



*The Joyful Longing
of Advent:
The Messiah Draws Near*

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

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022
Chapel, 8:00 a.m.*

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m., Chapel

The Words of Preparation

In this is love --not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:9-10

The Prelude

Ron Pearson, Organist

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

The Introit

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Emma Myatt, soloist

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced, and at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced. *O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.* Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell, from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. *Refrain.*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle (4) Love

Glenn, Katie and Ellie Williams

Advent is the story of an astonishing mystery: the entrance of the living God, wrapped in baby clothes, straight into our world. On this, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love. John's Gospel signals this, saying:

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son – that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!”

And John goes on: *“God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved!”*
John 3:16-17

This is great good news for each of us and all of us! Come, let's stand in honor, lift our hearts and our voices, and let us worship God!

The Hymn Lord of Advent, God of Glory

ODE TO JOY

Lord of Advent, God of glory, guide us as we make our way; gift to us your Holy Spirit, be our Strength, our Hope, our Stay! Cause our hearts to beat with longing, grant our ears to hear your voice; guide us in these days of Advent, may we seek you and rejoice!

Lord of Advent, God of glory, blessed Jesus, hear our prayers! Come among us, come within us, cause us all your love to share. May we give ourselves completely, may our lives advance your Way; cause our hearts to sing your praises, may your grace be on display.

◆ **The Sharing of the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Julia Metcalf

The Peace of Christ be with you;
and also with you!

◆ **The Hymn** 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

A Voice!

Did you hear the Voice crying out in the wilderness?

No. Not at all. I didn't hear anything. A Voice? In the wilderness?

What do you mean?

It was loud and clear ---and urgent in its tone; it called out, again and again, and again.

Called out what? What did it say?

It said, *"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord –make straight a pathway for our God!"*

And then, like thunder it roared:

"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it!" Isaiah 40

The glory of the Lord! His glory revealed, made known, disclosed.

And God's voice! His promise declared, affirmed, and kept. O my, the glory of the Lord! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

◆ **The Hymn** 22 Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

A Light and a Song!

Did you see the Light shining down on Bethlehem?

No. Not at all. I didn't see anything. A light – in Bethlehem?

What do you mean?

It was bright and clear, coming from the sky; it pulsated and shone, and it led strangers to a newborn Child! – And did you hear the angels singing?

No. Not at all. I didn't see or hear anything. Angels singing? In Bethlehem?

Yes, a band of angels, a multitude of the heavenly hosts, and they were all singing, *Glory to God in the highest – and on earth peace, goodwill among men!* Luke 2:13-14

The Duet Christmas Angels
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Angels We Have Heard On High
Emma Myatt and Rev. Julia Metcalf

The New Testament Reading Luke 1:26-38

The Sermon Faithfulness in a Single Sentence
*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me
according to your word. Luke 1:38*

The Anthem Breath of Heaven, Mary's Child
I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe
inside –and I wonder what I've done; Holy Father, you have come
and chosen me now to carry your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear
in a world as cold as stone. Must I walk this path alone? Be with
me now, be with me now.

*Breath of heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of
heaven. Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your
holiness for you are holy, Breath of heaven.*

Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have
had my place? But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan. Help
me be strong, help me be, help me. *Refrain.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table
The Words of Institution
The Prayer of Consecration
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Concerns of the Church

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn** 40 Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude**

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First Church Updates

A warm welcome to all! On this Christmas music Sunday, the fourth week of Advent, we pray that you sense the incoming presence of Christ among us, the warmth of this community that He has called together, and the joy of serving this world that He loves --in His name!

Today's "*Letter-of-Well-Wishing*" is directed to Dr. John and Beverly Parschauer.

Tithes --and offerings! This is a year First Church could use a December "over-and-above" gift. We have a long way to go to bridge our 2022 budget. If the Lord has prospered you, consider how a portion of that blessing might serve right here through the ministry and work of this congregation.

Stewardship Considerations

In this season of stewardship reflection, we're blessed to hear from folks as to how they discern their giving to the local church:

Bob and Leslie Doll

"We attempt to view our giving to the Church through the lens of three truths: (1) time is short, (2) the need is great, and (3) the cost is high. And here are our five presuppositions:

1. God owns it all. Therefore, the question isn't how much to give but how much to keep.
2. Christians aren't citizens of this place—we're just passing through. We are on earth for a speck of time and in heaven for eternity.
3. As believers, we can't take it with us when we die, but we can send it on ahead (Matt. 6:19–21).
4. God prospers us to raise not our standard of living but our standard of giving (thank you, Randy Alcorn).
5. At least in our family, we want to give our money away while we're alive, not after we're gone. We'd like our last check to bounce."

Today:

The Pilgrimage to Israel group meets at 2:00 p.m. in room E102

This Week:

Children's Nativity Dinner and Open Dress Rehearsal this Wednesday, December 21. Join us for dinner in Stephenson Hall starting at 5:15 p.m., after dinner at 6:00 pm, we gather in the sanctuary as the children put the finishing touches on the

Nativity play for Christmas Eve. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the Nativity play if you're away on Christmas Eve.

Young Adult Christmas Party: Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Michael and Valerie Grogan serve as our hosts. You're invited to bring a gift under \$10 for a White Elephant exchange. Find us on Instagram *@fpcyoungadults* for more information.

Mark the Date!

Epiphany Plunge & Bonfire - Sunday, January 9 at 5:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. Bring your greens for the bonfire and plunge into the water of the lake. The event will include a homily, cookies and hot cider/cocoa. More information to come.

The January Series - January 9 - 27, a fifteen-weekday lecture, lunch cost \$7 and starts at 11:15 a.m. with free lecture starting at 11:30 a.m. in Stephenson Hall. If you would like to help set up and/or greet, please contact Patricia Hall at *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918 301-1028.

Wednesday Night Downtown groups and all classes will resume on Wednesday, January 11.

Inquirers Class Sundays, January 15, 22, 29 and February 5. If interested, please join us 9:15-10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Sign up using the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at *phall@firstchurchtulsa.org* or 918 301-1028.



Mark your calendars! All-Church Retreat: March 24-25, 2023: New Life Ranch.

Ongoing Ministries:

Young Adults – First Church is committed to 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 Dan Hutchinson at 918-301-1040.

Don't Forget: Faith Partners Addiction Ministry – First Church is a member of a nationwide fraternity called *Faith Partners*. They provide intervention, education, and recovery support to individuals and families suffering from addiction. Questions? Please call the Church office (918-584-4701) and leave your number. A team member will return your call.

Presbyterian Women's December mission project is Emergency Infant Services. Donations may be put in the acrylic box at the reception desk. Your gifts are given to EIS to purchase diapers, formula, food, clothing, etc.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Beth Campbell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Paul Dick, Donna Droege, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, JoAnn Gilbert, Gaye Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Mike Hopkins, Elaine Horkey, Meg Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Susan Lawrence, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, David Osterholt, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Tom Reynolds,

Carly Rivers, Zach Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Susan Shults, Robert Shaw, Bill Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Sally Stewart, Laurie Sundborg, Mike Tidwell, Susan Waldie, and Carolyn Wilcott

The Sacrament of Baptism: Charles Bretton Crane, son of Brett and Caitlin Crane, was baptized on December 11.

Worship Notes

We welcome and thank instrumentalists Michelle Sherman, Angelica Martin, Kiersten Moser, Rachel Hay, Jeff Cowen, Pete Peterson, Janet Baird, and Lise Glaser, for their musical contribution to our 11:00 service today.

The Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the Halliburton family –with gratitude for the “Greens Teams” past and present, who have beautified the season over the past fifty-five years.

A special thanks to the “Sanctuary Greens Decorating Team”: Edie Allen, Judy Brill, Minnie and Gary Casteel, Sherye Halliburton, Laura, Will, and Bevan Keith, Mary Anne and Tom Marberry, Gary Mathews, Rosemary and Rick Priest, Amy and Lance Tate, and Cynthia Wiles.

The exterior wreaths are given to the glory of God and in love:

- George and Daphne Matson, Geordie Matson, Mark Matson, and Michael and Janice Dorndorfer by the Matson family.
- Joe and Betty Hawes by Joe and Pam Hawes and family.
- Vivienne and Allan J. Edwards, Jr. and Duncan Fuller by their family
- Jimmie Mathews by the Gary Mathews family.

Services are broadcast on the FPC Facebook page, and on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 12/18

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

Monday 12/19

11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
 6:00 am Seasons: Women's Gathering, Deep Dive of I John, E101

Tuesday 12/20

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 12/21

11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
 5:30 pm Gloria Choir
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 12/24

3:00 p.m. Carols and Communion Service, Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Children's Pageant Service, Sanctuary
 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service, Sanctuary
 11:00 p.m. Watchnight and Communion Service, Sanctuary

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	The History of Acts	E102
Covenanters	Renovated: God, Dallas, & the Church	
	That Transforms	E101
Faith and Family	Advent Series	3rd floor Pastors Study
Forum	Advent Series	E200
Harbingers	<i>All the Places to Go</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Prayers and Bible Study	E201
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Contemporary Concerns & the Christian Faith	Steph. Hall
Pastor's Study 2	Advent Series	E104
Reflections	Christian Life in Ordinary Time	E103
Shepherds	Christmas Brunch	E203
Sojourners	Advent Series	E204
The Vine	Advent Series	E100
UKirk	Advent Series	E104
Westminster	Theology Brewed in an African Pot	Tower Room
Young Adults	Advent Series	E104

December 18, 2022

11:00 Sanctuary

Please register your attendance by filling out the information below and leave this page on the pew as you leave.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Member _____ **or Guest** _____

go to the link: bit.ly/fpcregister;

or

using the QR code below.

