



# ***God's Resolve, and Our Response***

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

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## ***Third Sunday of Epiphany***

January 22, 2023  
Sanctuary, 11:00 AM

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

# ***Third Sunday of Epiphany***

*Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.*

## **The Words of Preparation**

All our life, so far as it has definite form, is but a mass of habits - practical, emotional, and intellectual - systematically organized for our benefit or woe, and bearing us irresistibly toward our destiny, whatever the latter may be.

William James

## **The Prelude**

My Jesus, I Love Thee

arr. Hayes

Lord of the Dance

arr. Carter

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Labenske

*Doris Herald and Nancy Strimel, pianists*

## **The Welcome**

Dr. Miller

## **The Call to Worship**

The earliest Christian confession of faith consist of three words: *Jesus is Lord*. We gather here to sing His praise and to reaffirm the apostolic witness:

**There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ --through whom all things came and through whom we live.**

I Corinthians 8:6

Or, as the apostle Peter puts it:

**In your hearts revere Christ as Lord.**

I Peter 3:15

Or consider John, describing Jesus as the Resurrected Messiah:

**On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: *King of kings and Lord of lords.***

Revelation 19:16

Jesus said of Himself,

**“All authority in heaven and upon earth has been given to me.”**

Matthew 28:16

This is great good news. It gives ample reason to join the universal choir, lift up our voices and sing His praise.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

- ◆ **The Hymn 142** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name CORONATION  
*Acolytes: Elias, James, and Samuel Donohue*

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration** Jeremy Williams  
Vibe Director, Crossover Church

### **The Old Testament Reading** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord, is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Lord of every blessing, Lord over all which threatens the Life you created us to experience, Lord of all lords, hear our prayers: we confess that we have failed to follow the disciplines you lay out for us in both Old and New Testaments. Our hearts are divided and distracted; our sincere desire to put you first, often succumbs to competing interests. As apprentices, we have failed the

course on discipleship. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive us. By your Spirit give us the grace to step into this week with a new resolve. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers...*(in silence)*

Lord, Who Knows My Heart

Daniel Burton

*Lucy Donohue, soloist*

Lord, who sees my every thought, Lord, who hears my quiet need, Lord, who walks the path I travel, Lord, who knows my heart. When I stand and when I sit, he is always close at hand; every word upon my lips he will understand. Nowhere here in earth or heaven could I ever run away from the God that gently guides me to the day. If I take the morning's wings, soaring to a distant sea, there his loving hands will meet me; Lord, who knows my heart. *Psalm 139*

## **The Invitation to Embrace Forgiveness**

...friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness –for all who call upon Him!  
**Alleluia! Amen!**

### **◆ The Response**

You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace, the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap, their Hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands –while you go out with joy.

Isaiah 55:12

## ◆ **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**

Jeremy Williams

God Can Grow Blessings Out of Anything!

## **The New Testament Reading** Acts 2:32-47

## **The Sermon** God's Resolve, and Our Response

### **(4) A Disciplined Response**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship to the breaking of bread and the prayers... Acts 2:42*

## **The Anthem** Speak to One Another of Psalms Jean Berger

Speak to one another, of psalms and of holy writings, of carols and anthems. Sing ye and praise ye the Lord, sing ye and praise him; sing ye and praise ye, and sing to the Lord, and praise him!

## **The Joys and Concerns of the Church**

## **The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (sung by congregation)

- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude** Improvisation on the tune CORONATION

### **First Church Updates**

**A heartfelt welcome, and the joy of this Epiphany season,** to each and all of you! In this New Year, may the Lord cause His Light to shine brightly through this expression of the Body of Christ.

**Our *Letter of Well-Wishing*** (placed just outside the door of this space) is directed today to Ted and Emily Shults, son and daughter-in-law of Porter and Susan Shults.

### ***Today***

**Today! Annual Chili Cook-Off** in the atrium following the 11:00 a.m. services. Funds raised from the “popular vote” goes toward Springfield trips for Anderson Elementary. Join us for fellowship and great chili and learn more about the *Lunch Buddy* program at Anderson --and becoming a champion with the Masterwork Academy.

**Faith and Physics? A Different Angle!** Join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Stephenson Hall -- to hear Jerry McCoy, Professor of Physics at the University of Tulsa. A seven-week series on his soon-to-be-published (!) book: *God Is A LOT Bigger Than You Think: the Story Science Tells*. Jerry will teach this same material

on Wednesdays at 11:30 in room E104. Lunch is available on Wednesdays.

## **This Week**

**The January Series** – a fifteen-weekday lecture series every weekday through January 27; lunch (\$7) is available 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](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org) or 918-301-1028.

### **Wednesday Night downtown: Six-Week Series**

#### **Wednesdays**

Navigating the River (of Culture):  
What Christians Need to Know

Wednesdays: today through February 15  
5:30 dinner/6:15 class, Stephenson Hall

Examining our Culture: Healthy, Robust, or Not So Much?  
Examining the Church?

What kind of challenges face the Church?

What questions is the Culture asking the Church?

January 25: Father George Ebert, St. Antony Eastern Orthodox

February 1: The Rev. Terry Buxton, Agape Bible Fellowship

February 8: Bishop David Konderla, Catholic Diocese of Tulsa

February 15: Dr. Jeff Francis, Sharp Chaplain, University of Tulsa

**Seekers** - Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in room E104, this is an in-depth study of the weekly sermon scriptures, led by Rev. Wambugu Gachungi.

## Mark Your Calendar

***News from the Front (Feb. 4 – 5): a remarkable two-day opportunity*** to hear Dr. Ivan Rusyn, President of the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary speak on both the tragedy and the deep hope unfolding in Ukraine. Dr. Rusyn lives in Kiev with his wife, Luda, who will also be with us. Dr. Rusyn speaks in the Stephenson Hall on Saturday night, February 4, and Sunday, February 5 at the Pastor's class at 9:30 a.m., and he will preach at our all-church Festival Sunday service, 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Mark your calendars! All-Church Retreat: March 24-25, 2023:** New Life Ranch. Dr. Wes Vander Lugt and family will lead the way. Dr. Vander Lugt serves as our keynote speaker.

## Ongoing Ministries

**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 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 at 918-584-4701 and leave your number. A team member will return your call.

**Internship Opportunity**– Are you a college student who loves the Lord Jesus and enjoys working with youth? Next Generation Ministries is now receiving applications for its

summer youth ministry internship program. For more information, contact Steve Wilson at [swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:swilson@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Presbyterian Women's January Mission** project is Anderson Elementary School. To help the school begin the new year, they will be collecting boxes of tissue, pencils, crayons, erasers, copy paper, white construction paper, and disinfecting wipes. Their mission container will be in the atrium on Wednesdays and Sundays for your donations.

## **Opportunities to Serve the Master**

**Children's Ministry opportunities** - Come serve with the youngest members of our congregation!

Two Second Grade Sunday School Classroom Assistants - Join us once a month to assist the lead Sunday school teacher in the classroom. Duties include assisting with crafts and helping with the lesson. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Two Awana Substitute Leaders - Join us on Wednesday evenings 6:00 -7:30 p.m. when needed. Fill in as a group leader by moving children to activity stations and helping with scripture memory.

Infant/Nursery/Preschool 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Baby Rockers- Come help rock babies in the infant room. Sunday School Classroom Assistant-Help the classroom lead teacher with lesson, craft and general playtime.

**Memorial Service Greeting Ministry:** Serve as a greeter for memorial services. Approximately an hour commitment. Memorial services are usually on weekday afternoons and

sometimes on Saturdays. If interested, please contact Kathy Wilson at [kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org)/918-301-1029.

**Book Table** – help provide books and resources to the congregation. Manage the inventory of books and assist congregants with selecting titles and authors. If interested, please contact Laura Stevens at [lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org)/918-301-1019.

**Masterwork Academy** is all about the arts—of serving, of being available, of encouraging, and of being a friend. Of course, we're all about dance, art, music, theater, fitness and learning the Bible too. We're not looking for skill, we're looking for heart. If yours beats with the love of Christ and you have an weekday afternoon from 3 – 5:00 p.m. to spare, please contact Jenette McEntire at [jmcentire@masterworkacademy.org](mailto:jmcentire@masterworkacademy.org) or Laura Voth, [lvoth@masterworkacademy.org](mailto:lvoth@masterworkacademy.org)/918-954-1100.

**Seeking writers and photographers** - We have volunteer opportunities to serve in our communications area as a writer or photographer. We publish a quarterly magazine and semimonthly newsletter; we are seeking folks who would love to tell or illustrate our stories. To volunteer, contact Louann Buhlinger at [lbuhlinger@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:lbuhlinger@firstchurchtulsa.org)/918-740-7055.

## **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, Rusty Houston, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Susan Lawrence, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann

McKellar, Jan Miller, David Morgan, Jane Mulkey, David Osterholt, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, 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:** Obadiah Emmanuel Estes, son of Lindsey and James Estes, was baptized on January 15.

**The Joy of New Life! We welcome:** Maeven James McIntosh, daughter of Breana and Jacob McIntosh, was born on January 10; Charlotte Sutton Powers, daughter of Barrett and Carly Powers, was born on January 10.

**Sympathy and Prayers to:** Jennifer Just Anthony on the death of her sister, Carolyn Jeannette Just, on January 10; and to Libby Freeman on the death of her brother last week.

## **Worship Notes**

**The flowers in today's Sanctuary worship** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Diane Miller whose birthday is January 26, by Dr. Jim Miller and family.

**Services are broadcast** and 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](http://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](mailto: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 1/23

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

### Monday 1/24

- 11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103

### Tuesday 1/25

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

### Wednesday 1/26

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
- 11:30 am Downtown Theological Roundtable, 204
- 12:00 pm Pathways to Hope, 206
- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
- 6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area
- 6:15 pm Various Adult Classes
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Saturday 1/28

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103

## COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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

Cornerstone	Minor Prophets	E102
Covenanters	<i>Renovated: God, Dallas, &amp; the Church That Transforms</i>	E101
Forum	<i>Prayers of Jesus</i> study	E200
Harbingers	<i>Hearing God</i>	E202
Morning Glory	Prayers and Bible Study	E201
New Parents	Theology and Parenting	E205
Pastor's Study 1	Faith and Physics	Stephenson Hall
Pastor's Study 2	<i>The Parables of Jesus</i>	E104
Reflections	<i>Christian Life in Ordinary Time</i>	E103
Shepherds	Spiritual Disciplines	E203
Sojourners	Old Testament	E204
UKirk	<i>The Parables of Jesus</i>	E104
The Vine	<i>The Life You've always Wanted</i>	
Westminster	<i>Theology Brewed in an African Pot</i>	Tower Room
Young Adults	<i>The Parables of Jesus</i>	E104

