



***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 3, 2024
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

Third Sunday of Lent

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

The death of Miriam followed by the death sentence passed on her brothers makes this one of the most tragic sections of Numbers. Yet these verses stand as a reminder of the holiness of God and the sinfulness of men, and the need for faithful obedience.

Gordon J. Wenham, *Numbers*

The Welcome

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

The Introduction of New Members

Patricia Hall

The Introit

God Hath Led His People On

Felix Mendelssohn

Jaelyn Metcalf, soloist

God alone hath led His people on. His laws are in their mind, written in their hearts. All shall know that He is God, a God of truth without iniquity, both just and right. And as an eagle stirreth up her nest of young, taketh them and beareth them on her wings, so God alone didst lead His children onward; there was no strange God with them. Ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

◆ The Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-10

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

His marvelous works among all the peoples!

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

But the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him;

Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

- ◆ **The Opening Hymn 138** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! NICAEA
Acolytes: Jacob Case, Jayden Grosso, and Knox Smith

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

The First Reading Philippians 4:4-9

The Prayer of Confession Rev. James Estes

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against you. We have allowed ourselves to be overcome by anxiety instead of trusting your promises. We have grumbled and questioned your goodness instead of making our requests known to you with gratitude. We have failed to think on those things that are true and pure and lovely and commendable. Lord, for the sake of Christ, we ask that you would forgive us our sin and renew us according to the power of your Spirit. 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 Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

- ◆ **The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

◆ **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 Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word what a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies but His smile quickly drives it away. Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear can abide while we trust and obey. *Refrain.*

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet or we'll walk by His side in the way. What He says we will do, where He sends we will go. Never fear, only trust and obey. *Refrain.*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus. Just to take Him at His Word. Just to rest upon His promise, and to know, "Thus saith the Lord." Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more.

The Second Reading

Numbers 20:1-13

The Sermon The Challenge of Obedience Rev. Dan Hutchinson
And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." (Numbers 20:12)

The Offering Our God Is a Rock Katherine K. Davis
Our God is a Rock, and a tower of salvation, a shield and a stronghold, protecting from harm. He sends forth his power through his endless creation, upholding the worlds by the strength of his arm. We thank thee, God, for thy goodness and mercy, thy power and thy presence banish all fear. Though trouble surround us, it shall not confound us, our hearts will be strong, for we know thou art near. With songs of thanksgiving repeat we the story of all thou hast done for the children of men. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Minute for Mission Nicole Pugh and Gary Johnson

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Closing Hymn** 361 How Firm A Foundation FOUNDATION

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

The Postlude Improvisation on the tune FOUNDATION

+ + +

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, and Dayne Weierbach.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Cynthia Wiles, a member since 1989, died on February 22.

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 Allan J. and Vivienne Couper Edwards by Janet and Terry Bull.

Our Letters of Blessing today go to Paul, Lea and Gabby Mungai.

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.

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.

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.

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 a dish, which should be in a disposable container and serve at least eight, please visit the table in the atrium on Sundays, 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

Wednesday Night Downtown: Join us for dinner at 5:15 p.m. AWANA, POW, Confirmation, and AMASS begin at 6:00 p.m. for children and youth. Our adult class, **Journey Through the Wilderness**, continues at 6:15 p.m., in Stephenson Hall. Join us 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. This week's topic is The Challenge of Obedience (Numbers 20:1-13) "What do you do when you feel alone?"

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

Upcoming Events

Seasons Women's Gathering – Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Miller Library - Come Join us in our next session of *We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship* as we learn to discern where we need to set healthy boundaries in our friendships while loving well. Bring along a friend!

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 7:00 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 Sundays, March 17 and 24.



Summer Mission Trips 2024: Are you called to serve the Lord in North Carolina or Ireland for mission work? Reservation deadline has been extended. Click the QR code below.



Today we welcome our newest members:

Profession of Faith

+Jon Holstein

Affiliation

*Janet Drummond

Certificate of Transfer

Bryan Harrington

Kristin Harrington

*Teresa Miller

Jim Sengel

Kathy Sengel

Reaffirmation of Faith

Elizabeth Carroll

*Dr. Chris Crane

Lauren Crane

John Donnelly

Sonya Donnelly

Mona Green

Ben Harmon

Brent Isaacs

Jake Poplin

Mesa Sharp

Ethan Willard

David Vaughan

Rachael Vaughan

+pending Baptism

*pending confirmation of faith

Mark Your Calendars with these events:

March 28

Seder Dinner

March 28

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28-31

Holy Week Prayer Vigil

March 29

Good Friday Service

March 31

Easter Sunday

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 3/3

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

Monday 3/4

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

Tuesday 3/5

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

Wednesday 3/6

- 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 3/7

- 9:30 am PW Sewing Project, 400
- 9:30 am Hearts for the Lord Bible Study, E313

Saturday 3/9

- 8:30 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

Adult Sunday School Classes for NEXT Sunday, 3/10 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*