



Life-Lessons from a Wedding

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

*Inwardly Strong
and
Outwardly Focused.*

OCTOBER 8, 2023
SANCTUARY, 11:00 A.M.

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. *The Apostle Paul, I Corinthians 13*

The Prelude

Jonny Miller, piano

The Welcome and Call to Worship

Dr. Jim Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

My only comfort is that I am not my own, but I belong —body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Why do you trust in Him? What has He done for you?

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, And has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He has called us out of darkest night into His glorious Light.

This is high-octane good news! Come, stand in honor, lift your voices, **and let us worship God!**

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1 (AD 1561)

◆ The Hymn

May the Peoples Praise You!

Acolytes: Ivy Kariuki, sky Kenneth and Abigail Kanyeki

You have called us out of darkest night, into Your glorious light, that we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ. May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife, with boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life.

May the peoples praise You; let the nations be glad! All Your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the Name of Jesus.

May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard; may songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word. This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name, to every nation, tribe and tongue Your church proclaim. *Refrain*

Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; all creation praise Your glorious Name. *Refrain*

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

◆ **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 'ere 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 power 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 Old Testament Reading Isaiah 6:1-7

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined. For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sins are all forgiven!”

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Lord Jesus Christ, remind us today that your gift given so long ago is our gift, too. You have touched our lips, taken away our guilt, atoned for our sin –at the foot of a Roman cross. In your mercy, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, cause your gifts to awaken our hearts. Cause us to take joy and serve you with gladness – now, forever and always. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace Good News

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for all who call upon Him!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn**

Great Lord of All Forgiveness

AURELIA

Great Lord of all forgiveness, dear Father of all peace, in Christ you come among us; from sin you give release. From every fear that binds us, your Spirit sets us free; great Lord of every mercy, we sing Your victory!

So hear us now, Lord Jesus, receive our grateful praise! We lift our hearts in gladness, and high your cross we raise. In death you grant us mercy, in life you gift us joy, and through your Holy Spirit, our lives do you employ.

◆ **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 Baptismal Promise Jeremiah 29:11-14

Deborah Miller

The Sacrament of Baptism

Co-Clerk Amy Scheiper

Hannah Damron

Dr. Clio Robertson (reaffirming)

The Blessing of the Young Disciples Faith: Not Seen?

Steve Wilson, Director, Student Ministries

The Psalter and Gospel Reading Psalm 46; John 2:1-11

The Sermon Three Life-Lessons from a Wedding
Dr. Jonathan E. Miller, Pastor Emeritus
First Presbyterian, Moorestown, NJ

The Offertory If You Search With All Your Heart Craig Courtney

When you seek Me, you shall find Me if you search with all your heart. For I know the plans I have for you: plans of welfare, not of evil. For I know the plans I have for you: plans of hope and a future. I will bring you out of bondage to the land I have prepared. I will bring you out of bondage, I will bring you home to Me. *Jeremiah 29:11-14*

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People

- ◆ **The Lord's Prayer** (sung by congregation)
- ◆ **The Postlude** The Rejoicing, from *Royal Fireworks Music* G. F. Handel

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Today

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.

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.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Austin and Courtney Stember.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jimmie Mathews by the Gary Mathews family.

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.



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

Today, Dr. Jonathan Miller, preaching
8:15 Sanctuary
11:00 Sanctuary
11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast from sanctuary

October 15, 22, and 29

Dr. Jim Miller, offers three "Pastoral Letters" to the flock

October 15 and 22: three services

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

October 29: Reformation Sunday

Festival Sunday: one service, 11:00 Sanctuary

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.

The flags hanging throughout the church remind us of mission partnerships around the world. Through these partnerships and faithful congregational giving the sun never sets on the ministries of First Church.

Dr. Jonathan and Jim Miller join in the Stephenson Hall today at 9:30 a.m. sharing reflections on Jesus in Cana of Galilee. Pastor’s Class next Sunday focuses on Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity*: Stephenson Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Events This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown

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

Our WNDT series, *The Meaning Behind the Marquee* (Orthodox, Reformed and Evangelical) continues Wednesday at 6:15 in the Stephenson Hall.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

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.



Pastors Fun Night – Join us on Wednesday, October 18 in Stephenson Hall for a night of fun and frivolity presented by the pastors. An optional dinner will be available at 5:15 p.m. followed by an evening of great entertainment. More details to come. Click on the QR code to reserve and prepay for your meal.



Fall Festival at Loughridge! Sunday afternoon: Oct. 22, from 3:30 - 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 or visiting the table in the atrium today or next Sunday, October 15.



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, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Denise Cottrill on the death of her father, George Wilson, on September 20; Bob Bruce on the death of his sister, Nancy Hawkins, on September 23; and to Bette Cromer, whose mother, Alice Swanstone, died September 24.

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.

First Church Cancer List – Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you'd like to add your name or that of someone else, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548 or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

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 one of these Guild members by October 30: Sandy Curtis at 918-742-6249/*sd.curtis@cox.net*.

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 10/8

- 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, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
Forum, Who is This Man, E200
Harbingers, When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, E202
Morning Glory Class, Confronting Jesus, B318
Young Parents, Parenting Series, E205
Pastor's Class, Dr. Jonathan and Jim Miller, Stephenson Hall
Foundations, Letters of Paul, E104
Reflections, The Intertestamental Period, E103
Shepherds, Bible Study, E203
Sojourners, Jesus in Galilee, E204
The Vine, I John, E100
Westminster Class, 2 Timothy, Tower Room
Young Adults and Ukirk, Bible Study, E201
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary and Great Hall

Monday 10/9

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
6:30 pm Seasons Women's Gathering, Miller Library
7:00 pm Overtones Rehearsal, Bell Choir

Tuesday 10/10

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 10/11

- 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 Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 10/14

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103