



The Work of Christ... And of His Church

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

DECEMBER 10, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

Advent is a time of waiting. Our whole life, however, is Advent - that is, a time of waiting for the ultimate, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth, when all people are brothers and sisters, and one rejoices in the words of the angels: "On earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests." Learn to wait, because he has promised to come. Deitrich Bonhoeffer, *The Coming of Jesus into Our Midst*

The Welcome

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

The Introit

Light the Candle

Carl Schalk

Light the candle of peace today, the Giver of peace is here! Welcome the peace we fight and cry for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you. Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle (2) Peace

Hank, Tamra, Clay, Tyler, and Britani Bird

We light the candle of peace today as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Christ is our peace. He is the Prince of Peace. In this season, we are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. The lion shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **Even so, come, o come, Emmanuel! Come and bring your peace to our broken world!**

◆ The Hymns 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

6

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

Acolytes: Zuwena Bundi, Simeon Estes, and Hudson Gratias

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Luke Lofton

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-11

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come before you this morning rejoicing in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace who has come to bring peace and to banish the darkness. Yet, we also confess that all too often, we have loved the darkness and rejected the light. We have wandered from you, following our own wisdom and desires. We have given in to hatred and animosity and self-interest instead of seeking your peace. Lord, forgive us. By your Spirit's power, cause us to long for your Kingdom and the peace that you alone can bring. Hear us now, as we pray...*(in silence)*

The Confession Response Creation Will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

Gloria Women's Choir; Gretchen Bashforth, Director

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord, all creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. Refrain. The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more; a child will lead them all. Refrain.

Isaiah 11:6-9

The Assurance of Pardon

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope in the glory of God. **Alleluia! Amen!**

The Response of Gratitude In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid Ground; firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease? My Comforter, my All in All; here, in the love of Christ, I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness; scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid; here, in the death of Christ, I live.

There, in the ground, His body lay; light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again! And, as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His and He is mine; bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand; 'til He returns or calls me home; here, in the power of Christ, I'll stand.

◆ **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 Hymn 1 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

The Gospel Reading John 14:25-27

The Sermon Christ our Peace

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
(John 14:27)*

The Offering Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, lift up your voice, shout the good news: *Behold, your Lord comes to you.* He will feed His flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in His arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. *Refrain.* He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal He was God, the Alpha and Omega, He. He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth, Hope of the nations, Light of all the world. He will love the little children, He will hold them in His arms. Love Him and trust Him as a child. *Refrain.* Isaiah 40, adapted

The Commissioning of the Mission Study Team

John Harper, moderator; Anne McCoy, vice-moderator; Mark Brown, B. J. Dollahon, Gary Johnson, Grace Masaku, Nicole Pugh, and Porter Shults

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Closing Hymn** 15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers LANCASHIRE

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

The Postlude Improvisation on the tune VENI EMMANUEL

+ + +

We welcome you on this second Sunday of Advent! Advent is a word that means “*coming near*”. During this season, we remember that Christ has come, that Christ comes to us today, and that Christ will come again. Whatever you bring with you here today, we pray that you will sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving in His name.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you! For information, contact Patricia Hall (918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Cathy Akin, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, 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, Bob Pyle, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Jo Carolyn Rushing, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, and Susan Waldie.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Quendy Veatch, a member since 1975, died on December 5.

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.

The Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the Halliburton family –with gratitude for the “Greens Teams” past and present, who have beautified the season over the past 56 years.

The festive exterior wreaths are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

- George, Daphne, Geordie, and Mark Matson, and Michael and Janice Dorndorfer, and Bill and Peg Templeton by the Matson family.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.

- Vivienne and Allan J. Edwards, Jr., and Duncan Fuller by their family
- Jimmie Mathews by the Gary Mathews family.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Ralph Veatch.

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.



First Church Updates

It is Stewardship Season! 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.

For information regarding the transition and the future of pastoral leadership, check out the website at firstchurchtulsa.org and 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](https://www.instagram.com/pastorfpc) to “81010”.

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](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults) or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Guild of Intercessors – Please let us know if you would like a Guild member to pray for you, your family members, or your friends. Your prayer requests will also be shared with the pastors. To submit a prayer request, call Paula Peterson, Guild Chairman at 918-296-5548, text at 918-688-2163 or email at mandppeterson@msn.com.

Presbyterian Women’s December Mission Project is Emergency Infant Services. EIS provides help for children 5 and under. They will be collecting funds for diapers in the collection box in the atrium.

Internship Opportunity – Are you a college student who loves God and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its summer youth ministry internship program. Contact Steve Wilson at swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org for more information.

The Gift Back Mission Market is open in the atrium today and December 17. Honor your family and friends with the gift of music. First Church is helping our partner school in Nairobi launch a music education program. All gifts will be used to establish this program for local students. For more information visit us at the table in the atrium.

Events This Week

Monday School - Rev. Dan Hutchinson will teach on December 11. His topic will focus on what it means to be Orthodox, Reformed, and Evangelical. The lesson begins at 12:00 p.m. in Kirkland Library with an optional lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Bernsen Reception Room.

Seasons Women’s Gathering – Join us for our next session of “We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship” as we explore our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. Bring a friend! We meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Library.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m. This week, all classes will end at 7:00 p.m., and we will join together in the courtyard for Carols and Cocoa.

Seekers Bible Study, room E104 - Rev. Wambugu

6 Great Dates, room E103 - Jerry and Anne McCoy, and
Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Jesus, the Light of the World, room E100 - Duff Points

Young Adult Christmas Party – Friday, December 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Michael and Valerie Grogan’s home (25351 E. 51st St., Broken Arrow). Please bring a white elephant gift to exchange.

Mark Your Calendar

December 17 is Christmas Music Sunday! Regular services at 8:00 in Kerr Chapel and 8:30 Stephenson Hall. At 11:00, we will meet in the Great Hall and in the Sanctuary. In the Great Hall, the contemporary and international services will combine and music will be led by the TIF and contemporary worship musicians. The traditional worship in the Sanctuary will feature the Chancel Choir, First Church Choristers, an orchestra and the Overtones bell choir.

Ukirk and Exodus Alumni Christmas Party – Sunday, December 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the home of Pastor Julia’s home (1523 S. Delaware Pl.) Dinner is provided; please bring a white elephant gift to exchange.

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

December 15	Celebrating Christmas Together
December 17	Christmas Music Sunday
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day Service, Kerr Chapel
January 31	New Year's Day Worship, Sanctuary
January 7	Burning of the Greens and Epiphany Plunge
Jan. 15 – Feb. 22	January Series

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24:

(all are candle-lighting)

11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary and Great Hall
5:00 p.m.	Children's Nativity Musical	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary
11:00 p.m.	Watchnight and Communion	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25: *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel

Sunday, December 31, 2023: *New Year's Eve*

9:30 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast, Atrium and Stephenson Hall
11:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 12/10

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Monday 12/11

- 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

Wednesday 12/13

- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm Awana, POW, Amass Exodus
- 6:15 pm Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 7:00 pm Carols and Cocoa, Courtyard and Stephenson Hall

Saturday 12/16

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes for NEXT Sunday, 12/17 at 9:30 a.m.

<i>Cornerstone</i>	Advent Series	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	Advent Series	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	Advent Series	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	Advent Series	E200
<i>Harbingers</i>	The Life You've Always Wanted	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Advent Series	B318
<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker	E205
<i>Pastor's Study/Foundations</i>		
	Advent Series	E104
<i>Reflections</i>	Advent Series	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Advent Series	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	Advent Series	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	Advent Series	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Maccabees	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults and Ukirk</i>	Advent Series	E201