



Credible Witnesses on the Road to Pentecost

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

April 23, 2023
Stephenson Hall, 8:30 AM

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

Third Sunday of Eastertide

Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Words of Preparation

The apostles urged that they were not innovators. They had not invented their message. As Paul was to claim later, when standing on trial before Agrippa: “So I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the people and to the Gentiles” (Acts 26:22-23)... Since the death of Jesus, his resurrection and his subsequent outpouring of the Spirit were all in fulfillment of messianic prophecy, it was evident that the new age had dawned and that Christ had ushered it in.

John Stott

Prelude

There is Hope

There is hope in grace unceasing, You withhold your wrath from me, poured it out upon my Saviour on the cross of Calvary. There is hope now for the hopeless, there is victory all can know, for the tomb lies bare and broken, and death's power is overthrown.

*Jesus Christ my hope forever, hope unlike the world can bring,
Your steadfast love beyond all measure; there is hope in Christ my King.*

There is hope for sons and daughters who have wandered on their own. Hear the songs of joy from heaven as the lost are welcomed home. *Refrain*

Hallelujah! Hope of heaven, precious treasure of my life, all my joy is in your presence. I am yours and you are mine.

I will wait until I see Him, though the twilight turns to night, for my hope is not defeated, it will greet His dawning light. *Refrain*

Song of Praise

King of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light, 'til from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word. From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one. God of Glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost. To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross. For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died. *Refrain*

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath, 'til that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame. Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free for the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me. *Refrain*

The First Reading

Psalm 132

Elder Rusty Gaddy

Prayer of Confession

Lord, Have Mercy

For what we have done and left undone, we fall on Your countless mercies. For sins that are known and those unknown, we call on Your name so holy.

For envy and pride, for closing our eyes, for scorning our very neighbor; in thought word and deed we've failed You, our King, how deeply we need a Savior!

*Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us. Lord
have mercy on us.*

For what You have done, Your life of love, You perfectly lived, we praise You! Though tempted and tried, You fixed Your eyes; You finished the work God gave You!

And there on the tree, A King among thieves, You bled for a world's betrayal; You loved to the end, our merciful Friend, how pure and forever faithful! *Refrain*

For hearts that are cold for seizing control, for scorning our very Maker; in thought word and deed, we've failed You our King, how deeply we need a Savior!

The Assurance of Pardon

Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem us, his people, from all our sins. **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.

Passing of the Peace

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

The Offertory

Buried in the Grave

There was a day we held our breath and felt the sting of bitter death, when all our hopes were buried in the grave. Our eyes awake, our hearts were torn between our faith and what we knew, before our King was buried in the grave.

Grace was in the tension of everything we'd lost. Standing empty handed, shattered by the cross.

All we had, all we had was a promise like a thread, holding us, keeping us, oh from fraying at the edge. All we knew, all we knew was You said You'd come again; You'd rise up from the dead.

There was a day we looked for proof that You had risen from the tomb, and all our doubts began to roll away. We touched the scars upon Your hands. You kept Your word, Son of Man. You buried death by taking on the grave.

You came here to save us 'cause everything was lost. No longer empty handed, clinging to the cross. *Refrain*

It is won it is done (5X) *Refrain*

The Second Reading

1 Cor 15:1-10a

Sermon

Can I Get a Witness?

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15:3

The Celebration of Communion

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Joys and Concerns of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

Song of Sending

There is a Name

There is a Name, who reigns without contention, whose power can't be questioned or contained. With humble fame, He rules the earth and heavens, His glory knows no measure or refrain, and it's bursting past the border lines of space.

Jesus, enthroned upon the praises of our hearts. Jesus, You're the King and You're the center of it all.

There is a Name, reaching past the margins, calling sons and daughters back to Him. And as He saves, we can hear the roar of Heaven, as prodigals are coming home again. Oh the triumph of His name will never end. *Refrain*

For every eye will see, every heart will know, there is no name above the name of Jesus. Death could not hold Him down, no grave could keep Him bound, all sin and sickness bow to the name of Jesus. *Refrain*

Charge and Benediction

+ + +

Our Letter of Blessing today goes to Buddy and Maggy Neal and to Dr. John Ortberg.

**Music Lovers: Hear the Good News Story!
Inspiring Concert: Multiple Choirs and Voices**

Join us today at 5:00 p.m.

*“Singing the Life of Christ,
from Prophecy to Resurrection”*

Favorite anthems and Bible readings that tell The Story.

Featuring the Chancel Choir, Celebration Singers, and First Church Choristers; with orchestra.

Reception following in the Atrium

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).

Continuing the Prayer Vigil - 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.

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 Sundays, April 30 or 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.

PKM fundraiser, this Thursday, April 27, 6:00 p.m., Bernsen Great Hall: the *Mara Gen* (love and hope) Concert includes the Tulsa Opera's *Traveling Voices* and the *International African Children's Choir*. Tickets: \$35. See <https://www.petrakids.org/mara-gen-concert>. Your gifts support the PKM Student Scholarship Fund.

Mark Your Calendar

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 and next Sunday, April 30.

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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Faith Partners Addiction Ministry - Faith Partners provides intervention, education, and recovery support to individuals and families suffering from addiction. If you are in need of help, resources, or if you have further questions, please call the Church and leave your number. A Faith Partners team member will return your call. All contact is confidential.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Linda Barnett, Rob Berry, 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: Elanor Louise Fredericka and Rosewyn Elizabeth Georgiana Hutchinson, twin daughters of Dan and Hanna Hutchinson, were baptized on April 16.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Anne Nunnelee, a member since 2018, died on April 13.

Worship Notes

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gregg and Dorothy H. Layman by Susan Layman and Peggy Welch Hoyt.

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.

The Guild of Intercessors is a group of FPC members who are dedicated to praying for the needs both within and outside of this congregation. If you'd appreciate prayer for yourself, a loved one, or a friend, please call Paula Peterson, Guild Chairman at 918-296-5548. Requests are shared with the Pastors and Guild members.

THIS WEEK

TODAY 4/23

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 4/24

11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
 6:30 pm Seasons Women's Gathering, Stephenson Hall

Tuesday 4/25

9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 4/26

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

Thursday 4/27

6:00 pm Petra Kids Ministry Choir, Great Hall

Saturday 4/29

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>Wesley Study on Minor Prophets</i>	Prayer Room
Harbingers	<i>All the Places to Go</i>	E200
Morning Glory	<i>Eternity is Now in Session</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>Judges</i>	E103
Sojourners	<i>Study of Ruth</i>	E203
UKirk	King David	E204
Westminster	New Testament Overview	E104
Young Adults	Introduction of Spiritual Disciplines	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.

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

Currently Serving Deacons

Class of 2023

*Sheri Allen
Keith Campbell
Michael Homan
Cindy Johnson
Lucy Kamande
Clint McQueen
Dylan Seibert
Ed Slier
Julie Steiner
Shannon Thomas*

Class of 2024

*Tina Aruna
Bette Cromer
Sandy Curtis
Quentin Franklin
Carter Mathews
Buddy Neal
Valentine Ndunga
Dan Richmond
Grace Shelton
Scott Swanson*

Class of 2025

*Anita Anthony
Tyler Bird
Nancy Blocker
Beryl Bolo
Brandon Evans
Jeremy Foon
Nick McMillan
Janet Mercer
Gladys Njino
Cissy Ssettimba*

Currently Serving Trustees

Class of 2023

*Todd Schuster
Robert Pielsticker
Amy Tingleaf*

Class of 2024

*Steve Caldwell
Jane Crain
Pam Farris*

Class of 2025

*Dr. John Frame
Ken McQueen
Barrett Powers*

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.