



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

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

April 30, 2023
Sanctuary, 11:00 AM

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

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

Her announcement, 'I have seen the Lord,' is the same credential used by Paul to insist on his own authority as an apostle: 'Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?' (1 Cor. 9:1). The church's belief in the resurrection originated with the evangelical witness of this woman.

Stephen J. Binz, *The Women of the Gospels*

What happened [to] the women on the first Easter Day Breaks open a daring horizon, inviting all hearts to discern. Mid the grieving and trauma of loss, the horror to stand at the foot of a Cross. A body we think was buried in haste, and a tomb that was empty but restless in taste. Empowering a strange group of women. [stanza 2]

Diarmuid Ó Murchú is an Irish poet, author, and member of the Sacred Heart Community.

The Prelude

All Things Bright and Beautiful arr. Barbara Kinyon
Overtone Bells, Gretchen Bashforth, director

The Welcome

Rev. Julia Metcalf
(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Introit

There Is A Balm In Gilead arr. Mark Hayes
Randie Lewis

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole. There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain; but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain. If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, and say "He died for all." Refrain.

The Call to Worship

Christ, by your resurrection, you destroyed sin and death. You brought us from death to life.

Guide us in the way of eternal life.

By your resurrection, you proclaimed good news to the women and the apostles and brought salvation to the whole world.

Direct our lives as your new creations.

Christ, we look for you among the living for you are alive! And in your resurrection, the heavens and earth rejoice. **Alleluia!**

So, let us stand in honor. **And let us worship God!**

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

- ◆ **The Opening Hymn** 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful ROYAL OAK
Acolytes: Samuel, James and Elias Donohue

The Prayer of Adoration

Lucy Donohue

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace. Help us to hear your voice and the abundant life to which you call us...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace God's Gift of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and believe the good news: you have been forgiven, called into new life, and clothed in Christ's righteousness—now and forever. **Alleluia! Amen!**

- ◆ **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 Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He

was raised on the third day, and that *He appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses*. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God.

◆ **The Response** 108 Christ is Alive! TRURO

The Blessing of the Young Disciples

The Response 341 Blessed Assurance ASSURANCE

The New Testament Reading John 20:11-18

The Sermon Will They Believe?

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'...

John 20:18

The Offertory In Christ Alone arr. Lloyd Larson

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! On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

The Welcoming of the Confirmands

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

- ◆ **The Closing Hymn** 343 Called as Partners in Christ's Service BEECHER
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Paraphrase on *Thine is the Glory* Alexandre Guilmant

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Our Letter of Blessing today goes to the Confirmation Class of 2023.

Today

Works of HeART - WOH is an FPC art ministry for the clients at the Day Center for the Homeless. Interested in volunteering? Visit the table in the atrium today.

It's time to consider leadership within First Church! Please see back of today's bulletin.

This Week

"Significant Essays" by C. S. Lewis. Dr. Miller begins his new Pastor's Study today and each Sunday at 9:30 (Stephenson) and every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. (E104).

Praying to Pentecost - The prayer room, (204), remains open during normal church hours through Pentecost, May 28. Come and enjoy a special time of presence and conversation with the Master.

National Day of Prayer service this Thursday, May 4, at 11:30 in the Courtyard. Dr. Miller leads the service. Light lunch is served immediately following. If your schedule prohibits you from joining the service but you would still like to “join together” in prayer, please join us that evening at 7:00 p.m. via the Zoom link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84528066328?pwd=bWoxNmFKZGpLOUZrS0JKU0dUV3AwUT09> (Meeting ID: 845 2806 6328; Passcode: R92qYX)

The Inquirers Class – The adventure of Christian community! Bring your questions as you consider why a community of faith is important in your discipleship. Today at 9:15, and continuing Sundays, April 30, May 7 and 14 (Miller Library). Register by contacting Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028 or click on the QR code below.



Presbyterian Women: purchase your Mother’s Day cards to help benefit women caught in domestic violence. The design artist this year is our member, Mary Lee Weaver. Pick up your cards today in the atrium and on Sunday, May 7.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Join us for **Small Talk on Big Truths: Dr. Miller joins Rev. Wambugu Gachungi** in room E104 on Wednesdays nights at 6:15 p.m. --an in-depth study of last week’s sermon Scriptures. Bring your Bible!

Mark Your Calendar

Deacons Day of Care: Saturdays, May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m. Teams help with light yard work and home maintenance. To volunteer, or to request help at your home, register in the atrium today or Sunday, April 30. Contact Julie Steiner at juliesteiner19@gmail.com or Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org for information.

Seasons: Spring Fling! Monday, May 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Join us for a special evening with guest speaker Lindi Collins who will encourage our hearts with a devotion entitled “Crowns of Glory” and teach our hands in creating flower crowns to take home. Please RSVP to *lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org* by May 3.

Second Annual Kids Fishing Derby! Camp Loughridge, May 20.
To register, visit the table in the atrium today.



Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

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.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, Pat Brown, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Anita Ewing, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Marcia Tromp and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Georgia Burke Moore, daughter of Paige and Keith Moore, was baptized on April 23.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Glade and Marie Kirkpatrick and our son Perry Dyson Inhofe II, MD, by Jim and Kay Inhofe.

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 there is a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

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.



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.

Today we welcome the 2023 Confirmands at the service they attend:

Steve Wilson, Director of High School Ministries

Ife Aruna	David Masaku
Sheila Atkinson	Morgan McInstosh
Liam Cavin	Nelly Nghitila
Naomi DeSpain	Josh Nsereko
Lucy Donohue	Alex Philp
Taylor Farris	Devyne Ramey
Vivienne Fravel	Gloria Shelton
Zoe Gingerich	Phoebe Stoeppelwerth
Carol Gitau	Hope Thompson
Jarrett Kamande	Rupert Winton
Laurencia Masabarakiza	

Special appreciation to the confirmation leaders for their guidance and support of these youth.

Confirmation Leaders:

Jennifer Philp, Kelly Brown, Rebecca Kibui,
Shannon Bair & Eli Wilson

THIS WEEK

TODAY 4/30

8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
 8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
 9:30 am Gatherings and Classes
 11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Monday 5/1

11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

Tuesday 5/2

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 5/3

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 206
 12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 6:00 pm Awana, POW and Amass Exodus
 6:15 pm Adult classes, various locations
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 5/6

8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY: Adult Classes, 9:30 a.m.

Cornerstone	<i>Minor Prophets</i>	E102
Covenanters	<i>Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church That Transforms</i>	E101
Faith and Family Forum	<i>Minor Prophets</i>	Prayer Room
Harbingers	<i>Soul Keeping</i>	E200
Morning Glory	<i>Eternity is Now</i>	E202
New Parents	Mastering Your Emotions	B318
Pastor's Study 1	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 2	Significant Essays by C. S. Lewis	Stephenson
Reflections	New Testament Overview	E104
Shepherds	<i>Gospel Account of Holy Week</i>	E103
Sojourners	<i>Study of Elijah</i>	E203
UKirk	<i>Study of James</i>	E204
The Vine	New Testament Overview	E104
Westminster	<i>Study of Jonah</i>	E100
Young Adults	<i>The Greatest Commandment</i>	Tower Room
	New Testament Overview	E104

SEEKING GOD'S SERVANT LEADERS

After the pattern of the One "who came not to be served, but to serve."

-Matthew 20:28

One of the most important privileges we share is to encourage gifted and committed men and women to serve the Lord in leadership positions. Thank you for taking time to offer suggestions to the FPC Nominating Committee.

ELDERS (THE SESSION):

Responsible for the governance of the church.

They provide leadership in all areas, including: Worship, Administration, Programs, Mission, and Ministry.

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DEACONS:

The "heartbeat" of the church, ordained for the purpose of "ministering to those in special need."

TRUSTEES:

Stewards of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

THE OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Identifies leaders God has called and prepared to serve our congregation.

Currently Serving Elders

<u>Class of 2023</u> Maxwell Asare Dacia Bird Janine Burlin Debbie Favell Rusty Gaddy Patrick Kirunda Elisa Mangesho Anne McCoy Amy Russell Jim Scheiper	<u>Class of 2024</u> Laurel Baird Allison Biggs Mark Brown Larry Ewing Stephanie Madsen Urbanus Masaku Steve Metcalf Paul Mungai Denise Rounds Karen Woolman	<u>Class of 2025</u> Brett Crane Elizabeth DeVore John Harper Jessica John-Bowman Jeanette Kern Jaclyn Metcalf Eric Olson Jacob Thompson Solomon Tsuma Faith Wambugu
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Currently Serving Deacons

<u>Class of 2023</u> Sheri Allen Keith Campbell Michael Homan Cindy Johnson Lucy Kamande Clint McQueen Dylan Seibert Ed Slier Julie Steiner Shannon Thomas	<u>Class of 2024</u> Tina Aruna Bette Cromer Sandy Curtis Quentin Franklin Carter Mathews Buddy Neal Valentine Ndunga Dan Richmond Grace Shelton Scott Swanson	<u>Class of 2025</u> Anita Anthony Tyler Bird Nancy Blocker Beryl Bolo Brandon Evans Jeremy Foon Nick McMillan Janet Mercer Gladys Njino Cissy Ssettimba
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Currently Serving Trustees

<u>Class of 2023</u> Todd Schuster Robert Pielsticker Amy Tingleaf	<u>Class of 2024</u> Steve Caldwell Jane Crain Pam Farris	<u>Class of 2025</u> Dr. John Frame Ken McQueen Barrett Powers
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FPC LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.

Ephesians 4:11

Prayerfully fill out the form below by **Wednesday, May 15:**

E-mail nominees to: dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org

Name of nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____

I nominate this person for service as an (circle one):

Elder

Deacon

Trustee

Nominating Committee

A. What specific strengths/gifts will this person bring to this position?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

B. Describe how this person has served Christ's purposes here at FPC or in the community.

Nominating Committee 2023: Co-Chair, Amy Russell, Co-Chair, Denise Rounds, Patrick Grogan, Gary Johnson, Becca Kibui, Jason Pugh, Carol Rowland, Spurgeon Wambugu, Laurie Winslow along with representatives from each officer board.