

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision
Jacob Boehm, soloist

Bob Chilcott

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Weicher

Leader: The heavens declare the righteousness of God.

People: The earth declares God's beauty.

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting

People: God's word shines forth in glory.

***HYMN NO. 662**

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Ratisbon

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

you call us to do good, seek justice, and care for those in need,

yet how often we place our own comforts above compassion for others.

Forgive us, we pray,

and cleanse us from these and all our offenses through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 402**

How Lovely, Lord

Merle's Tune

A sun and shield forever

are you, O Lord Most High;

you shower us with blessings;

no good will you deny.

The saints, your grace receiving,

from strength to strength shall go,

and from their life shall rivers

of blessing overflow.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cris Rivera

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray.

All: **God of Hope,**
by faith we know that you have created the world,
and that what is seen is made by things that are not visible.
Open our eyes to your presence among us
that we may hear your word with clarity
and a sureness of hope, as we follow you in all righteousness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER READING

Psalm 33:12-22

(Pew Bible, OT Page 507)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Cris Rivera

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CANTICLE

Celtic Alleluia
Jacob Boehm, cantor

Fintan O'Carroll

The organist will introduce the refrain. The cantor will sing the refrain and invite the congregation to join him when indicated.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

(Pew Bible, OT Page 630)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"A Call to Justice"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) *From The Confession of 1967*

Esther Hethcox

God's reign is already present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in humankind and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

*HYMN NO. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Offertory Solo

Lord of All Hopefulness

*Doxology with Alleluias

Esther Hethcox

Alan Bullard, arr.

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia; Alleluia;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!***

Introductory Words

Questions to the Volunteer

Questions to the Congregation

Prayer of Commission

**Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us;
and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives,
empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for leading Griffin to this time and place.
Establish him in your truth, and guide him by your Holy Spirit,
that in your service he may grow in faith, hope, and love,
and be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

**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. 756**

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Toccata in C

Johann Pachelbel

Happening Today

The Fellowship Committee will meet in the Wilson Parlor following church.

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the Daye Meeting Room following church.

Youth will meet for Fantasy Lake at 3:45pm in the FPC parking lot.



First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Sign In

Donate Online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The ***flowers*** today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of ***Dennis Buckley*** by **Barbara Buckley** and **Scott Randell**. A service of witness to the resurrection was held in the sanctuary for Dennis yesterday.

We thank our special musical guest ***Jacob Boehm***, a baritone and proud Triangle native. Jacob is the founder and head chef of Snap Pea Creative Dining, celebrated for its imaginative pop-up dinners in unexpected venues. A graduate of Stanford University, he lives in Durham, where his passions for music, community, and food intersect. As a member of Judea Reform Congregation, Jacob regularly helps lead services as a cantor. In his spare time, he serves as the board chair with the Emanuel Food Pantry and volunteers with Triangle Land Conservancy.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. ***Activity bags*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of worship.

Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: *Feasting on the Word*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Upcoming Community Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



The "Somethings" (young adults) End-of-Summer BBQ: Sunday, August 31st at 6:00 pm. Location TBD.



Today is the last day to RSVP for the **Youth Stock Brunch** on August 24 at 9:30am. Please email John Weicher at j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org by end of day today so we can properly prepare. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out via the same method. In this second year, we have made some changes. Like last year, FPC youth who participated in three of our summer trips—the Appalachia Service Project trip to Perry County, Ky, the CROSS Missions trip to Charlotte, and the Montreat Youth Conference—are throwing a brunch, showing pictures and telling stories from their experiences. New this year, the whole church is invited, not just those who have bought stock in the trip.

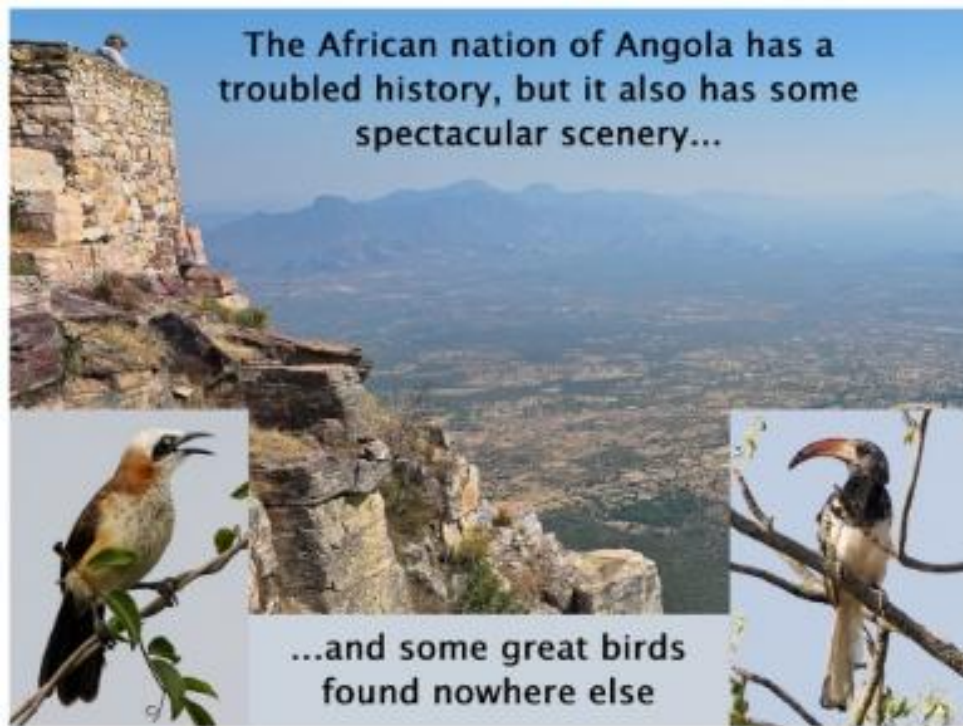


Blessing of the Briefcases & Backpacks

August 24
 During Worship

As young ones go back to school and less-young ones head to work, we all need a blessing. Bring your briefcases and backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 24, for a blessing. All bags welcome.

Angola Bird Show
Slide show "Birding in Angola"
with David and Judy Smith
Sunday, August 24 at 7:00 pm
Watts-Hill Hall



Join David and Judy Smith for highlights from their visit to Angola on Sunday, August 24, at 7:00 pm in Watts-Hill Hall.



First Friends Potlucks

First Friends is a fellowship group of FPC folks that tend to be 55 and older. Hope to see you at our gatherings!

Saturday, October 25th
at Amy and Dan Mapel's home

Saturday, November 22nd
at Carl Rist's home

SONAM and Duke Chorale Kick-Off Concert

Saturday, September 13th at 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Durham



Join the *Duke Chorale* and *Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM)* for their first concert of the season! The program will feature American Folksongs, songs of peace, and music from Carmina Burana. Admission is free, with a suggested donation accepted at the door in lieu of tickets. All proceeds go to *First Presbyterian Church's Walk-In Ministry*, which provides resources for Durham residents in need. We hope you'll join us! Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues.

Memorial Services

We gather in faith and remembrance to honor those who have passed. These memorial services provide an opportunity for family, friends, and our community to come together in prayer, reflection, and gratitude for the lives of our loved ones. You are welcome to join us in offering support, sharing memories, and finding comfort in the presence of one another. Below is a list of upcoming services.

- *Marilyn Turner Hedgpeth's* service will be on **Saturday, August 23** at **11:00 a.m.** in the Covenant (Charlotte) Sanctuary located at 1000 E Morehead St, Charlotte, NC 28204. We will show the live stream at First Presbyterian Church at the time of the service. All are welcome. You may also view the live stream at home here: <https://www.covenantpresby.org/live>
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for *Kate Busa* will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, September 6**, at **11 a.m.**
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for *Keith Rokoske* will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, September 20** at **10 a.m.**

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Condolences:

We extend our love and prayers to **Franzi** and **Noah Rokoske**, upon the death of her husband and his father, **Keith Rokoske**, from ALS. Condolences may be mailed to:

Franzi and Noah Rokoske
2510 Wrightwood Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

We remember in prayer:

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Rory Dillon

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Mal King

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Harriett Mitchell

Jim Rogers

Franzi Rokoske

Phyllis Supple

Alfred Tisdale

Ginny Widmark

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: ***Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes***

Hillcrest Convalescent: ***Carol Wills***

Brookdale Senior Living: ***Debbie Mathews***

Durham Ridge: ***Phillip Herndon***

Pruitt Health - Durham: ***Fred Callaway***

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Julia Allen, grandmother of Amy Wilson

Evan Breyer, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

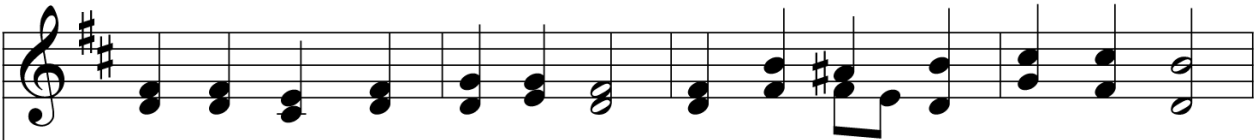
Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



Come! Live in the Light!

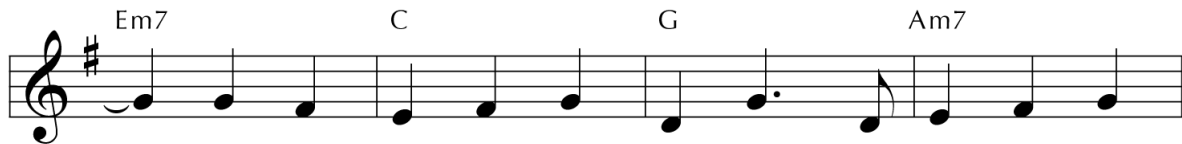
We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



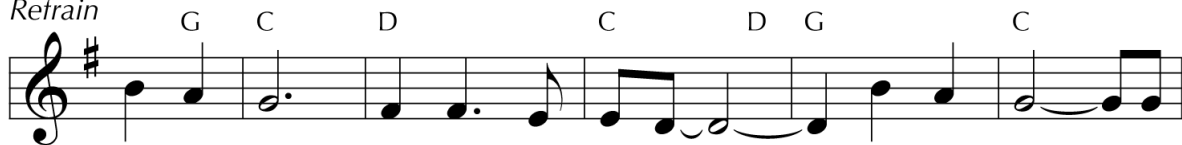
joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

O God of Every Nation

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1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM Prayer Shawl Group (Daye Meeting Room) Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:45 PM Youth: Fantasy Lake (parking lot)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, August 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:45 AM Coalition for Affordable Housing & Transit (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, August 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 PM Finance & Investment Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Day School Board Meeting (via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, August 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, August 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Youth: Fries & Ice Cream Sammies (Lakewood Social)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, August 22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 24 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>New Member Sunday</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, August 23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Funeral Livestream for Marilyn Hedgpeth (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>9:30 AM Youth Stock Brunch (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children and adults.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; John Weicher, Preaching</p> <p>12:15 PM Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>5:00 PM The "Somethings" End of Summer BBQ (offsite)</p> <p>7:00 PM Bird Slide Show (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>

CHURCH STAFF

Shakira Bethea, Church Administrator
Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus
Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
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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