.

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, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



Reformation/All-Saints Sunday schedule of events

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Worship

Message: *From the heart: Letters to the flock (3) Love*

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.**

All Saints' Day Service -This Wednesday, Nov. 1, 11:00 a.m. (Chapel): a special *Service of Remembrance* for those who've lost a loved one this past year. A luncheon (hosted by the Deacons) and a time of fellowship will follow the service in Miller Library. An RSVP for the lunch is greatly appreciated. Use the QR code or contact Kathy Wilson at the church: kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org by tomorrow.



Register for the Children's Nativity Musical! The musical is open to children aged 3 through high school. This year, it will be presented twice: Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 24 at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals are 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*; 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*.

Pastoral Prayer - Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. If you’re interested in receiving a weekly prayer prompt, please text *@pastorfpc* to “81010”. 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 it 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*.

You’re Invited to join the Getty Irish Christmas Concert Choir! We are excited to host Keith and Kristyn Getty and their band on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. for their *Sing! An Irish Christmas* concert tour. Our choir has been invited to sing for this event and we want to fill the loft! This is a rare opportunity to sing with internationally known Christian artists. There will be two rehearsals during the week prior to the concert. To add your voice to the choir, scan the QR code below and register by Sunday, November 19.



Events This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown

November 1 – December 13

(except no programming on November 22)

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

Seekers Bible Study in room E104 - Rev. Wambugu leads an in-depth study of the Sunday morning sermon scriptures. Come enjoy praying together, studying the Bible, and engaging in lively questions and discussions.

Praying for the Transition in room 206 (Prayer Room) - Rev. James Estes will lead us in a time of prayer for the ongoing mission of First Church, looking to the Lord for comfort, guidance, and direction during this time of pastoral transition. The prayer gathering will uplift this season of change for the congregation, session, pastors, and staff as we look ahead with anticipation for how God is at work in and through First Church.

6 Great Dates in room E103 - Couples will spend intentional time growing closer to Christ and to one another. You will spend six dates listening, learning, laughing, and celebrating life with one another. Develop spiritual intimacy and a deeper commitment to abiding with Christ. Led by Jerry and Anne McCoy, and Rev. Dan Hutchinson. Registration is needed for this class. Register at onrealm.org.

Jesus, the Light of the World in room E100 - Jesus tell us, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* Duff Points leads this study from the book of John and other scriptures throughout the Bible that point to the Light that will never be overcome by darkness.

Petra's Kids Ministry Mara – Gen African Festival has been rescheduled to Friday, December 1 in Stephenson Hall.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

The Session has called for a Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 5 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to dissolve Dr. Miller's terms of call as Pastor/Head of Staff here at First Church.

The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents Brenda Portman in recital on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. Portman has established a well-respected dual career as both a concert organist and composer. She serves as the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio and as Organ Instructor at Xavier University. For more information on this free program, visit tulsaago.org.

Presbyterian Women (PW) Thank-Offering Luncheon, Thursday, November 9 at noon in the Miller Library. For reservations: contact Norma Wallace at 918-508-4257 or Kathy Wilson at (918)301-1029. The speaker will be Darrell Moses, Commissioned Pastor in Cleveland, Oklahoma, on *Native American Churches in the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery: Now and in the Future*.

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. For more details and to register 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.

Seasons Women’s Gathering - November 13, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Miller Library - Join us for Session 3 of *We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship: Friendship Takes Encouragement*. Bring a friend!

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. 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 p.m. 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: Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, 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 Sacrament of Baptism: Mr. Keith A. Jones and Teddi Anne Field, daughter of Kara and Andrew Field, were baptized on October 22.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Mary Ann Elliott, a member since 1993, died on October 23.

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'd 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*) by October 30.

Presbyterian Women's November mission is the Coffee Bunker, which supports service members and veterans toward successful reintegration with their families and communities. An acrylic box will be on the reception desk in the atrium to collect funds that will purchase food for holiday meals at the Coffee Bunker.

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 10/29

- 9:30 am Cornerstone, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
Covenanters, Driving Through History – Acts to Revelation, E101
Faith and Family, Teaching Kids the Core Beliefs of Christianity,
Prayer Room
Forum, TBD, E200
Harbingers, The Life You've Always Wanted, E202
Morning Glory Class, Confronting Jesus, B318
Young Parents, Guest Speaker, E205
Pastor's Class, Dr. Miller's Reflections, Stephenson Hall
Foundations, Letters of Paul, E104
Reflections, 1 John Bible Study, 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, Discovery Bible Study, E201
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary

Monday 10/30

- 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 10/31

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 11/1

- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
6:15 pm Adult Classes
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 11/4

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103