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## **SERMON SERIES**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 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**

*Variations on "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

James Loeffler

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from 1 John 4)

John Weicher

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

**People: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

Leader: God's love was revealed among us in this way:

**People: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

Leader: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

**People: If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.**

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 645**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

*Mit Freuden Zart*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Lenore Champion

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,**

**you love us, but we have not loved you.**

**You call, but we have not listened.**

**We walk away from neighbors in need,**

**wrapped in our own concerns.**

**We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.**

**God of grace,**

**help us to admit our sin,**

**so that as you come to us in mercy,**

**we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

**\*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 389**

*Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord*

*Hal'luhu*

*Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!*

*Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!*

*Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God, hallelujah!*

*Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God.*

**COLLECT**

Jane Wettach

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit,  
you have given us a new commandment:  
to love and serve one another in Jesus' name.  
Let the good news of your liberating love  
be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**EPISTLE READING**

Colossians 3:12-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

Jane Wettach

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**GOSPEL READING**

John 13:1-17

(Pew Bible, NT Page 107)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

*"Clothed in Love"*

John Weicher

*(silent reflection)*

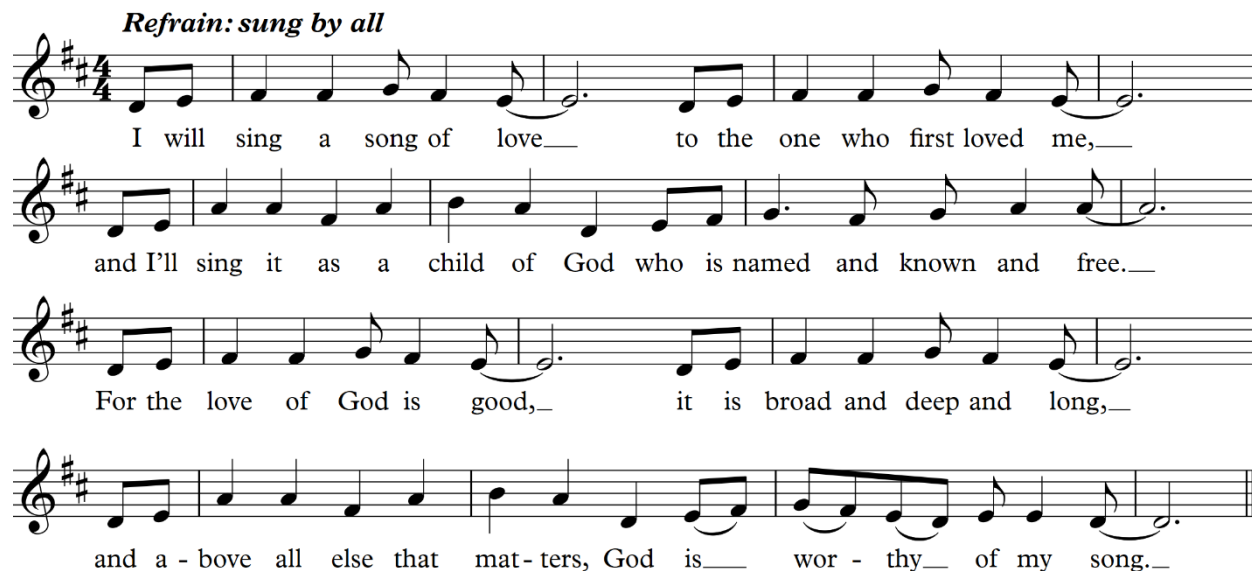
**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Confession of 1967*

Cris Rivera

**God's sovereign love is a mystery from beyond the reach of the human mind.  
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.  
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ  
by showing power in the form of a servant,  
wisdom in the folly of the cross,  
and goodness in receiving sinful people.  
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

**Refrain: sung by all**



I will sing a song of love\_\_\_ to the one who first loved me,\_\_\_  
and I'll sing it as a child of God who is named and known and free.\_\_\_\_  
For the love of God is good,\_\_\_ it is broad and deep and long,\_\_\_  
and a - bove all else that mat - ters, God is\_\_\_ wor - thy\_\_\_ of my song.\_\_\_\_

**Verses: sung by soloist**

- 1 And I will not sing alone but with earth and sky and sea,  
for creation raised its voice well in advance of me. *Refrain*
- 2 And I'll sing with every soul, every language, every race,  
which proclaims this world is good for God has blessed this place. *Refrain*
- 3 As I bring to God my joy, so I'll bring to God my pain,  
for there is no hurt which God requires me to retain. *Refrain*
- 4 While my life on earth still runs, may my song to God be given,  
till through grace I join the harmony of all in heaven. *Refrain*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem

*More Love*

John Weicher  
Shaker tune, arr. Sid Davis

*More love, more love; the heavens are blessing,  
The angels are calling, "O Zion, more love!"  
If ye love not each other in daily communion,  
How can ye love God, whom ye have not seen?  
More love, more love; the heavens are blessing,  
The angels are calling, "O Zion, more love!"*

\*Doxology with Alleluias

*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!***

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

Cris Rivera

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. 802**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*St. Columba*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in C (BuxWV 174 "Jig")*

*Buxtehude*

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### *Happening Today*

**Children's Choirs** will meet immediately following the service upstairs in the education building for about 20 minutes. All children ages 3-11 are welcome to be a part of this musical offering.

**Youth Group** meets at 5:00pm in the lobby.



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 by ***Cris Rivera & Beth Stringfield*** in honor of the ministries of ***Marilyn Hedgpeth*** and ***Joe Harvard*** on the 15th anniversary of the blessing of our union in this sanctuary.

This week, we conclude our six-week ***sermon series*** based on Colossians 3:12-14. In this passage, Christians are invited, through their baptisms, to put on a new metaphorical garment that sets them apart in the way they live. It is a garment of love that shows itself through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love. Each week, we have explored stories that open our hearts to recognize the ways we are to follow Jesus by exhibiting these traits as we live our lives together in the world. From youngest to oldest, we are the whole people of God, the Body of Christ, called to put on love in all its beauty and grace, as we worship and serve God in the world.

**Childcare:** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags and baskets** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them 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: *Lectionary Liturgies* and *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926. Bulletin cover logo created by Lauren Wright-Pittman and used for the 2025 PAM Worship & Music Conference. Used with permission.

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## 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/>*



**Yoga** is offered, free of charge, at FPC on **Mondays at 4:30pm** and **Fridays at 10:30am**. Please let **Jane Wettach** know if you plan to attend or have questions by emailing her at [janewettach@gmail.com](mailto:janewettach@gmail.com).

**First Friends** is a fellowship group of FPC folks that tend to be 55 and older. Our next gathering is hosted by Amy and Dan Mapel. Join us on **Saturday, October 25 at 6pm** at their home located at 111 Raphael Pl, Morrisville, NC 27560. Park on Crown Parkway behind the house, entry will be through the back gate. (It's the one with the tall pergola.) Chicken pot pie, veggie lasagna provided. Bring lawn chair and a potluck contribution.

The next **Blood Drive** is Thursday, October 30 from 1:00 - 6:00pm in Watts-Hill Hall. For more information, contact Julie Whiddon (919-730-6673), FPC's organizer and Red Cross volunteer.

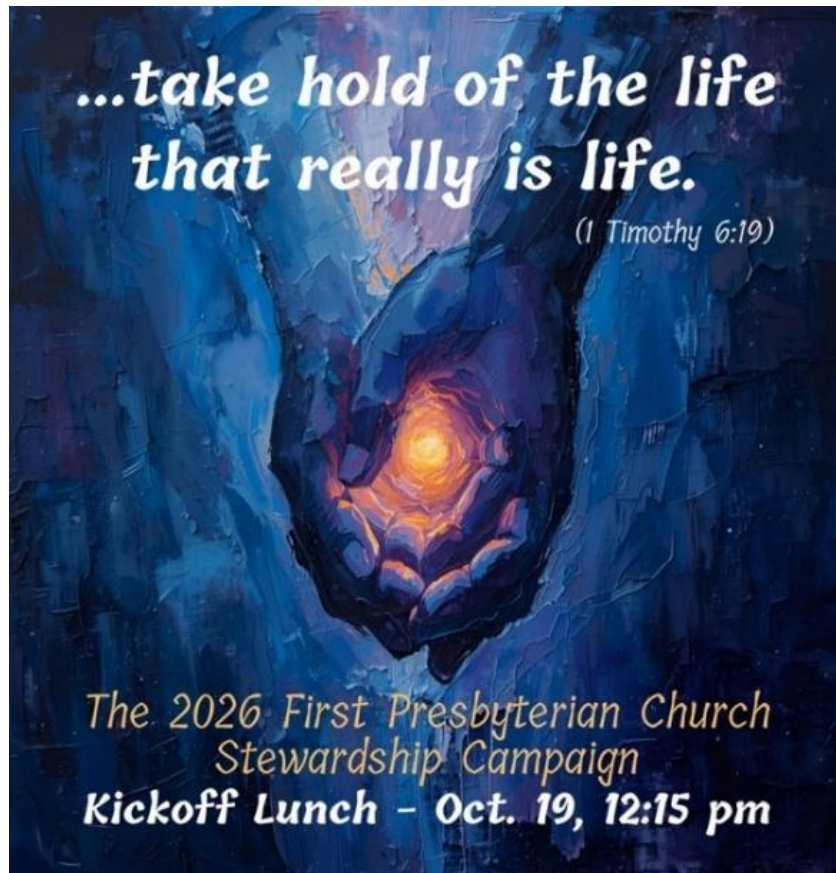
If you are interested in reading scripture in worship a **training class for liturgists** will be held in the fellowship hall on Saturday, November 8 from 9am to 1pm. All are welcome! Please contact **Steve Rimmer** at [crrimmer@nc.rr.com](mailto:crrimmer@nc.rr.com) to sign up.

**Mindy Douglas** and **Esther Hethcox** are away from worship this week. Esther is on a spiritual retreat in Tennessee. Mindy is with sixteen other FPC members on the Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope, an intense weekend experience of connecting our spiritual history with the history of the place where we live. The Pilgrimage is the first part of FPC's participation in the Journey to Thriving cohort (led by Durham Cares) with other local churches.



## Stewardship Kickoff Campaign

October 19 at 12:15pm. Join us for fellowship in Watts-Hill Hall.



**UNITING FOR  
CHANGE FOR A  
BETTER  
DURHAM**

**CAN's Agenda for Change:**

- Increased funding for Youth Summer Jobs
- Increased funding for Immigrant legal protection
- Expanding affordable housing
- A comprehensive plan to reduce gun violence

**2025  
Candidates  
Assembly**

**Hear the candidates for  
Mayor and City Council  
respond to CAN's  
Agenda for Change**

**SUNDAY  
OCT. 19, 3-5:00 PM**

**ST. MARK AME ZION  
CHURCH, 531 SOUTH  
ROXBORO STREET**

TO REGISTER, VISIT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.DURHAMCAN.ORG/  
OCTOBER\\_2025\\_CANDIDATES\\_AS  
SEMBLY](https://www.durhamcan.org/october_2025_candidates_assembly)



**The Durham CAN Delegates** Assembly with candidates for Mayor and City Council will be next Sunday, October 19th, 3 PM at St. Mark AME Zion Church, 531 S. Roxboro Street. Candidates will be asked to respond to Durham CAN's agenda for change in the areas of immigrant services, youth summer jobs, a comprehensive plan to end gun violence and affordable housing at 505 West Main.

## *~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~*

### **We remember in prayer:**

*Adrienne Allison* following surgery.

*Barbara Gerwe*, hospitalized.

*Jancy Johnstone*, thumb surgery on Friday.

*Eric Wiebe* following surgery.

*Denise Duffy*, sister of Andy Henry, was recently diagnosed with cancer.

*Tony Brown*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*Rod Gerwe*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Mal King*

*Jen McGonigle*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Alfred Tisdale*

### **Care Communities**

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills, Mickey Velkey*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Southpoint Atria: *Ginny Widmark*

*Madge McKeithen*

### **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

*Bill Prochaska*, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Sara Neece Silletto*, daughter of Vernon & Beth Neece

*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su


*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*Aaron Yates*, cousin of Jo Ann Moore



# 802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

# 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur-mur stilled:  
all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
cho - sen band:  
take your part:

The musical score is written for a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written between the two staves. The melody in the treble staff consists of a series of chords and single notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## This Week at a Glance!

### Later Today

**12:15 PM**

Children's Music:  
Ages 3-5 (room 205)  
Ages 6-11 (choir room)

**5:00 PM**

Youth Group – Acts of Random Kindness (lobby)

### **Monday, October 13**

**1:30 PM**

Worship Planning (Pastor's office)

**4:30 PM**

Yoga (room 201)

**6:00 PM**

Property Committee (room 201)  
Christian Education Committee (Zoom)

**6:30 PM**

Service and Mission

**7:00 PM**

Worship and the Arts Committee (Zoom)  
Welcome and Belonging (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, October 14**

### **Wednesday, October 15**

**1:00 PM**

All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

**7:00 PM**

Senior Choir (choir room)

### **Thursday, October 16**

### **Friday, October 17**

**10:30 AM**

Yoga (room 201)

### **Saturday, October 18**

**10:00 AM**

The Somethings Bag Beans and Rice (Iglesia Emanuel)

### **Sunday, October 19**

*19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Stewardship Season Begins*

**9:45 AM**

Faith Formation  
(Classes are available for children, youth, and adults.)

**11:00 AM**

Worship; Mindy Douglas, preaching

*Newsletter Deadline  
No Children's Music today*

**12:15 PM**

Stewardship Luncheon (Watts-Hill Hall)

**3:00PM**

Durham CAN Assembly (St. Mark AME Zion Church)

**5:00 PM**

Youth Group – Mini Golf (Frankie's)

## 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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

**305 EAST MAIN STREET    DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701    919.682.5511    ORGANIZED 1871**