



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

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

MARCH 17, 2024
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

Those are our worst enemies that draw us to sin, for that is the greatest mischief any man can do to us. Matthew Henry

The Welcome

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

The Introit

Just As I Am

Craig Courtney

Rev. Julia Metcalf, soloist

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me, and that Thou biddest me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, to Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come! Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come!

The Call to Worship

Psalm 27:1-5, 13-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD;

Be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

So, let us stand in honor,
and let us worship God!

- ◆ **The Opening Hymn** 260 A Mighty Fortress is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG
Acolytes: Kamryn Chaney, Joy Ebil and Simeon Estes

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Tyler Bird

The First Reading 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The Prayer of Confession Rev. Julia Metcalf

Lord God Almighty, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. You have bought us with a price, and yet we continue to live as if we belonged to ourselves. We fail to glorify you with our whole self— body, mind and spirit, pursuing instead what the world has to offer. Lord, we are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us, we pray. So work in our hearts by the power of your Spirit that we might glorify you fully. Hear us now as we pray...*(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** 78 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed MARTYRDOM

- ◆ **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 of Preparation Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

The Second Reading

Numbers 25

The Sermon

The Challenge of Desire

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

(Numbers 25:3)

The Offering

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Paul Christiansen

Send forth thy light and thy love, O Lord. Fill my heart with thy Holy Spirit. Lead me into thy presence and teach me to love thy ways, O Jesus. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within

me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit. Psalm 43:3; 51:9,10

The Commissioning Service

Laura Stockbridge, candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

The great ends of the church are: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Laura, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?
Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?
I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?
I will, with God's help.

Do you, members of First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa and members of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, confirm the call of God to Laura Stockbridge in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

We will.

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Closing Hymn 356 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

The Postlude Improvisation on the tune NETTLETON

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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: Jane Azlin, Adelle Beathe, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Lara Elias-Campbell, Neil Cluck, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, B. J. Dollahon, 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, and Dayne Weierbach.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Norah June Crane, daughter of Chris and Lauren Crane, was baptized on March 10.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Adrienne Elder on the death of her husband, Dan Lutz, on March 9.

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 Chris Traband by the Traband Family.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Adrienne Elder and 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.



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. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Our Annual Congregational meeting begins today at 9:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. Rev. Hutchinson will offer his “State of First Church” message, reports will be presented, and the “Year-in-Pictures” will be viewed.

The Mission Study Team will be in the Bride’s Parlor today to help those who have not already taken the CAT Survey. If you haven’t already taken the survey, please do so before the end of March! (*See the last page of the bulletin.*)

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 March mission project is supporting Presbytery Disaster Assistance by collecting items for hygiene kits. They will be collecting the following: hand towels, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, individual bars of soap, toothbrushes, (single) and band-aids. Please place your gifts in the donation box in the atrium on Sundays or mail your check to the church, payable to Presbyterian Women.

Calling all Greeters and those interested in being a Greeter! Our Greeter Chair, Tamra Bird, is gearing up for Holy Week and we need your help! Please contact Patricia Hall phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-310-1028 if you are interested in serving.

Interested in Ushering? An Usher has the spirit and heart to serve people. They help the service run smoothly by presenting a joyful and courteous attitude, making others feel welcome and comfortable; they provide visitors with help finding restrooms, nurseries; they hand out bulletins, and provide other information regarding the church. If this is you, please contact Dick Campbell at rlcampbell@cox.net or Scott Swanson at rscottswanson@gmail.com.

Easter Lilies: On Easter Sunday, bright white lilies will adorn the church building. As each flower silently trumpets the Resurrection, it also serves to remind us of the life of someone who was, or is, special to a church member. If you wish to honor someone by contributing to the lily fund, click the QR code below by March 18.



The Board of Deacons organizes a brunch for the singers, ringers and instrumentalists participating in the Easter morning worship services. Food is dropped off at the atrium entrance by members of the congregation on Easter morning between 7:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. To sign up to bring food, which should be in a disposable container and serve at least eight, please visit the table

in the atrium on March 10 or 17 or use the QR code. For more information or questions, please contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.



Events This Week

Dr. Charles W. Kerr Display: Dr. Charles W. Kerr was a dynamic and passionate leader who served as pastor of First Church from 1900 to 1941. During his tenure, which featured explosive church growth, Dr. Kerr dedicated three church buildings, including the current Sanctuary. An exhibit of Dr. Kerr's personal ministry tools, curated by History and Archives, is on view now in the Miller Library.

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.

Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner: On Thursday, March 28 we will gather in Stephenson Hall for a Seder dinner. This meal will be a child-friendly celebration of God delivering His people out of bondage, and an experience offering us clearer understanding of the Last Supper in the context of the Passover meal. **We will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. and will end at 7:00 p.m. Advance registration and pre-payment is required by no later than Sunday, March 24.** Childcare will be available for infants to two-years old. Please use the QR code below to register and pre-pay for your meal(s) and indicate if childcare is needed. You can also register at the table in the atrium on March 17 and 24. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children, and \$25 for a family.



Holy Week Prayer Vigil: Thursday, March 28 at 9:00 p.m. through Easter Sunday, March 31 at 7 a.m. The prayer vigil is a continuous chain of prayer that begins on Maundy Thursday and continues until sunrise on Easter Sunday.

Sign up for a thirty-minute slot to ensure an unbroken prayer chain by clicking on the QR code below. A registration table will also be in the atrium on March 17 and 24.



Wednesday Night Downtown - April 3 – May 1, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.:

Seekers Bible Study: Rev. Wambugu Gachungi 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.

Rupture and Repair: God’s story in every human relationship: Join Rev. James R. Estes and Dr. Tom Philp for a four-week exploration of the ways we hurt and heal in the context of relationship. Each week will consider a Biblical narrative through the lens of rupture and repair while exploring the invitation to vulnerability, grace and truth in the context of every day relationships. As always, this course will include robustly validated relational insights, and weekly “relationship hacks” to help move any relationship from surviving to thriving.

The Enneagram, A Tool for Transformation led by certified Enneagram teacher, Liz Decker. How would your life change if you could better understand how God created you uniquely? Drawing from scripture, interviews, and visuals to help explain the nine basic personality types, we will discover the core motivations that explain what makes us who we are and learn acceptance and compassion for ourselves and others. Registration is required, click QR code below.



Tolkien and the Christian Life, continued: What does Middle Earth have to do with Jesus? Join Rev. Dan Hutchinson for an exploration into the biblical and theological themes (sovereignty, nature of good and evil, creation and restoration, home, the work of Christ, etc.) that arise from the world and writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. No prior knowledge of Lord of the Rings is required.

How To Read the Bible (Hermeneutics): Learning to study, understand, and embrace the Word of God is an essential adventure for every follower of Jesus Christ. John Shelton teaches an inductive methodology that emphasizes studying books of the Bible as wholes and context. Participants will gain confidence to approach all genres of scripture and to see the plain meaning of the text.

Downtown Round Table: On Wednesday, April 10 at 11:30 a.m. in room 206 we begin a new book *Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. If you would like to join us or if you have questions, please contact Jessica Bowman at jessicajohnbowman@gmail.com.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24

- 8:00 a.m. Kerr Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Great Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary and Stephenson Hall will meet in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, March 28

- 5:00 p.m. Seder Meal, Stephenson Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 29

- Noon "Seven Last Words of Jesus" service, Kerr Chapel

Easter, Sunday, March 31

- 6:30 Sunrise Service Camp Loughridge
- 8:00 a.m. service Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. service Stephenson Hall
- 11:00 a.m. services Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall and Great Hall

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 3/17

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

Monday 3/18

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

Tuesday 3/19

- 9:30 am Precepts Bible Study, E100
- 4:00 pm Men's Bible Study, E313

Wednesday 3/20

- 10:00 am Watercolor Through Lent, Tower Room
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Thursday 3/21

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

Saturday 3/23

- 8:30 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes for **NEXT Sunday, 3/24** 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>	Tower Room
<i>Forum</i>	<i>Study on Luke</i>	E200
<i>Foundations</i>	<i>Romans</i>	E104
<i>Harbingers</i>	<i>Gospel in Life, Timothy Keller</i>	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	<i>Prayer and Fasting</i>	B318
<i>Reflections</i>	<i>Characteristics of Christian Love</i>	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	<i>Light of Christ</i>	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	<i>24 Hours that Changed the World</i>	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	<i>Study on Luke</i>	E200
<i>Young Adults/Ukirk</i>	<i>Discovery Bible Study</i>	E201
<i>Young Parents</i>	<i>Book Study: For Better or For Kids</i>	E205

Planning our future together.

We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of First Church as they make decisions about the future.

You will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning March 4th, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link that will be provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.

If you feel you might need some assistance filling out a survey online, we will have computers and electronic devices available with help from the Mission Study Team to aid you in filling out the survey. This will be offered after church services on Sundays during the three weeks the survey is available to congregants.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact any of the following Mission Study Team at fpctransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

For His blessings we pray together: Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

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*