



# ***The Gospel of Grace***

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

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APRIL 14, 2024  
11:00 AM  
SANCTUARY

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

# ***The Third Sunday of Easter***

*11:00 a.m., Sanctuary*

## **The Words of Preparation**

The reason why Paul wrote this letter, and the reason we have it, is because the Galatians had “changed positions” on a crucial subject...this change was opting for a system in which grace was not crucial and in which Christ’s work was not sufficient. Paul states here that they were “deserting the one who called you” that is to say, their move was not just an intellectual one. Rather, it was desertion of God as made known in Christ; it was abandoning of their personal relationship with God.

Scot McKnight, *The NIV Application Commentary: Galatians*

## **The Welcome**

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

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

## **The Introit**

How Beautiful Are The Feet (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

*Emily Willard, soloist*

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:15

## **The Call to Worship**

Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still weak,

**At the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

**But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.

**For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.**

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**Through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

So let us stand; proclaim our joy!

**And let us worship God!**

- ◆ **The Opening Hymn** 113 Christ the Lord is Risen Today LLANFAIR  
*Acolytes: James Doverspike, Joy Ebil, and Sammy Hand*

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Ethan Willard

**The First Reading** Luke 9:18-27

**The Prayer of Confession** Rev. Julia Metcalf

Lord God Almighty, our Heavenly Father, we confess before You our sin and our shortcomings. We admit that we have loved the world and often live as if we were ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are hesitant to lose our lives for Your sake, and we are slow to deny ourselves or to take up our crosses. Lord, we humbly repent and ask for forgiveness. By Your Spirit's power, cause us to love You fully and to seek You daily. 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** To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory: great things He hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport. when Jesus we see. *Refrain.*

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** The Eastertide Affirmation

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved --if we hold it fast: that Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that He appeared to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and to many faithful witnesses. We believe He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. He is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

**The Blessing of the Young Disciples**

**The Hymn of Preparation** How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure, that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss – the Father turns His face away, as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders; ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer; but this I know with all my heart – His wounds have paid my ransom.

**The Second Reading** Galatians 1:6-24

**The Sermon** No Other Gospel Rev. Dan Hutchinson

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one...

Galatians 1:6

## **The Offering**

Easter Victory

Hal Hopson

O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? Man, born of woman is of few days. Man, like a flower fades and is no more. For since by man came death, through Adam all must die. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? Thanks be to God, who gives to us the victory. Thanks be to God: through Christ we live for evermore. Now is Christ risen from the dead. He is the first fruits of them that slept. At the loud trumpet we shall be changed. We die in Adam, we live in Christ. Alleluia!

## **The Celebration of Baptism**

Joel Donohue, Clerk of Session

Gabriel Lofton, son of Heath and Jennifer Lofton

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

### ◆ **The Closing Hymn 280**

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

### ◆ **The Charge**

## **The Joyful Response**

This Joyful Eastertide

Alice Parker

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow! My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow. Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst His three day prison, our faith had been in vain: but now is Christ arisen.

### ◆ **The Benediction**

## **The Postlude**

Christ Triumphant

George Blake

*We welcome Steve Haefner, trumpeter, for his musical contribution to our service today.*

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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 Emma Myatt (918-301-1028 or [emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:emyatt@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, 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, Claudia King, Joyce Kunkel, 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, Larry Tromp, Marcia Tromp, Susan Waldie, and Dayne Weierbach.

**The Joy of New Life! We Welcome:** Alexander Langholtz Seibert, son of Lauren and Dylan Seibert, born on April 6.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Jonathan Blessing Nserko, son of Debbie and Eddie Nsereko, Abeni Njambi Murage, daughter of Nelson Kiragu and Ann Murage, and Amy Wangari Kanyeki, daughter of Alan Waita and Juddy Kanyeki, were baptized on April 7. Hazel Marie Ozueh, daughter of Solomon Ozueh and Roselyne Okoma, reaffirmed her baptism on April 7.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Paul Bradford on the death of his mother, Mary Frances Bradford, on March 3.

### **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](http://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](mailto: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 David and Sally Cordell by Carol Cordell Mullins and David R. Cordell.

**Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to** Patricia Hall.

**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](http://firstchurchtulsa.org), text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



## **First Church Updates**

**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.

**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.

**Inquirers Class:** Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about First Church? This class is perfect for meeting others, getting to know our pastors, and asking questions. Join us in the Miller Library today and the following Sundays, April 21, 28 and May 5 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. Sign up online now or for more information, contact Emma Myatt at 918-584-4701.

**Patricia Hall Retirement Reception:** Today at 12:15 in the Atrium we celebrate Patricia Hall's many years of dedicated service to this church as she enters the next chapter of her life in retirement.

## **Events This Week**

### **Wednesday Night Downtown**

6:15 p.m.

**Seekers Bible Study:** Rev. Wambugu Gachungi leads an in-depth study of the Sunday morning sermon scriptures. Come and 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 relationships. 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 everyday relationships. The class includes 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. **Registration is closed.**

**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 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), continued:** 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. Students will gain confidence to



approach all genres of scripture and to see the plain meaning of the text. (Room E100)

**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.

## Upcoming Events

**Music Lovers!** The world's greatest and most often performed choral masterwork, *Messiah*, by George Frideric Handel, was first performed in 1742 in Dublin, Ireland. It was an immediate success and it continues to inspire audiences around the world. You have an opportunity to hear selections from this oratorio next Sunday, April 21, at 5:00, presented by our own Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra. You'll hear the Easter message proclaimed in stirring music, including the immortal Hallelujah Chorus, and many other favorites. **Don't miss it!**

**Presbyterian Women** will be selling Mother's Day cards in the atrium next Sunday, April 21 and on April 28. These beautiful cards feature original artwork by one of the Masterwork Academy students. Individual cards are \$5.00 each and a pack of 5 notecards is \$10.00. Proceeds will go to DVIS (Domestic Violence Intervention Services).

**Celebrate the First Church Foundation** on Sunday, April 28. The Foundation Trustees want to thank all the foundation givers and inform and invite other members to join us in supporting every aspect of First Presbyterian Church. Following the 11:00 worship services there will be a reception in the Miller Library. Be sure to visit our table in the atrium for more information.

**Camp Loughridge: Family Adventure Afternoon** on Sunday, April 28 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. There will be a cookout, fishing, canoeing, archer, disc golf and a zip line (there is a fee for the zip line). Stop by the Camp Loughridge table in the atrium for more information on the adventure and Summer Day Camp.

**Seasons Spring Fling:** On Monday, May 13, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Stephenson Hall for fellowship, creativity, and scripture as local artist, Mary Lee Weaver leads us through a creative project and devotional. The cost is \$5 per person. You can RSVP by clicking the QR code below.



**First Family Dinner:** On May 19 from 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. in the Courtyard. Join us for lunch to celebrate Pentecost. Meals are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, with a \$22 max per family. You can prepay online by clicking the QR code below.



**VBS 2024: Breaker Rock Beach: God’s Rock-Solid Truth in a World of Shifting Sands.** June 10-14, 2024; 9:00 am-12:00 pm; Camp Loughridge. Scan QR code to register.



**Mark Your Calendars with these events:**

May 2	National Day of Prayer Service
May 9	Ascension Day Service
May 12	Spring Musical: Children’s Choir
May 19	Pentecost Sunday

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

### TODAY 4/14

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

### Monday 4/15

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

### Tuesday 4/16

- 9:30 am      Precepts Bible Study, E100

### Wednesday 4/17

- 5:15 pm      Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm      Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
- 6:15 pm      Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm      Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### Thursday 4/18

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

### Saturday 4/20

- 8:30 am      Before the Rooster Crows, E103

### Adult Sunday School Classes 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>	Study on Luke	E200
<i>Foundations</i>	<i>1 Peter</i>	E104
<i>Harbingers</i>	<i>Gospel in Life</i> , Timothy Keller	E202
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Prayer and Fasting	B318
<i>Reflections</i>	<i>Characteristics of Christian Love</i>	E103
<i>Shepherds</i>	Soul Keeping	E203
<i>Sojourners</i>	TBD	E204
<i>The Vine</i>	<i>Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple</i>	E100
<i>Westminster</i>	Study on Luke	E200
<i>Young Adults/Ukirk</i>	Discovery Bible Study	E201
<i>Young Parents</i>	Book Study: <i>For Better or For Kids</i>	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*