



***God's Covenant
Faithfulness:
In Season and Out of
Season***

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

FEBRUARY 18, 2024
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

First Sunday of Lent

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

Man's mind, full as it is of pride and boldness, dares to imagine a god according to its own capacity; as it sluggishly plods, indeed is overwhelmed with the crassest ignorance, it conceives an unreality and an empty appearance as God.

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

The Prelude

His Eye Is on the Sparrow
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Doris Herald and Nancy Strimel, pianists

arr. Kim
arr. Helvey

The Welcome

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

◆ **The Call to Worship**

Psalm 95:1-7a

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,

And a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

The heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

And his hands formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God,

And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

◆ **The Opening Hymn** 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above MIT FREUDEN ZART

Acolytes: Abigail Kanyeki, Ivy Kariuki, and Sky Kenneth

◆ The Prayer of Adoration

Jeremy Foon

The First Reading

Luke 4:1-13

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. He tasted death for us and for our salvation. Yet, we confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride and desire. We see ourselves as pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ...*(in silence)*

The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel, that in Jesus Christ there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon his name!

Alleluia! Amen!

◆ The Response of Gratitude And Can It Be?

SAGINA

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me!

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace; emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race; 'tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me. *Refrain*

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine! Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. *Refrain*

◆ **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 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST. FLAVIAN

The Second Reading Exodus 32

The Sermon The Challenge of Faith Rev. Dan Hutchinson

The people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him. (Exodus 32:1b)

The Offering The Staff of Faith Craig Courtney

My faith, it is an oaken staff, the trav'lers well-loved aid; my faith, it is a weapon stout, the soldier's trusty blade. I'll travel on, and still be stirred by prayerful thought, or holy Word; by all my peril undeterred, a soldier pilgrim staid. I have a guide, and in His steps when travelers have trod, if there beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod. They cared not, but with force unspent, unmoved by pain they onward went, unstayed by pleasures, still they bent their zealous course to God. My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean! My faith, it is a trusty sword, may falsehood find it keen! Thy spirit Lord, to me impart, O make me what Thou ever art, O patient and courageous heart, as all true saints have been. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled! My faith, it is an oaken staff, the trav'ler's well-loved aid.

The Celebration of Communion

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Blessing

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Solo

In This Moment of Remembrance

Dale Wood

Abrianna DeLeon, soloist

In this moment of remembrance, the sacrament is spread; here we celebrate Christ's presence through the wine and broken bread. At this table of communion, in the light shed from above, we are sheltered in his mercy and surrounded by his love. There is healing and forgiveness, there is strength as we partake; here we know the Savior's promise that he never will forsake. "Take and do this in remembrance," are the words our Savior said; and we join now in his presence through the wine and broken bread.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Prayers of the People

- ◆ **The Lord's Prayer (Sung)**
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

The Postlude

Improvisation on the tune SAGINA

The Congregational Meeting

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Greetings in Christ! We are so glad to have you worshipping with us this morning. 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 the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

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



Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Nifemi Aruna, Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Lara Elias-Campbell, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Judah DeSpain, Judy Doyle, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Elaine Horkey, Joyce Kunkel, Judith Land, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Cyndi Russell, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Bob Swofford, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, Susan Waldie, Dayne Weierbach, and Cynthia Wiles.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Barbara Reinhardt, an Affiliate Member who joined in 2015, died on February 9; Jo Carolyn Rushing, a member since 2013, died on February 11; Patricia Morris, a member since 2006, died on February 11; and Cherrie Turner, a member since 1996, died on February 12.

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 flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annette Vickery by Gene Vickery and family.

Our Letters of Blessing today go to Jim Turner.

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

We are wrapping up Stewardship Season! If you have not yet turned in your pledge card for 2024, the Stewardship committee looks forward to receiving it. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Lord Jesus Christ. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive a weekly prayer prompt, please text *@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* or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Presbyterian Women’s February mission project is Lindsey House, which provides transitional housing and programs for newly homeless mothers with children. PW will be collecting money to make Easter baskets for the children who live there. Please place gifts in the donation box in the atrium on Sundays or mail your check to the church; payable to Presbyterian Women.

We’re hiring: Are you gifted at reaching out to new people and helping them get connected within the life of the church? Do you feel comfortable shepherding others as they consider their faith journey and membership with First Church? FPC is accepting applications for Director of New Member Outreach. To learn more, contact Duff Points at 918-301-1018 or apply at *Employment Opportunities – First Church Tulsa* on the First Church website.

Thank you to all who gave generously to the Souper Bowl of Caring on Youth Sunday. You gave a total of \$1,293.47 for Helping Hand Ministry to help those in need in Tulsa.

Today

The FPC Session has called a congregational meeting today at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to present a new officer for congregational vote.

Events This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown Gathering - Wednesdays February 21 – March 27, at 6:15 p.m., in Stephenson Hall, dinner at 5:15 p.m. Come together for a time of worship, contemplation, pastor-led reflection, and table conversations about following the Lord in an unknown season in the wilderness. Though we face challenges, we are reminded time and again that God is faithful and trustworthy.

Prayer in the Chapel: Join together from 10:40-10:55 on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

March 28	Maundy Thursday Service
March 29	Good Friday Service
March 31	Easter Sunday

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 2/18

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

Monday 2/19

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 12:00 pm Men's Monday Bible Study, E103

Tuesday 2/20

- 9:30 am Precepts Bible Study, E100
- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study, E313

Wednesday 2/21

- 10:00 am Watercolor Through Lent, Tower Room
- 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, Choir Room

Thursday 2/22

- 9:30 am Hearts for the Lord Bible Study, E313

Saturday 2/24

- 8:30 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes for NEXT Sunday, 2/25 at 9:30 a.m.

<i>Cornerstone</i>	<i>The Story</i>	E102
<i>Covenanters</i>	<i>Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation</i>	E101
<i>Faith and Family</i>	<i>14 Talks by Age 14</i>	Prayer Room
<i>Forum</i>	<i>Who is This Man, John Ortberg</i>	E200
<i>Foundations</i>	<i>Romans</i>	E104
<i>Harbingers</i>	<i>Gospel in Life, Timothy Keller</i>	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Prayer and Fasting	B318
<i>Reflections</i>	Characteristics of Christian Love	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Study of the Apostles' Creed	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	<i>Solas of the Protestant Reformation</i>	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	Lenten Study	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	<i>Who Is This Man, John Ortberg</i>	Tower Room
<i>Young Adults/Ukirk</i>	Discovery Bible Study	E201
<i>Young Parents</i>	Guest Speaker	E205

The First Church Pastors

Daniel Hutchinson, M. Div., *Interim Senior Pastor*

James Estes, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*

Wambugu Gachungi, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*

Julia Metcalf, M. Div., *Associate Pastor*