



Gospel of Grace

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

APRIL 7, 2024
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

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

Second Sunday of Easter

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

We often spend much of our energy pursuing our own salvation...And yet the gospel teaches us that all that we really want and long for comes from God, and it comes to us as a gift, to be received by faith. Our entire lives can be lived as a joyful response to all that has already been done for us—
by God.

Geoff Ziegler (PhD, Wheaton College)

The Welcome

Rev. Julia Metcalf

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

The Introit

Rise Up, My Heart, With Gladness

J. S. Bach

Emma Myatt, Soloist

Rise up, my heart, with gladness, and hear the news today. Now let all gloom and sadness be gone without delay. Lifeless our Savior lay; so too shall we one day, but we shall know God's love and rise to heaven above. With joy the foe had shouted when Christ was laid in the tomb. But now the foe is routed, his joy is turned to gloom. Christ gains the victory; through Him we all are free. He who was born to save has triumphed over the grave! This is a sight that gladdens: what peace it does impart! Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart. No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.

The Call to Worship

This is the day that God has made; **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

We gather today to shout Alleluia! **Christ is risen; He is risen indeed!**

The tomb still stands empty and darkness has lost.

We sing in the light of His resurrection!

This is the good news of the gospel **and there is nothing greater than it.**

Let us stand together and sing as we praise the risen King. **Hallelujah!**

◆ **The Opening Hymn 122** Thine Is the Glory JUDAS MACCABEUS
Acolytes: Jacob Case, Jayden Grosso, Lucy Gingerich

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Jacob Hand

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 53:1-5

The Prayer of Confession

Holy and righteous God, we confess that like Isaiah, we are a people of unclean lips. But it is not only unclean lips we possess. We are people with unclean hands and unclean hearts. We have broken your law times without number, and are guilty of pride, unbelief, self-centeredness and idolatry. Affect our hearts with the reality and weight of our unrighteousness and the glory of your righteousness as we now acknowledge our sins in your holy presence. *(in silence...)*

The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts, that in Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness for everyone who calls upon His name! **Alleluia, Amen!**

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

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 Christ, 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** Gloria Patri

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

The Blessing of the Young Disciples

The Hymn of Preparation 333 Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

The Second Reading Galatians 1:1-5

The Sermon Living As Easter People Rev. Julia Metcalf

"...who gave Himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father..." (verse 4)

The Anthem This Is the Day the Risen Lord Has Made Walter Ehret

This is the day the risen Lord has made, we shall rejoice and sing our thankful praise to God, who from the tomb the Son did raise, *Alleluia*.
Descended from the cross, entombed in stone, embraced by death and hell the strife He bore; out of the gloom His standard goes before, *Alleluia*.
In fear the trembling followers remained, yet when they heard these words, their terror fled; the Lord indeed is risen from the dead, *Alleluia*.
This is the day, this is our feast of joy, this is the triumph, this our victory: the Christ bestows on us eternity, *Alleluia*.

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Closing Hymn** 121 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

The Postlude Easter Victory Charles Callahan

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

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 while serving 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). 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, BJ 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.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Pam Farris on the death of her mother, JoAnne Swan, on April 2.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Bob Swofford, a member since 2018, died on March 28.

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 Lynn Miller by Tony Miller and family.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Margaret Holdridge.

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

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.

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*.

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.

Events This Week

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 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. 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. 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 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)

Seasons Women's Gathering, April 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Miller Library

We will be continuing our series “We Saved You a Seat” which explores our relationship with Jesus as the ultimate model for authentic friendship. This month’s session is titled “Friendship Takes Action.” Your seat at the table is being saved just for you and we welcome you to bring a friend.

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.

Downtown Theological 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 John-Bowman at jessicajohnbowman@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Second Annual Young Professional's Dinner with speaker: On Sunday, April 14, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Courtyard. \$10 per person. Please RSVP through the QR code.



Patricia Hall Retirement Reception: On Sunday, April 14, at 12:15, join us in the Atrium after the 11:00 service to celebrate Patricia Hall's many years of dedicated service to this church as she enters the next chapter of her life in retirement.

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 on Sundays,

April 14, 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**.

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



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 on 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!**

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 4/7

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

Monday 4/8

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
- 12:00 pm Men's Monday Bible Study, E103
- 6:30 pm Season's Women's Gathering, Miller Library

Tuesday 4/9

- 9:30 am Precepts Bible Study, E100

Wednesday 4/10

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

Thursday 4/11

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

Saturday 4/13

- 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>	<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

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*

