



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

## The Service for the Lord's Day

April 25, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

### Creation Care

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

When you see an asterisk \*, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.

Children are welcome in worship! A nursery is also available for infants and toddlers in Room 119.

## We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth* (hymn 14)

arr. Stan Pethel

Jim Borgstadt, clarinet

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

CHIME

INTROIT

*Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

Sanctuary Singers

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Church, where do you see God?

**People: We see God in the wide reach of sky, in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea, and in the vividness of flowers.**

Leader: Church, where else do you see God?

**People: We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries, and in the stars that light the night.**

Leader: And in your seeing, what do you know?

**People: We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of all creation!

**People: Let us worship the God of all creation!**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

Mike Hancock

**Holy One, creator of all that is; help us to be mindful of the earth and all its resources. Help us to remember the love you have for creation, the willingness you have for all creation to be redeemed. Cause us to repent of our neglect of your earth. Move in us to repair the damage we and previous generations of humanity have caused. As we repent, make us true stewards of your creation. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Creator God, we have lost our way.

**People: In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite.**

Leader: The oceans are heavy with plastic. Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end. Our lifestyles fill the atmosphere with pollution. Policies and practices are slow to change.

**People: Forgive us, O God. Bring us back to the garden.**

Leader: Fill our hearts with compassion for your world. Show us where we can make a difference and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world.

**All: With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray: Amen.**

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Family of faith:

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

***As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Community Garden

Elizabeth Hatcher

## **We Proclaim God's Word**

DISCOVERY TIME

Children are invited forward for a special message.

Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image; those on the floor facing the steps will not.

# Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

(Psalm 148)

1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!  
 2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,  
 3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:  
 4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy

Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!  
 you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!  
 you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!  
 to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!

Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!  
 Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.  
 Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!  
 Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:

Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!  
 Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!  
 Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!  
 "To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"

This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise “from the heavens” is matched by praise “from the earth.”

ANTHEM

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

Sanctuary Singers

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light; For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild; For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven: Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 12:7-10 (pg. 462)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Beautiful Things*

Michael & Lisa Gungor

Sarah Gwatney, alto; Lars Pollard, tenor

*All this pain: I wonder if I'll ever find my way. I wonder if my life could really change at all. All this earth: could all that is lost ever be found? Could a garden come up from this ground at all? You make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things out of us. All around hope is springing up from this old ground. Out of chaos life is being found in You. You make me new; You are making me new.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:20 (pg. 20)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Lessons from the Garden*

Rev. John C. McKinnon

## **We Respond to God's Word**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a creating God**

**who delights in the Earth and calls it good.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit**

**who moves through creation like a mighty rushing wind.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth**

**who calmed the seas and told stories of**

**mustard seeds, birds, and valleys.**

**We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with creation,**

**and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God.**

**Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation:**

**to plant flowers,**

**to speak tenderly to animals,**

**to thank the Earth for her bounty,**

**to clean the streams,**

**to protect the forests,**

**and to live like we are standing on holy ground,**

**because we are.**

**Amen.**

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good and joyful now and always to give thanks and praise to you,  
O God, as we sing together:

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Today we gather at the table of God's peace.... Here in this place, here at this table is  
exactly where you belong.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell,... When we eat this bread, we become  
one with one another, and we are nourished in body and spirit.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

# 20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,  
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

# To Bless the Earth

# 38

(Psalm 65)

1 To bless the earth God sends us from  
2 The seed by God pro - vid - ed is  
3 God crowns the year with good - ness; the  
4 With grain the fields are cov - ered; the

heaven's a - bun - dant store the wa - ters of the  
sown o'er hill and plain, and then come gen - tle  
earth God's mer - cy fills; the wil - der - ness is  
flocks in pas - tures graze; all na - ture joins in

spring - time, en - rich - ing it once more.  
show - ers to bless the spring - ing grain.  
fruit - ful, and joy - ful are the hills.  
sing - ing a joy - ful song of praise.

These four stanzas present a paraphrase of Psalm 65:9–13, a celebration of God's providential care, which in turn draws forth a song of praise from all creation. This text is set to an early 17th-century tune composed for an affirmative chorale text often used at funerals.

# **BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

April 25, 2026

## **Words of Appreciation**

Catholic Campaign for Human Development – Minick Materials  
Girl Scouts Troops 633, 612, & 182 – SPARK – First Presbyterian Church

## **Prayer of Dedication**

**Voice 1:** Creator God, giver of every good thing that springs forth from the earth,  
we approach your redeeming grace this day to open ourselves  
to ways we can bring healing to your creation.

**Voice 2:** Thank you for the hands that tend to this patch of your earthly kingdom.  
Prosper the work of their hands so they have harvest enough to share.  
Master Gardener of creation, hear our prayers.

**Voice 3:** Let us pray for: trees, plants, crops, and forests...  
Let us pray for: water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds...  
Let us pray for: air, wind, climate and weather...

**Voice 1:** Let us pray for: the reduction of global warming...  
Let us pray for: every kind of bird, every creature of the rivers and seas,  
every creeping thing of the earth...  
Let us pray for: humankind and for peace...

**Voice 2:** Let us pray for: recycling and moderate personal consumption...  
Let us pray for: proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste...  
Let us pray for: responsible public policy to protect the earth  
and unity in its support...

**Voice 3:** "God has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

(Micah 6: 8)

**All:** Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask Your forgiveness where we  
have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for Your guidance in restoring the  
face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of  
resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.

**Amen.**

## POURING OF THE CUP

They say that he also took the wine leftover on the table,... As grapes find life in the vine, when we drink this cup, we are drawn together and sustained by the abundant source of life itself.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

## BLESSING

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

VOLUNTARY      *This Is My Father's World* (hymn 370)  
Jim Borgstadt, clarinet

arr. Stan Pethel

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## We Go in God's Name

\*HYMN 38

*To Bless the Earth*

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Fingal's Cave Overture (Themes)*

Felix Mendelssohn

## Community Garden

As of today, all 15 plots have been assigned to gardeners! If you or someone you know is interested, please call (405-525-6584) or email ([office@fpcokc.org](mailto:office@fpcokc.org)) the church office to learn more or add your name to the waiting list.

Give to  
FPC today!



SCAN ME

## Upcoming Events

### **Bridge Group — Mondays | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Wednesdays | 9:00-11:30 a.m.**

We meet in Room B-10 (basement) on Mondays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Whether you've never played, are returning after a break, or just want to join a friendly bridge group, we've got a spot for you!

**Contact Barbara Charlet ([barbara.charlet@outlook.com](mailto:barbara.charlet@outlook.com)) or David Ligon ([david.m.ligon@gmail.com](mailto:david.m.ligon@gmail.com)) for more information.**

### **Evening Prayer Service — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.**

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m., followed by an Evening Prayer Service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. This short worship service features sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday and helping us transition into a restful night.

**After the service, we'll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00–6:30 p.m.**

### **Free Yoga Class — Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.**

Our free yoga class is available weekly on Wednesdays! Angela Rose leads the hour-long class in the Rec Room in the basement. All skill levels are welcome.

### **Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

The choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays! If you are interested in joining, please contact Puffer Jones ([puffer@fpcokc.org](mailto:puffer@fpcokc.org)).

### **Graduate Recognition Sunday — Sunday, May 3 | 11:00 a.m.**

Join us as we celebrate our graduates during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We're proud of them and all they've accomplished. Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for our First Sunday Lunch as we continue the celebration with food and fellowship.

**Menu:** Chicken, Peppers, and Penne; Spicy Sausage and Mushroom Pasta; Garlic Bread; Caesar Salad; and Panna Cotta

### **Abigail Circle — Friday, May 8 | 6:00 p.m.**

Location TBD.

### **Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, May 12 | 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting in Room 122 on the first floor of the church.

### **Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, May 12 | 1:30 p.m.**

Meeting at the home of Dorothy Hays.

## **Urban Mission Annual Golf Scramble — Monday, June 8 | 7:30 a.m.**

Sign up now to reserve your spot and save the date! Register your foursome or let The Urban Mission put you on a winning team.

Registration is \$125 per person. All proceeds from this event go to benefit The Urban Mission's programs, which support Oklahomans in need. Register at [\*\*urbanmissionokc.org/events\*\*](https://urbanmissionokc.org/events).

# First Presbyterian Church

1001 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 | 405-525-6584 | [www.fpcokc.org](http://www.fpcokc.org)