



***Tiny Letters:
Big Impact***

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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 1, 2023

SANCTUARY, 11:00 A.M.

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Born by grace in 1885

World Communion Sunday

Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

If we truly worship God, acknowledging and adoring His infinite worth, we find ourselves impelled to make him known to others, in order that they may worship Him too. Thus worship leads to witness, and witness in its turn to worship, in a perpetual circle.

John Stott

The Extended Prelude

*Festival Sunday Singers
led by Eric Baird, Solomon Tsuma*

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Call to Worship

(from the Belgic Confession, AD 1561, Article 27: adapted)

What do you believe about Christ's Church?

**We believe and confess that the Church is one —
a holy congregation, a gathering of true believers.**

What is the hope that binds the Church together?

**We await our entire salvation in Jesus Christ —for we are washed
by His blood, sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

How big is this church?

**We are not confined, nor are we bound or limited to a
certain place or certain persons. Spread throughout the
entire world, we are joined and united in heart and will, in one
and the same Spirit —by the power of faith.**

What do you believe about Christ's Church?

**We believe and confess that the Church is one —a holy
congregation, a gathering of true believers.**

What is the hope that binds the Church together?

Only the living God, the holy God, could bring together all

peoples, from every tribe and tongue, every nation and ethnicity!
Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down?
Only a holy God! Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Hymn** Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down? Who else can whisper, and darkness trembles? Only a Holy God!

What other beauty demands such praises? What other splendor outshines the sun? What other majesty rules with justice? Only a Holy God!

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only. Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God. Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead? What other name remains undefeated? Only a Holy God. *Refrain*

Who else could rescue us from our failings? Who else would offer His only Son? Who else invites us to call Him, Father? Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God. *Refrain*

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Acolytes: Zuwena Bundi, Sophie Kariuki and Sophia John-Bowman

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee: casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee, though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God Almighty, all Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea; Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Rev. James Estes

The Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34 Kevin Waita

“The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD.

“And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Julia Metcalf

Lord Jesus Christ, Giver of Life and every good gift: by the power of your Holy Spirit, cause us to embrace this new covenant that you’ve prepared for us. Put your Spirit’s wisdom deep within us, write your Way upon our hearts; cause to become faithful and loyal, pure and grateful. Grant that we might grow in knowing you –for as we know you more fully, we will love you faithfully, and as our love grows, we will desire to serve you and your purposes now, forever, and always. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace the Good News

Friends, in Jesus Christ, there is grace all-sufficient! In Him there is forgiveness of sin! In Him, a new covenant of blessing is on offer — for any and all who call upon Him! Come, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ **The Response**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever shall be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

◆ **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 Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe

Hakuna Mungu kama wewe. Hakuna Mungu kama wee. Hakuna Mungu kama wewe. Hakuna na hatakuwepo.

There's no one, there's no one like Jesus. There's no one, there's no one like him. There's no one, there's no one like Jesus. There's no one, there's no one like him. *Refrain*

I've walked and walked all over, over. I turned and turned all over, over. I've searched and searched all over, over. There's no one, there's no one like him. *Refrain*

Nimetembea kote kote. Nimezunguka kote kote. Nimetafuta kote kote. Hakuna na hatakuwepo. *Refrian*

The Prayer of Illumination

The New Testament Reading III John

The Sermon Three Characters in the Church Rev. Wambugu
Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are... III John:5

The Offertory Christ Is In This Place Allen Pote
Gina Davis, violinist; Kari Caldwell, cellist

We come to eat the bread of life and drink the cup again.
We come to kneel before the One who brings us peace within.
We come to greet the living Christ, who feeds our hungry souls.
O may we live as ones forgiven, in Christ we are made whole.
Alleluia, alleluia, sing of love and grace. Alleluia, alleluia, Christ is in this place. We go refreshed, with hearts renewed into the world again. We go with minds and spirits blessed, which gives us strength within. We go to seek the living Christ in everyone we meet. O may we live for humankind, in Christ we are complete.
Refrain.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev. Dan Hutchinson

The Words of Institution
The Prayer of Blessing
The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Jesus Paid It All

Yesu anasema, 'Wewe huna nguvu, Kesha ukaombe, Na uje,
Mwanagu.

*Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He
washed it white as snow.*

Bwana, nimeona, Uwezo wako tu, Waweza `takasa Mioyo michafu.
Refrain

Ninaposimama, Juu ya mawingu, Taji nitaweka, Miguuni pa Yesu.
Refrain

The Prayers of the People

- ◆ **The Lord's Prayer** (sung by congregation)
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Toccata on the tune NICAEA Charles Callahan

Today

On this Festival World Communion Sunday, we are called to worship – by the Lord of the Church! A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather in this House of Prayer. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

Stewardship: a season of prayerful and intentional consideration of our blessings –and how we might faithfully “steward” them in ways that serve the Lord's purposes. The Session is already examining the 2024 FPC budget. Thank you for taking the local church seriously and giving of your very best to the Master. In this transition time, your support in prayer and giving is vital.

Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Mr. Case Boshuizen. It is ready for you to sign at the doors of the narthex.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of J. M. Hall by the J. M. Hall Foundation.

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.



Thanks for your ongoing prayers in this time of transition. Dr. Miller's retirement is set for Reformation Sunday, October 29. In the month of October, our worship schedule is as follows, beginning next Sunday:

October 8, Dr. Jonathan Miller, preaching

8:15 Sanctuary

11:00 Sanctuary

11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast from sanctuary

October 15, 22, and 29

Dr. Jim Miller, offers three "Pastoral Letters" to the flock

October 15 and 22: three services

8:15 sanctuary

11:00 Sanctuary

11:00 Great Hall (TIF) sermon simulcast from sanctuary

October 29: Reformation Sunday

Festival Sunday: one service, 11:00 Sanctuary

The Session's Transition Team, chaired by Jim Diacon, includes Allison Biggs, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews. A very helpful look into the future of pastoral leadership here at FPC can be found at firstchurchtulsa.org; look for the highlighted word "transition". If you have questions, concerns or comments, please

don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org.

The flags hanging throughout the church remind us of mission partnerships around the world. Through these partnerships and faithful congregational giving the sun never sets on the ministries of First Church.

Dr. Miller continues his Pastor's Class next Sunday on Rebecca McLaughlin's book, *Confronting Christianity*: Stephenson Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Foundations Class – today at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

Inquirers Class – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us today and on Sundays, October 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1028.



Events This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

Our WND series, *The Meaning Behind the Marquee* (Orthodox, Reformed and Evangelical) continues Wednesday at 6:15 in the Stephenson Hall. Rev. Dan Hutchinson speaks on the distinctives of the Reformed tradition.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

This Saturday! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception follows in the Courtyard.

Mark Your Calendar

Next Sunday: Ron Pearson's 50th Annual Organ Concert! Don't miss this astonishing milestone! We gather in the sanctuary, a week from today at 4:00 p.m. The University of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra will participate; a reception will follow in the Atrium.

Deacons Day of Care: this Saturday, October 7 and 28. On the first Saturday, the team will be at Anderson Elementary School working on the grounds. On Saturday, October 28, teams will deploy to the home of First Church members who have requested help with yard work and light home-maintenance jobs. To offer your help, use the QR code. To request a team to visit your home on October 28, please call Julie Steiner at 918-640-6955.



Pastors Fun Night – Join us on Wednesday, October 18 in Stephenson Hall for a night of fun and frivolity presented by the pastors. An optional dinner will be available at 5:15 p.m. followed by an evening of great entertainment. More details to come.

Fall Festival at Loughridge! Sunday afternoon: Oct. 22, from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Come and celebrate friends and family with fun activities for all ages. The *First Church Pitmasters* are preparing barbeque and there are hayrides, music, and trunk or treat. Dinner: \$9 for adults, \$5 for children, \$22 for families --and free for children 3 and under.

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, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Randy Corelli, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Mrs. LeaAnn Mungai was baptized on September 10; Colin Brian Curtis, son of Alex and Trey Curtis, was baptized on September 18.

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.

First Church Cancer List – Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you'd like to add your name or that of someone else, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548 or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

Military Prayer List – For Veterans Day, the Guild of Intercessors is updating its Armed Forces Prayer List. If you would like the Guild to pray for a loved one or friend who is on active duty, please contact one of these Guild members by October 30: Sandy Curtis at 918-742-6249/
sd.curtis@cox.net.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 10/1

- 9:00 am First Church Chorister and Celebration Singers
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
Cornerstone, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
Covenanters, E101
Faith and Family, Heidelberg Catechism, E102
Forum, Who is This Man, E200
Harbingers, When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box, E202
Morning Glory Class, Prayers and Bible Study, B318
Young Parents, Parenting Series, E205
Pastor's Class, Stephenson Hall
Foundations, Letters of Paul, E104
Reflections, The Intertestamental Period, E103
Shepherds, Bible Study, E203
Sojourners, Life Together, E204
The Vine, I John, E100
Westminster Class, 2 Timothy, Tower Room
Young Adults and Ukirk, Bible Study, E201
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary

Monday 10/2

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm Overtones Rehearsal, Bell Choir

Tuesday 10/3

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 10/4

- 9:30 am Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100
11:30 am Pastor's Class, E104
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 10/7

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103