



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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## The Service for the Lord's Day – August 10, 2025 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

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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 *What Is the World Like* (hymn 771) John L. Edwards

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE Jeff Austin

CHIME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP - *Psalm 50:1-2* Rev. Dr. Charlie Smith

Leader: The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

**People: From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 24 *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* HOLY MANNA

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

**Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

## 24

God, Who Stretched the  
Spangled Heavens

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am




1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi -  
 2 Proud - ly rise our mod - ern cit - ies, state - ly  
 3 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the  
 4 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it

(Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (Bm) Dm (A) C (Bm) Dm (A) C



nite in time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing  
 build - ings row on row. Yet their win - dows, blank, un -  
 child - hood of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of  
 chal - lenge us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive

(G) Bb (F#m) Am (G) Bb (A) C (D) F



ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space,  
 feel - ing, stare on can - yoned streets be - low,  
 wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;  
 pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

(D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (G) Bb (Em7) Gm7 (G) Bb (F#m7) Am7



we, your chil - dren in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive  
 where the lone - ly drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's  
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i -  
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or

The crux of this text comes in the second stanza: if we dare to claim God-given abilities, we need also to show God-like compassion for the human needs that confront us daily. The earthy shape note tune provides a further reminder that we must not lose our heads in the clouds.

# CREATION AND PROVIDENCE



powers with you. Great Cre - a - tor, still cre -  
ebb and flow, lost to pur - pose and to  
mag - ined power, fac - ing us with life's de -  
well be - gun. Great Cre - a - tor, give us



at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.  
struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.** (silent confession)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**    Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.  
To this peace we are called as members of a single body.  
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.*

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

**DISCOVERY TIME**            Children are invited forward for a special message.                      Cyndi Lockwood  
Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image;  
those on the floor facing the steps will not.

Afterwards, a nursery is provided in Room 119 for children four and under.  
Children—5 years old to 4th grade—are invited to attend Children's Church in Room 215.  
Parents may pick up children after worship from Room 215 or Room 119 for the nursery.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      Hebrews 11:1-16 (pg. 225)  
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

*10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

Puffer Jones, baritone

*Bless the Lord, O my soul; worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger. Your name is great, and Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness I will keep on singing: ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come, still my soul will sing Your praise unending: ten thousand years and then forevermore.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:32-40 (pg. 75)

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

SERMON

*Off Script*

Rev. Dr. Charlie Smith

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

\*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.**

\*HYMN 362

*Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

LLANGLOFFAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Collection plates are located by the doors as you exit the Sanctuary.)

OFFERTORY

*Hymn of Promise* (hymn 250)

John L. Edwards

\*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## **We Go in God's Name**

\*HYMN 320

*The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Agincourt Hymn* (hymn 258)

John Dunstable

## 362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;  
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.  
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

## 320 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Kova McLean upon the death of her sister, Karoll Ann Herrick, on July 17, 2025. A memorial service was held on Friday, August 1, at Asbury United Methodist Church in Lafayette, Louisiana. Please keep Kova and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

## Welcome

We welcome Rev. Dr. Charlie Smith to our worship today. Rev. Smith currently serves as the Presbytery Pastor of Indian Nations Presbytery (officed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our building).

Thank you, Charlie, for leading us in worship!

## Today

### Sunday School Classes

- Evergreen | Room B-14 (9:30 a.m.)
- Builders | Room B-8 (9:45 a.m.)
- New Beginnings | Fireside Room (9:30 a.m.)
- High School | Youth Lounge (9:45 a.m.)

### Coffee & Cookies Fellowship | 9:30-10:55 a.m.

Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are available in the Reception Center every Sunday before worship!

### Sunday Worship | 11:00 a.m.

### Vacation Bible School — Sundays, August 3-August 31 | 9:45-10:55 a.m.

Join us today for the second Sunday of Vacation Bible School! This year we will be discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things through our *Magnified* series.

## Upcoming Events

### Individual Prayer & Evensong Worship — 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 Evensong service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. Evensong is a short worship service, featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the 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.

### Reserve the Third — Saturday, August 16 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Reserve the Third Crew is volunteering at the Urban Mission in August! **Please contact Roane Pittman ([johnpittmanmd@gmail.com](mailto:johnpittmanmd@gmail.com)) for more details or to RSVP.**

I invite you to join me in this exercise, a practice used to teach improv and suggested to me by fellow Presbyterian minister MaryAnn McKibben Dana.

Below, you'll find the start of several different sentences.

Now, this game is intended to be a group exercise; part of the fun is "playing off" your partner, who is "feeding you" the previous line. To keep things moving today, though, I might suggest you find one other partner so that you can take turns filling in sentences. (If you want to play it alone, that's fine, but it does take a bit of the improv element out of the equation.)

Once you finish completing one sentence, move on to the next one, taking turns.

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**Once upon a time ...**

**And every day ...**

**Until one day ...**

**And because of this ...**

**And because of that ...**

**Until finally ...**

**And ever since that day ...**