



First Presbyterian Church
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Service for the Lord's Day – May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

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.

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

Prelude

Burnet Tuthill

Joe Charlton, horn

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

FIRST CHIME

INTROIT

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Sanctuary Singers

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship. In quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.

People: This is where we belong. This is where God will feed our deepest hunger.

Leader: Before God's strength and power, we bow down; in eager anticipation, we listen for God's word.

People: Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts. Direct us now in the path you would have us go.

All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 463**

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison) - *Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380 – 25 July 1471)*

Jim Rogers

Lord, make possible for me by grace what is impossible to me by nature. You know that I am not able to endure very much, and that I am downcast by the slightest difficulty. Grant that for your sake I may come to love and desire any hardship that puts me to the test, for salvation is brought to my soul when I undergo suffering and trouble for you. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) - *Celtic Prayer*

Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I can remember, and also the sins that I have forgotten. Forgive the wrong actions I have committed, and the right actions I have omitted. Forgive the times I have been weak in the face of temptation, and those when I have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements, and those when I have failed to boast of your works. Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided. Forgive me the pain I have caused others, and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have pity on me, and make me whole.

(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 those locations.

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.

ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Sanctuary Ringers

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35 (pg. 529)

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

ANTHEM

Coronation

Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Singers; Joe Charlton, horn

Crown Him, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Prince of Peace. Crown Him, the one who died and rose again to live forevermore. Crown Him, the Bread of Life, High and holy Priest, Bright and Morning Star. He holds the keys of death. He holds the keys of hell. He is ruler of the kings of earth. Crown Him, behold your King. See Him coming with the clouds. Every eye shall see Him whom they have pierced. See Him who is the first and is the last, Alpha and Omega. He is the Living One. He who is and was and who is to come. He has loved us unto death. He has freed us by His blood. He is the mighty Son of God. Crown Him, behold your King. Behold the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:6-14 (pg. 118)

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

SERMON

Ascension

Rev. John C. McKinnon

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Scots Confession, Chapter XI The Ascension

Leader: We do not doubt but that the selfsame body which was born of the virgin, was crucified, dead, and buried, and which did rise again, did ascend into the heavens, for the accomplishment of all things, where in our name and for our comfort he has received all power in heaven and earth, where he sits at the right hand of the Father, having received his kingdom, the only advocate and mediator for us. Which glory, honor, and prerogative, he alone amongst the brethren shall possess till all his enemies are made his footstool, as we undoubtedly believe they shall be in the Last Judgment. We believe that the same Lord Jesus shall visibly return for this Last Judgment as he was seen to ascend.

People: And then, we firmly believe, the time of refreshing and restitution of all things shall come, so that those who from the beginning have suffered violence, injury, and wrong, for righteousness' sake, shall inherit that blessed immortality promised them from the beginning.

*HYMN 282 *Come Down, O Love Divine* DOWN AMPNEY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE *Amen* Peter C. Lutkin
Sanctuary Singers

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Melodie* Ludwig van Beethoven
Joe Charlton, horn

*PRESENTATION HYMN *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 317 *In Christ There Is No East or West* MC KEE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in B-flat* Mark Shepherd

282 Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

Today

Sunday School | 9:30 a.m.

- Builders Class | Room B8
- Evergreen Class | Room B14
- New Beginnings Class | Fireside Room (in-person & Zoom)
 - Meeting ID: 817 3543 3278 | Passcode: 531483
- Cornerstone Class | Room 215
- Youth Sunday School | Youth Lounge
- Children's Sunday School | Room 213

Sanctuary Worship | 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Yoga — Wednesday, May 24 | 6:30 p.m.

De-stress and recharge with our free yoga class - it's the perfect mid-week, self-care activity!

Pending the weather, we've moved back to meeting in the courtyard. May 31 will be the last class of the season.

Pentecost Worship — Sunday, May 28 | 11:00 a.m.

Easter is a season. Each year we celebrate the resurrection throughout the Great Fifty Days of Easter. During this season, we remember Christ's rising from the tomb, his appearances, his ascension, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This is intended to be the most festive period of the church year.

During the celebration of Pentecost, we will honor the gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us to bear witness to the resurrection, by partaking in communion. If you will be joining us for online worship, please prepare bread and juice so you can partake in communion along with us.

Memorial Day Bike Parade — Sunday, May 28 | After 11:00 Service

Join us for the annual Memorial Day Bike Parade on Sunday, May 28, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. We will be serving hot dogs, chips, and a drink immediately following the parade. It doesn't get more American than that!

Kids are invited to bring their bikes to church with or without patriotic decorations. An area in the parking lot closest to the playground will be blocked off for riding bikes. We'll play patriotic music while the congregation cheers the riders on. **Please bring a lawn chair or blanket.** Mark your calendar and meet us in the parking lot on May 28!

MORE EVENTS ON BACK

The Urban Mission Annual Golf Scramble — Monday, June 12 | 8:00 a.m.

Sign up now to reserve your spot and save the date! Registration is \$100 per person. All proceeds from this event go to benefit The Urban Mission's programs to provide assistance to Oklahoma neighbors in need.

Register online at tinyurl.com/urbanmissiongolf23.