

First Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Words of Preparation

In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:1

*They say Aslan is on the move - perhaps he has already landed.
(from C. S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)*

The Welcome

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

The Introit An Advent Acclamation

French melody, arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

Gloria Choir

Gretchen Bashforth, director; Beverly Parschauer, pianist

Look to the light, prepare the way. Turn from night, embrace the day. Let all creation praise with singing; set every bell in heaven ringing. *Raise every candle, shine the news: Christ, the Light, is coming soon!* Look to the dawn, prepare your heart. Waken your song, let worship start. This is a day of celebration; join in the moment of jubilation. *Refrain.* Look to the star that gilds the East, golden of heart and burning with peace. See now the torch is rising yonder, lifting our hearts with glorious wonder. *Refrain.*

The Lighting of the Advent Candle (1) Hope

Zach, Carly, and Logan Rivers; Debi Foster

At Christmas, Jesus came as a baby;

Jesus is coming again.

He came to our darkened world because He loves us;

Jesus is coming again.

He came to save us from sin;

Jesus is coming again.

He died, rose from the dead, and is sovereign over all!

And He is coming again.

We praise Him who came as a baby,

– and will come again at the end of time! Alleluia! Jesus, the great, good King is coming!

Let us stand and sing our prayer:

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

- ◆ **The Hymn 2** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Acolytes: Grace Garrett, Sophia Jacobson, Vivienne Fravel

- ◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Rev. Vince King

The Call to Confession

Rev. Dan Hutchinson

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession.

Almighty God, all of us live “east of Eden” in a wilderness of our own making. Where there was unity, we have sown discord; where there was peace, we’ve created conflict; where there was trust, we’ve cultivated unbelief. In this season of Advent, cause us to hear that voice that cries in our wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord!” Deepen our trust, grant us your peace, and unite us by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might bear effective witness to your goodness and glory, now, forever and always. Amen.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

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Adult Sunday Morning Classes for NEXT Sunday, meeting at 9:30

Bible Walk <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>Revelations</i> , Class led	E101
Cornerstone <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>Believe</i> , Class led	E102
Covenanters <i>(Couples w/children)</i>	<i>Godspeed</i> , Class led	E201
Faith and Family <i>(Parents)</i>	<i>Children and Materialism</i> , Class led	West Parlor
Forum <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>The Message of Christmas</i> by Eugene Peterson, Class led	E200
Front Porch Team <i>(All ages)</i>	Rev. Dan Hutchinson teaching	BC Recpt
Harbingers <i>(Singles/couples)</i>	<i>C. S. Lewis' Pilgrimage from Atheism to the Christian Faith</i>	E202
Mariners <i>(Seniors)</i>	<i>C. S. Lewis on Prayer</i> , Kay Ward	E104
The Niche 2.0 <i>(Special needs)</i>	<i>The Bible Project</i> , Tim Clement	Kirkland Library
Pastor's Study	<i>Reconvenes January 13</i> , Dr. Jim Miller	Miller Library
Reflections <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>Pastoral Epistles</i> , Class led	E103
Shepherds <i>(Singles/couples)</i>	<i>The Gift of Emmanuel</i> , Janet Bull	E203
Sojourners <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>Waiting for the Lord</i> , Duff Points	E204
The Vine <i>(Singles/couples)</i>	<i>Godspeed</i> , Class led	E100
Westminster <i>(All ages)</i>	<i>Godspeed</i> , Class led	Tower Room
Young Adults <i>(20's & 30's)</i>	<i>Soul Keeping</i> by John Ortberg, Class led	316 Pastor's Study

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 12/02/18

Worship Services 8:00 a.m., Kerr Chapel; 8:30 a.m., Stephenson; 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Stephenson Hall, Great Hall, (Bernsen Center)

C. S. Lewis Weekend: Dr. Jerry Root, 9:30, Stephenson

First Family Chili Lunch, 12:15, Atrium

Advent Workshop: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., Powerhouse

Monday 12/3/18 **Moms on Mondays** 9:30 a.m. Room E101

Monday School Lunch 11:30 a.m. Study: noon. Kirkland Library.

Overtones Bells rehearsal 7:00 p.m.. 309 Bell Choir

Tuesday 12/4/18 **Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship Study** 6:45 - 7:45 a.m.

Room E313.

Precept Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Room E100. A study of *1 Timothy - The Church, the Pillar and Support of the Truth.*

Wednesday 12/5/18 **Men's Bible Study.** 6:45 - 7:45 a.m. Room E101.

Marys and Marthas Bible Study. 10:00 a.m. Room E101.

Pastor's Study. 11:30 a.m. Room E104. *(Please make your reservations online)*

Yoga Class. Noon. 1st Floor Reception, BC. Open to all.

AWANA, WNDT, Financial Peace University, Confirmation. 6:00 p.m. various locations. Check at Welcome Desk.

Gloria Choir rehearsal. 5:30 p.m. Room 308

Chancel Choir rehearsal. 6:30 p.m. Choir Room.

Thursday 12/6/18 **Hearts for the Lord Bible Study**, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. KRC. This Bible study is for Christian women of all ages and denominations. Bring your friends!

Friday 12/7/18 No Events

Saturday 12/8/18 **Before the Rooster Crows** 8:45 a.m. Room E103.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE EVENTS:

December 8	Carols and Cocoa - Following the Christmas parade
December 9	First Church Holy Land Orientation: 12:30 p.m., Room E-104
December 19	Christmas Cèilidh 5:30 p.m., Stephenson Hall
December 21	“Celebrating Christmas Together,” 1:00 p.m., Emerson Elementary
December 23	Christmas Music Sunday
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00, 5:00, 7:30, and 10:30 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Worship: 11:00 a.m.

THE FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Thanks for adding to the joy of worship in this Advent season. If you're visiting First Church today, we hope you'll sense the presence of Christ among us here, and catch our desire to take God's "Covenantal Love" seriously.

We're glad to welcome to the pulpit this morning, Dr. Jerry Root, Professor of Evangelism, at Wheaton College! He continues his reflections on C. S. Lewis in the Stephenson Hall at 9:30 a.m.

First Family Chili Lunch - It's chili time! Join family and friends in the Atrium at 12:15 p.m. today following worship for this year's First Family Chili Lunch. Cost is \$3, children 12 and under are free. No reservation needed, just bring your appetite!

Advent Workshop - Today! 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Powerhouse. Celebrate the season and create special memories at Advent Workshop! We'll provide all the supplies for crafts of varying difficulties to make great Christmas keepsakes or gifts for family, neighbors and teachers. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. Suggested donation is \$10.

Good News! The 8:10 Mission Endowment Campaign is closer to the goal. We're approximately \$570,000 away from "burning the mortgage" and enabling the revenue generated from the 8:10 building to be released for mission and ministry in metro Tulsa. Every dollar you give is doubled, thanks to a matching gift from the Stephenson Family Foundation. We pray for every member to support this mission effort!

Celebrating Christmas Together - Please join the Deacons and Celebrate Christmas Together with the children of Emerson Elementary School. Learn more about this special partner school program and select a child for "adoption" at the adoption table in Miller Atrium from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. today.

Carols & Cocoa - Join us downtown for the Tulsa Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 8, starting at 1:00 p.m. right outside our doors on Boston Avenue. Immediately following the parade, join us for Carols & Cocoa in the Courtyard and live music in Stephenson Hall. To volunteer, please call Jessica Case at (918)645-0768.

Emerson scarves! Do you knit, crochet, or sew? We have approximately 30 sixth-graders who will appreciate a hand-crafted scarf created by you or someone you know who would enjoy creating a scarf. The information about this ministry is available at the Atrium desk. Please bring your scarf to the Atrium desk on Sunday, December 2.

The Gift Back Mission Market is OPEN in the Atrium through Wednesday, December 19. Honor your family and friends while providing tangible gifts to support twelve different local, national, and global organizations with items they need. Purchase online at firstchurchtulsa.org/giftback or contact Angela Gwinner at (918) 301-1039 for more information.

In the Footsteps of Jesus: First Church in the Holy Land: September 5 - 19, 2019. Dr. Miller leads this two-week pilgrimage. Please call Dionna at (918)301-1029 to sign up for a Q & A session to be held on **Sunday, December 16, at 12:30 p.m.** in Room E104.

Monday School, Christian Classics during Advent: Rev. James Estes leads a study of the Nativity Kontakion written by Romanos the Byzantine Melodist, who was one of the great poets of Byzantine antiquity. Class meets weekly from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Kirkland Library. Optional lunch, 11:30 a.m.; November 26, December 3 and 10.

Faith Partners Addiction Ministry is here to nurture individuals and families by offering compassion, resources, and education. This beautiful season of joy can be stressful and overwhelming, driving us to find a way to cope. For more information, please call the church at (918)584-4701. Printed materials are available in the NW corner of the Miller Library or on the FPC website: firstchurchtulsa.org/addiction.

The Invitation to Welcome the Lord's Grace

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

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground: He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

◆ 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 Sheer Fun of Sharing Good News!

Children in K – 2nd grade are excused to attend K2 Quest

The Epistle Readings 1 John 3:1-3

The Sermon Loving God is the Most Important Thing Dr. Jerry Root
See what love the Father has given us... 1 John 3:1

The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers John Ferguson

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wonder; at midnight comes the cry. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand. The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free! Amen. *Matthew 25: 1-13*

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Words of Institution
The Prayer of Consecration
The Sharing of the Bread and Cup
The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ **The Hymn 15** Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers! LANCASHIRE

◆ **The Charge and Benediction**

◆ **The Postlude** Savior of the Nations, Come J. S. Bach

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Glenn Brumbaugh, Nancy Burns, Eleanor Carmack, Diane Cherry, Coleman Coates, Sandra Cousins, Marilyn Davis, Fred Droege, Carol Dunning, Allan Edwards, Vivienne Edwards, Margaret Fisher, Fred Fulkerson, Eugene Gilbert, Ken Graeler, Mary Hight, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, June Holmes, Nathan Homan, Dick Horkey, Meg Hubler, Larry Don Johnson, Ralph Kitch, Joyce Kunkel, John Lesch, Tom Marberry, Jimmie Mathews, George Matson, Ann McKellar, Gabriella Mungai, Pamela Neumann, Patti Parker, Kim Pedersen, Don Perry, Robert Perryman, Sue Phelps, Katherine Reid, Stephen Riungu, Jacob Rodehaver, Amy Russell, Cissy Ssetimba, Dan Thomas, Bill Thompson, Chris Traband, Laura Vickery, Elaine Vinson, Joe Wanenmacher, Sandi Willhite, Jack Williams, Jean Williams, Janetta Williamson, and Ruth Wilson.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Olivia Dru Seibert, daughter of Katie and Bradley Seibert; Brekken Jubal Crowe, son of Paige and JJ Crowe, was baptized on November 25, 2018.

Letters of Well-Wishing are available for you to sign before or after the services. This week the letters go to Bruce and DD Blackman, and Marilyn Davis Family.

WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers for today's worship service in the Chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William W. Means by Mary Ellen Means and family.

Do you (or someone you know) need prayer? Please complete a prayer request card from the Sanctuary pew or the Friendship Register. Place the card in the offering plate, the prayer request plaque on the Narthex wall, or in the prayer request box at the Welcome Center in the Miller Atrium. Pastors and members of the Guild of Intercessors will pray over your request. All prayer requests will be treated in a confidential manner.

Allergen-free communion wafers (wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut, and corn free) are available from ushers.

You may give your weekly offering to the Lord electronically at www.firstchurchtulsa.org or text 405-276-4141.

First Church telecasts are: Sunday 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. on Cox 3 and Channel 1003 (HD). Also now available on the church website, www.firstchurchtulsa.org on the "Digital Media" tab.

Keeping the "Lord's Will" in "our Will" extends what we can do to advance the Kingdom beyond our lifetime! Have you included the First Church Foundation in your will?

For those who need assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

To notify the church of a birth, death, illness, hospitalization, change of address/phone number in your family or to request a pastoral visit at home or in the hospital, please contact Dionna Schooley (918-301-1029) or dschooley@firstchurchtulsa.org.

First Church sermons may be listened to on the web. Go to www.firstchurchtulsa.org and click on the link to Media and then Pastor's Audio Sermons.

THE FIRST CHURCH PASTORS

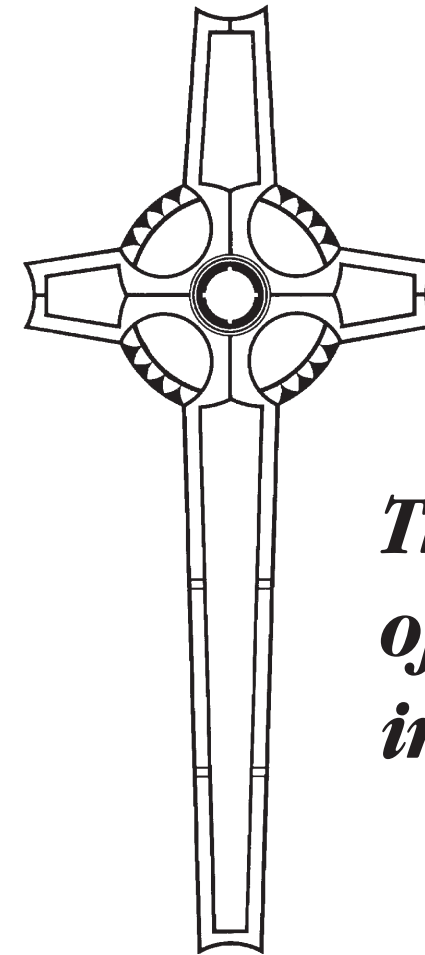
James D. Miller, Ph.D., *Co-Pastor* Ryan V. Moore, Ph.D., *Co-Pastor*
James Estes, M.Div., *Associate Pastor* Daniel Hutchinson, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*
Wambugu Gachungi, M.Div., *Associate Pastor*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF TULSA

Tulsa's First Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.
If you or someone you know needs the support of a good listener
who offers distinctively Christian caring, please call 918-301-1029.

709 South Boston Avenue ♡ Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119
(918) 584-4701 ♡ www.firstchurchtulsa.org



*The People
of God
in Worship*

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

DECEMBER 2, 2018

11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Organized in 1885*