

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 13, 2022

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Blessed are those who trust in God!

People: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

Leader: Blessed are those who hope in God!

People: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in God's Word!

All: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

HYMN No. 49 (verses 1, 4) *The God of Abraham Praise*

Leoni

*The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!*

*The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.*

*You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.*

We praise you, living God!

We praise your holy name:

the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Sustaining God,

you would have us be deeply rooted in you,

finding strength in your word

and nourishment in your grace.

More often, though, we live as chaff,

blown here and there by the winds of circumstance.

Forgive our lack of permanency

and our failures to hold fast to our commitments.

Grow in us faith

that we might be firmly planted in your promises,

released from sin,

and open to the life you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Jean Cary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Eternal God, in your loving wisdom you set
us beside the fountain of life,
like a tree planted by running streams.
Fill us with delight in your teaching,
that we may bear fruit in every season of life;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6: 17-26

Jean Cary

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 1 (HYMN 457)

How Happy Are the Saints of God

Wareham

*How happy are the saints of God
who do not heed the wicked way;
delighting in the holy Word
they seek God's wisdom night and day.*

*Like deeply rooted trees, they stand
beside an ever-flowing stream.
Their fruit is plentiful and good;
their leaves are always growing green.*

*While wicked ones are whisked away
like straw before the driving wind,
the saints are firmly planted still,
and God will keep them to the end.*

SERMON

"Like a Tree "

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) (A Brief Statement of Faith)

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls people to all ministries of the church.**

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
 we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
 and to live holy and joyful lives,
 even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
 praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication (*in unison*)

**Holy One, bless and multiply these gifts we give
 as tokens of our trust in you.**

**Use them to bless the poor,
 feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep;
 in Jesus' name. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Call to Prayer (sung twice)

Nothing Can Trouble

Nada Te Turbe

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system includes the lyrics: "Noth-ing can trou - ble; noth-ing can fright - en. Those who seek Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios". The second system includes the lyrics: "God shall nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us. tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta." The score features a treble clef and a bass clef, with a first ending bracket over the final measure of the first system and a second ending bracket over the final measure of the second system.

(Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)

All: 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.

HYMN NO. 816 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* *Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott*

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.*

*Only be still, and wait God's leisure
in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure
and all-discerning love hath sent.
No doubt our inmost wants are clear
to One who holds us always dear.*

*Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,
but do thine own part faithfully.
Trust the rich promises of grace;
so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
the soul secured by trust indeed.*

BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On February 6, 90 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

We are grateful to **Kathy Conner, Brent Curtis, David Smith and Cathy Snell** for leading our hymns during today's worship.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **Peggy Hammond**, in loving memory of her husband, **Charles B. Hammond**.

Many thanks to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their behind-the-scenes technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of **today's worship texts** are taken from *Call to Worship* (2021-2022), *Feasting on the Word Year C*, *Thom Shuman Lectionary Liturgies* and *Book of Common Worship* (2018). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Concerns ~

Added: *Janice Faye West, mother of Randy Lang Howard*

Paul Cornsweet
Kerry Holbrook

Harold Dunlap
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Carlisle Harvard
Katy Loebrich

Care Communities:

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: *Arthur Clark*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Julian Boswell, Jim Wolfe, Walter Chambliss* (Will Chambliss' dad)

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Gerald Arrowood, brother of Al Arrowood

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield & Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Richard Smith, husband of Laura Casteel's co-worker

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

Toni Vandekemp, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Mimi Cummings, mother of Drew Cummings

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

Shawn Purcell, friend of Jane Brown

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson



The 10th annual Florence Forth road race is happening on **Saturday, March 5, 2022**. The race 5K/10K start and finish will be on Washington Street at the Bull City Running store. Please reach out if you have interest in volunteering or participating. The McDow Family is so grateful for the many years of support from First Pres! Learn more and sign up to support the race at <https://florenceforth.org/>

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Faith & Community Class returns!

As we look ahead to the McPherson Lectureship, from documentarian and child of the church *Macky Alston*, we are reading *Dear White Christians (Second Edition)*. Written in 2014 and updated in 2020, this text challenges the church to repentance and conversion.

With sessions led by members of the Racial Equity Committee, we'll gather, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Sundays, from February 20 through March 20. (We'll gather in person in Watts-Hill Hall.) We have copies available of the book for \$20, ordered from the East Durham black-owned bookstore Rofhiwa Book Café, which you can pay for via the church website's donation page. Please put the

In preparation for McPherson Lecturer Macky Alston on March 27, we're reading the second edition of this text inviting Christians into conversations around and strategies for fighting racial oppression. *Dear White Christians* is challenging call to the church.

Faith & Community: Dear White Christians
Sundays, Feb. 20 - March 20, 9:45-10:45 am

Love in the Heart of Durham

book's title in the memo line and email [John Weicher](mailto:John.Weicher) – copies available first come, first served.

**Adult Faith
First Presbyterian
Formation**

**LOVE
WINS**

A BOOK ABOUT HEAVEN, HELL, AND THE
FATE OF EVERY PERSON WHO EVER LIVED

“
All who are becoming more curious, more faithful and
looking for conversation partners join us Sunday
mornings on zoom as we discuss Rob Bell's 2011 book
**LOVE WINS: A Book About Heaven, Hell, And The Fate of
Every Person Who Ever Lived.**

Love Wins
Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84372201377?
pwd=UTF3UXowc3lRSHNQa3pTanB3aDJFUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84372201377?pwd=UTF3UXowc3lRSHNQa3pTanB3aDJFUT09)

Love in the Heart of Durham

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

All who are becoming more curious, more faithful, and looking for conversation partners, join us Sunday mornings on Zoom as we discuss Rob Bell's 2011 book **LOVE WINS: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived.**

[ZOOM LINK](#)

For more info,
contact [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas.](#)

**Adult Faith
First Presbyterian
Formation**

“
This class enjoys lively discussion of the week's four
scripture readings, both their original context and their
meaning in our contemporary lives. There's room for
folks with little Biblical experience up through those with
PhDs. Whoever you are, you're welcome here.

Lectionary Bible Study
Sundays, 9:35-10:45 am

Love in the Heart of Durham

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

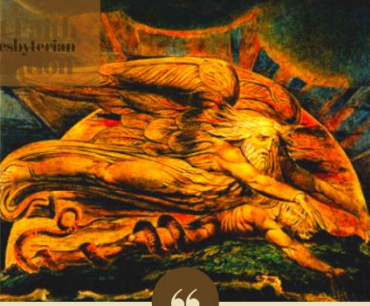
Lectionary Class

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

This class meets in a hybrid style, both remotely and in person, starting February 20. Discussion begins at 9:45 a.m., preceded by sharing of news and concerns at 9:35, and we end at 10:45.

[ZOOM LINK](#)

For phone access (audio only), call 253-215-8782. If you need a copy of the handout of scripture readings, contact [David Smith.](#)



Adult Faith Formation

“

Subtitled "Does God Exist and Does He care?", correspondence between cancer survivor Reynolds Price and a med student battling cancer result in this work from Price, full of candor, sympathy and thoughts about God's involvement in our fate.

Journeys - Letter to a Man on Fire
Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, <https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/9128525675>

Love in the Heart of Durham

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

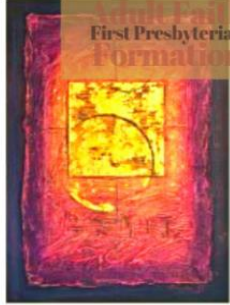
Journeys Class

Does God Exist and Does God Care? In April 1997 Reynolds Price received an eloquent letter from a reader of his cancer memoir, *A Whole New Life*. The correspondent, a young medical student diagnosed with cancer himself and facing his own mortality, asked these difficult questions. The two began a long-distance correspondence, culminating in Price's thoughtful response, *Letter to a Man in the Fire*.

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

[ZOOM LINK](https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/9128525675)

Contact [Andy Henry](#) for more info on this class.



Adult Faith Formation

PREACHING THE LUMINOUS WORD
Biblical Sermons and Homiletical Essays
Ellen F. Davis

“

This season, *Meaning in the Middle* tackles the sermons of Ellen Davis, scholar and master of locating our lives in the drama of salvation. MnM meets online every week to share the ups & downs of their lives and how to find God and meaning in the middle of life.

Meaning in the Middle (MnM)
Sundays, 8-9 pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87574376074>

Love in the Heart of Durham

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

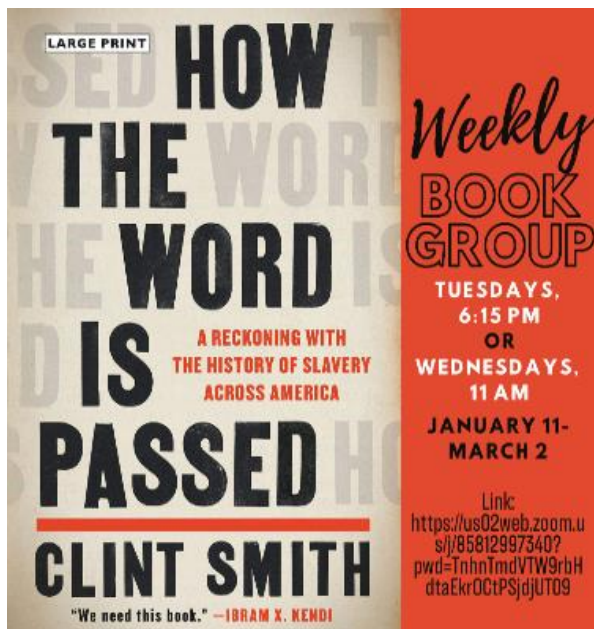
Meaning in the Middle (MnM)

The MnM fellowship group meets online every week to share the ups and downs of their lives and how to find God and meaning in the middle of life.

Sundays, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

[ZOOM LINK](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87574376074)

For more information, contact [Mary Berry](#).



WINTER BOOK STUDY

How the Word Is Passed

by Clint Smith

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

Wednesdays at 11:00 AM

Join the study via Zoom.

The Zoom link is the same each week.

[ZOOM LINK](#)

View the [SCHEDULE HERE](#).

For more info, contact [Mindy Douglas](#).

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
GOD, THIS IS ENOUGH.
GOD IS ENOUGH.
I AM ENOUGH.
WHAT IS ENOUGH?

**ENOUGH: FPC'S
LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

Mondays, Wednesdays & Friday in Lent.
Curated by FPC members & friends.
To contribute a song, visual art or words,
be in touch with John Weicher.

Lent always includes an invitation to turn *from* all that is old and broken and *toward* new life in Christ. As we turn from a scarcity mindset toward an ever-growing awareness of God's abundant grace, mercy, and love we hope you'll share your reflections on the theme of *Enough*.

Specifically, submit:

- a **song** (YouTube link or original video recording),
- a **reflection through visual art** (again your own or something in the public domain), OR
- a **poem or writing** (whether original to you or the reflections of another - please limit these to 250-300 words max).

We'll share these reflections with the community via email and social media as our common devotion. To sign up, contact [John Weicher](#) and he'll work with you on content and a date.



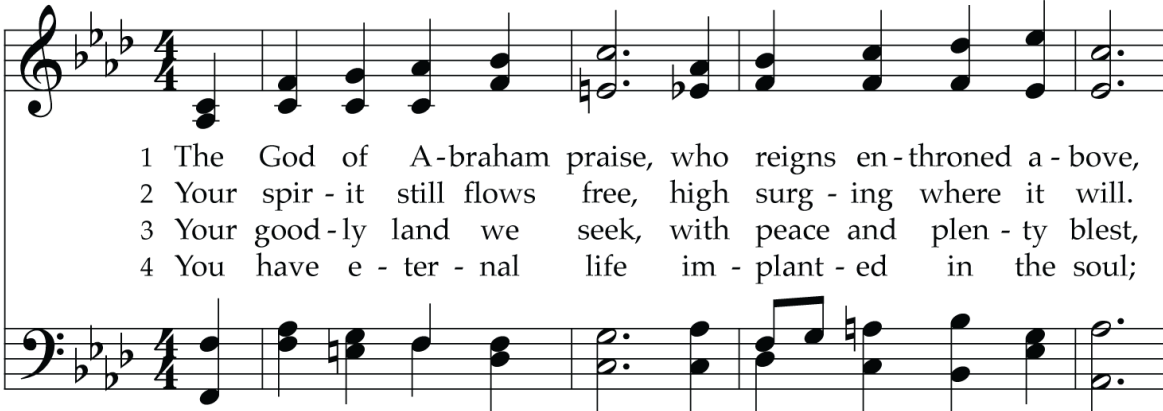
Growing thru Grief offers small group support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Here is our remaining schedule for February:

February 15 Using Art to Navigate Grief, by Tracy Lamar

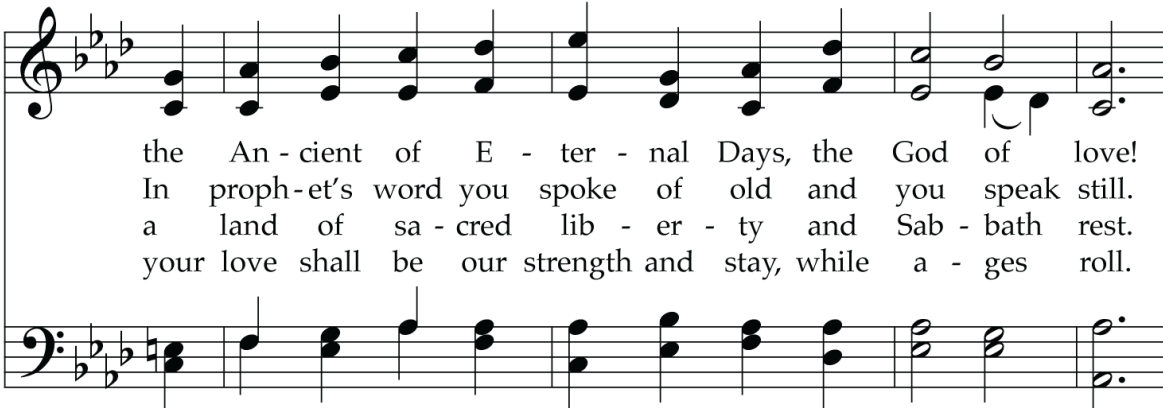
February 22 Grief Waves, by Donna Kaye

Meetings (via Zoom) begin at 4:00 p.m. with a presentation about a part of the grief process and then we break into small groups for conversation and sharing. There is no charge to attend. To register, contact admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8:00 a.m. on the Monday before the meeting.

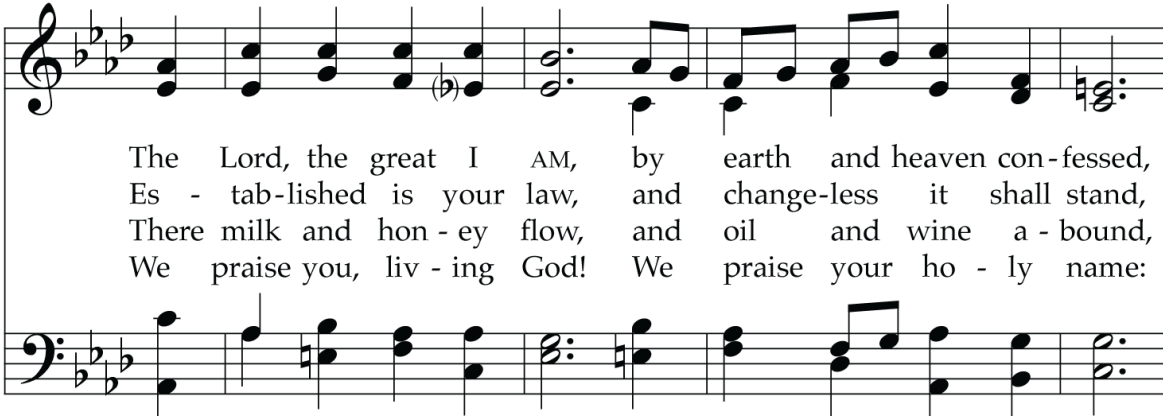
49 The God of Abraham Praise



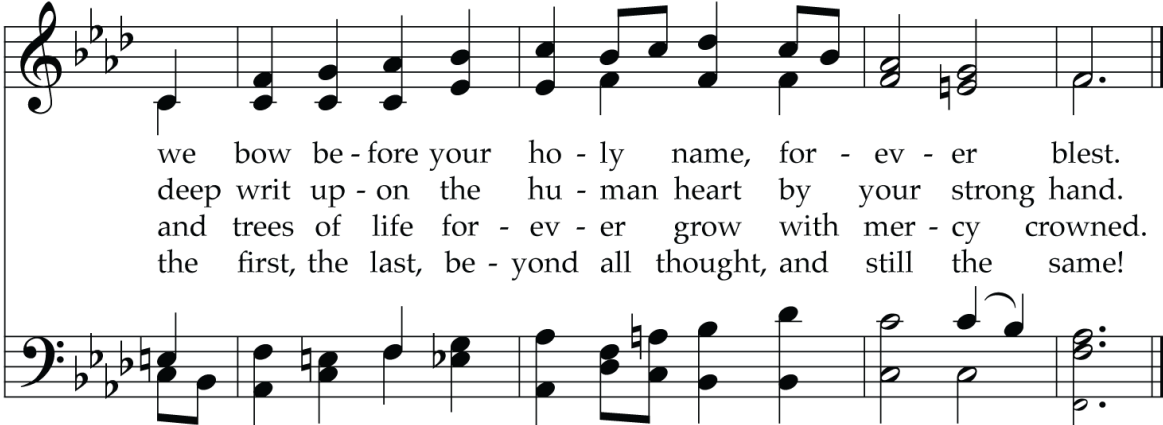
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



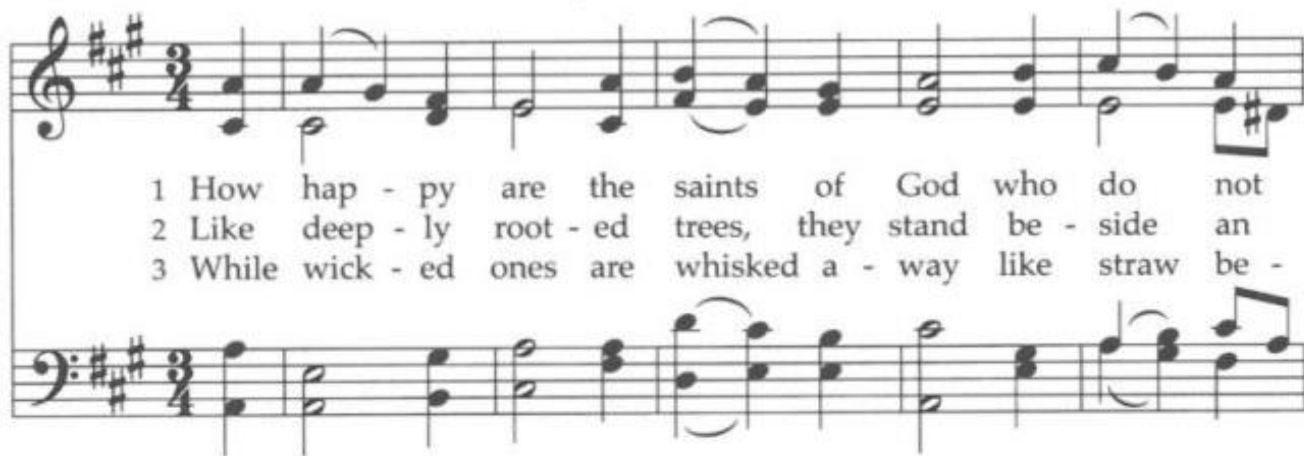
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



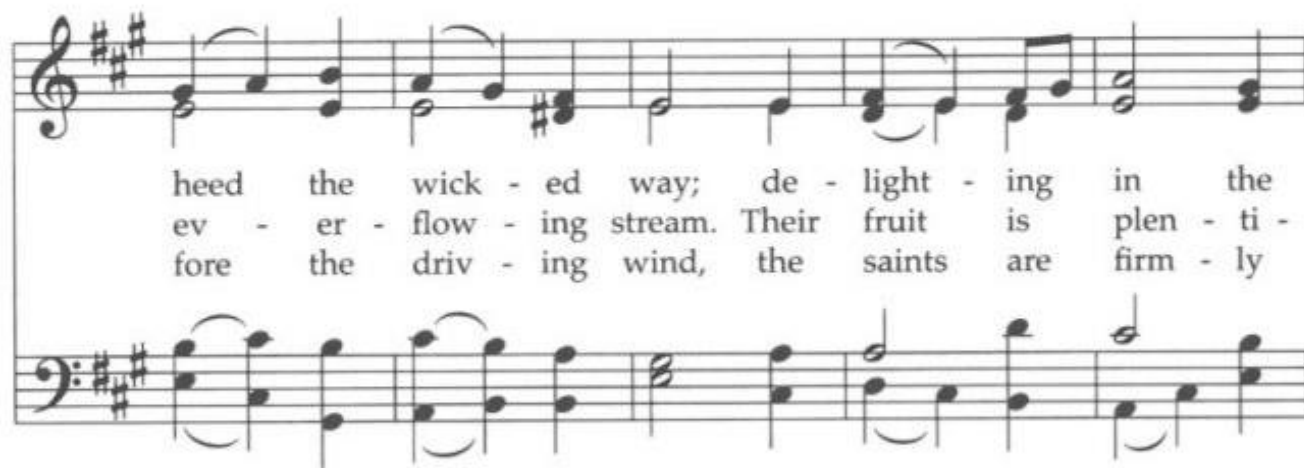
we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

457 How Happy Are the Saints of God

(Psalm 1)



1 How hap - py are the saints of God who do not
2 Like deep - ly root - ed trees, they stand be - side an
3 While wick - ed ones are whisked a - way like straw be -



heed the wick - ed way; de - light - ing in the
ev - er - flow - ing stream. Their fruit is plen - ti -
fore the driv - ing wind, the saints are firm - ly

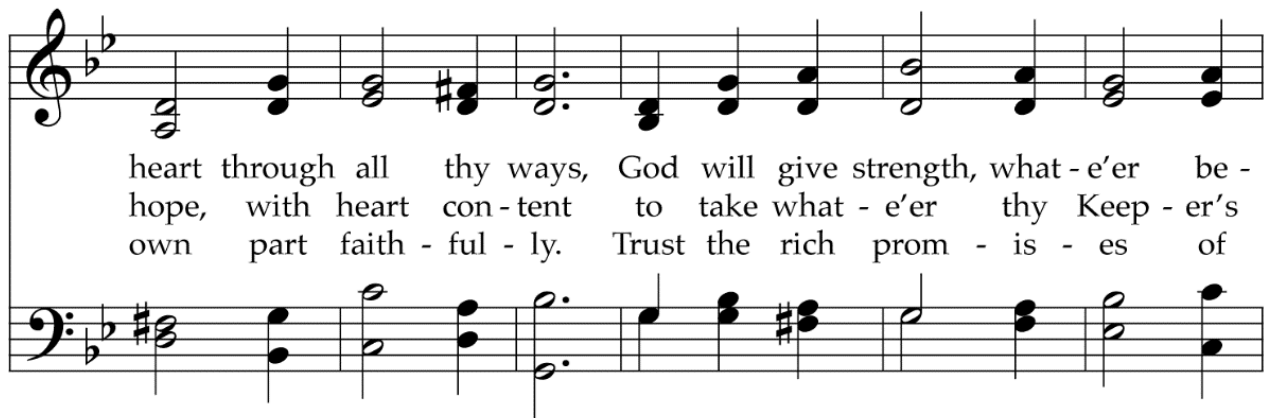


ho - ly Word they seek God's wis - dom night and day.
ful and good; their leaves are al - ways grow - ing green.
plant - ed still, and God will keep them to the end.

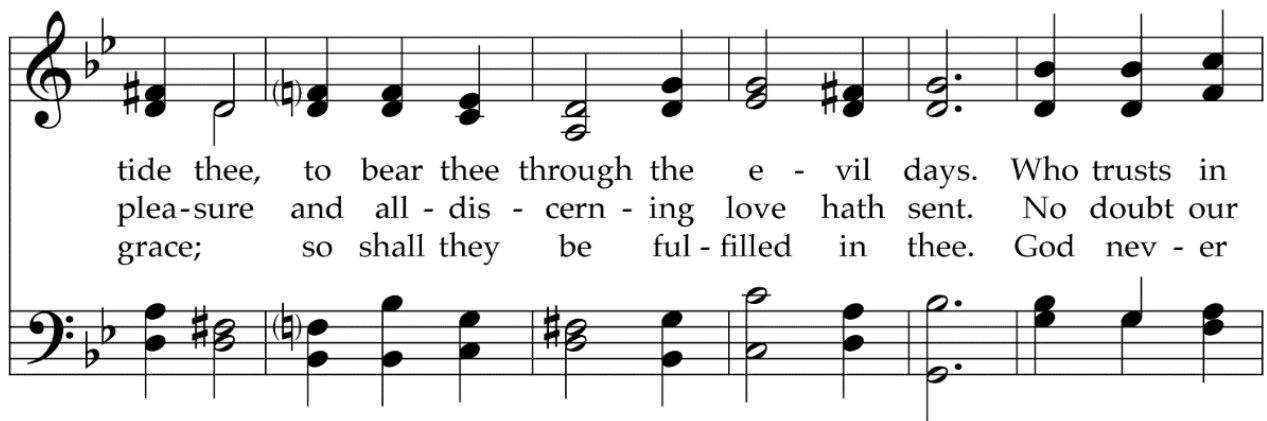
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 816



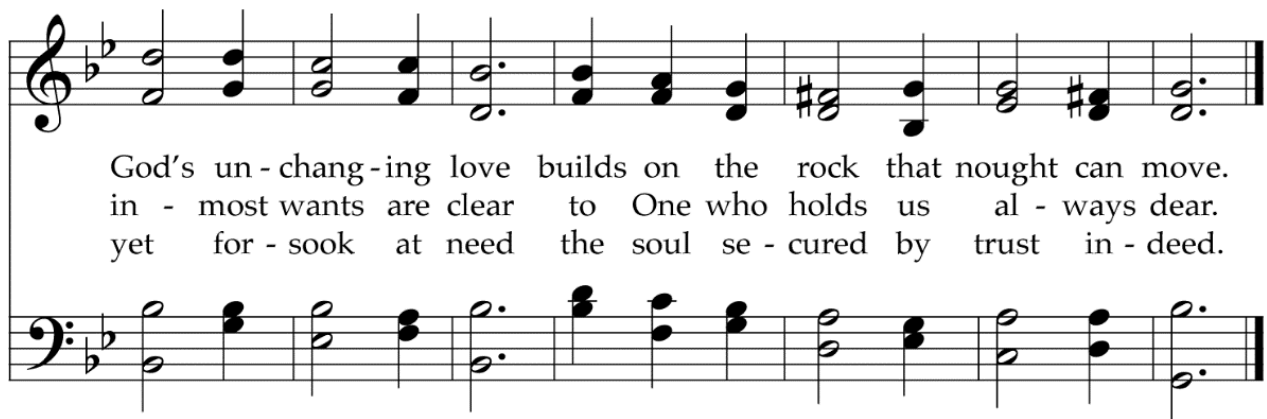
1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of



tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er



God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.



Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 18, 2022

March and Rally in Washington, DC

Donations are needed to help cover the cost for those going by chartered bus from Durham. More details forthcoming.

This Week at a Glance!

Later Today . . .	Monday, February 14	Tuesday, February 15	Wednesday, February 16
<p>12:15-1:15 PM Youth Groups (Lunch Out)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM Fellowship Zoom ID: 87574376074</p>	<p>12: 00 PM (via Zoom) Worship Planning</p> <p>1:00 PM (via Zoom) Staff Meeting</p> <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥</p>	<p>6:15 PM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>How the Word Is Passed</i> Zoom Link</p>	<p>11:00 AM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>How the Word Is Passed</i> Zoom Link</p>
<p>Thursday, February 17</p> <p>6:00-8:00 PM Durham's CROP Hunger Walk Recruiters' Rally for Team Leaders (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Friday, February 18</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday, February 19</p> <p>10:00 AM-12 Noon Durham's CROP Hunger Walk Recruiters' Rally for Team Leaders (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Sunday, February 20 <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p>9:45-10:45 AM (In-person and via Zoom) Faith Formation for Adults, Middle Schoolers, and Confirmands</p> <p>10:00-10:30 AM (via Zoom) Faith Formation for younger children (Playground option available for K-3rd grade, weather permitting)</p> <p>11:00 AM (In-person and online) Youth-led Worship Service</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM Fellowship Zoom ID: 87574376074</p>	

Church Staff

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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