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First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina

February 22, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

Moment for Adult Faith Formation

Kathy Krahenbuhl

PRELUDE

Have Mercy On Us, O Lord God

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 32)

Zack Czajkowski, Sarah Cunningham
and Archie Czajkowski

Reader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**People: God is our hiding place; God preserves us from trouble;
God surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.**

Reader: We have a wonderful God!

People: Come, let us worship God.

Reader: Friends, as we extinguish this first Lenten candle, we are reminded that we are all in sin. But God's grace and mercy through the saving death of Christ has redeemed us, and we have eternal life because of this love. Even though sin ruled through death, God's love is even stronger.

***HYMN NO. 618**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Deo Gracias

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.

**We are misled by pride for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
and great when we are small.**

We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to the path of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Confession

Kyrie (sung by choir)

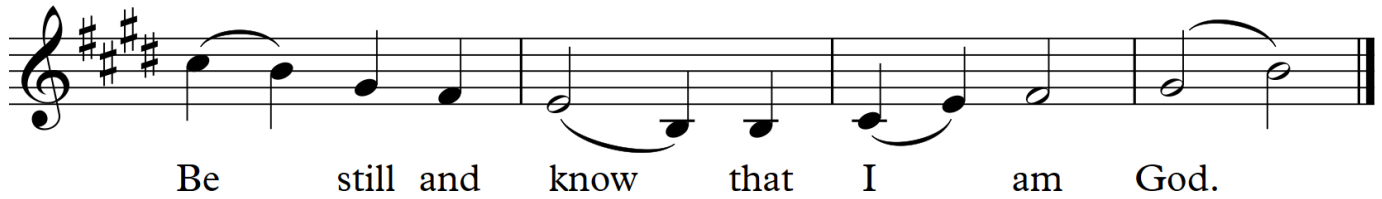
Harper, Royal School of Church Music

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Those who are able, please stand.*



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lenore Champion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God,

our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word,

through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:12-19

(Pew Bible, OT Page 2)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Lenore Champion

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 3)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Temptation."

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world-ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine; ho - lier glad-ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Kathryn Lester-Bacon

Offertory Music

In Adam We Have All Been One

The Saints' Delight, arr. Scott Hyslop

*In Adam we have all been one, one huge rebellious man;
 we all have fled that evening voice that sought us as we ran.*

*We fled Thee, and in losing Thee we lost our brother too;
 each singly sought and claimed his own; each man his brother slew.*

*But Thy strong love, it sought us still and sent Thine only Son
 that we might hear His Shepherd's voice and hearing Him, be one.*

*O Thou who, when we loved Thee not, didst love and save us all,
 Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind, O hear us when we call.*

*Send us Thy Spirit, teach us truth; Thou Son, O set us free
 from fancied wisdom, self-sought ways, to make us one in Thee.*

*Then shall our song united rise to Thine eternal throne,
 where with the Father evermore and Spirit Thou art one.*

The **Hunger for Change** offering will be received.

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Words of Welcome and Introduction

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living 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.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, verses 1 & 2)

The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

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

Kathryn Lester-Bacon

Leader: The grace of our 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. 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

(Children's Music: The children who are attending the music program after church can follow Kathy Parkins upstairs to begin rehearsal.)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mindy Douglas

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

Happening Today

Children's Choir will meet following worship in the Christian Education building.

Congregational Meeting will take place after worship in the sanctuary to elect officers. A few paper copies will be available, and you may also view the nomination report with the following QR Code.



The Somethings' Lenten Kickoff will take place this evening at 5:00pm in Watts-Hill Hall.



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.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of ***David Rimmer***, son of ***Steve Rimmer*** and brother of ***Lyn & John Williams***.

New Members: The following people were received into membership by the Session earlier today:

Tyler Adams (he/him): Tyler grew up in Chapel Hill, NC where he attended University Presbyterian Church and Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. He attended Western Carolina University and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in psychology. He recently moved to Durham with his two dogs and is working locally in construction and home improvement. He is the son of Mindy Douglas and the step-son of Tim O'Brien.

Rob Dilworth (he/him): Rob is from Northern Virginia and went to the College of William and Mary. He has spent his career in scholarly publishing and is currently the journals director at Duke University Press. He is married to FPC member Lea Bingham. They have two adult daughters, Gwen and Ellie. Outside of work, he likes to spend time with his family, read, watch films and TV (he loves shows about celebrity chefs, such as Chef's Table on Netflix), and is a soccer maniac.

Kennedy Embree (she/her): Kennedy was born in Atlanta, GA and raised in Raleigh, NC. She graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and currently works in marketing at The Clorox Company. She is married to husband, Mark, and has three daughters, Marlowe (8), Alden (6) and Salem (3) and their beloved Penny (dog, 10). She loves to hike at the Eno with her family, travel to new places, be with family and friends, volunteer at her daughter's school and for a nonprofit, read and do puzzles.

Today's bulletin artwork was created by Nora Allison-Pleasants. Her work emphasizes the loneliness of temptation and the barrenness of the wilderness that thread through today's gospel text.

The ***Lenten Banner*** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of ***Bess Bryant*** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

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 *Book of Common Worship*. The Affirmation of Faith was adapted from the United Church of Canada. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

From the Contemplative Collective of FPC:

Dear saints of FPC, most of us are familiar with the lighting of the Advent wreath in December, to mark the weeks that are passing as we journey to the holy night when Christ was born. Week by week, we light candles which symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. The increasing gleam of light that illuminates from the candles speaks of the promise that a people traveling in great darkness will see a great light.

In this season, the Contemplative Collective of FPC is bringing you a new Lenten practice that takes inspiration from the Advent wreath. Instead of lighting a candle weekly, however, our Lenten “wreath” extinguishes a candle weekly as we approach the most solemn day of the Christian year. The dimming of light on the Sundays in Lent reminds us that we are all, individually and collectively, on a 40-day journey together, walking toward the cross of Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, the candles will be relit, to remind us of how Christ is victorious over death and that the light of Christ is forever gleaming in the stories of our lives.

Each week, we encourage you to look in the bulletin for a description of that week’s particular theme and the corresponding decor of the wreath. We will also pose an invitational question for you to contemplate in your week’s journey. It is our hope that this new practice in worship for this liturgical season will remind us of the intentional nature of the Lenten season, and will open our hearts to hearing God’s voice in new, distinct ways.

Lenten blessings,

Deacon Matthew Eggleston and Pastor Esther Hethcox

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 at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact **Jane Wettach** for more information at janewettach@gmail.com.

Minister of Music Search: As we begin our search for FPC’s next Minister of Music, the search committee wants to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey (QR code) which invites you to reflect on your experience of music at First Pres and share your hopes for its future. Your responses will guide and inform our search, conversations, and decisions. Thanks in advance for your participation.



After losing out to the snow earlier this month, we are thrilled to announce that the **McPherson Lectures** have been rescheduled for March 8-9! Dr. Donyelle McCray of Yale Divinity School will join us to speak and preach about non-traditional, expansive forms of proclamation and about Pauli Murray, Durham’s unofficial patron saint.

Seeking a Communications Associate: As you may recall from Mindy’s recent email, our beloved church Administrative Assistant, Sybil King, will retire on June 30 of this year. Hoping to enhance the work she has so capably done for us, FPC is now seeking a skilled addition to our administrative team whose primary duty will be to support our mission by utilizing all aspects of communicating with our congregation as well as the greater community. Full benefits and salary commensurate with experience will be provided. Successful candidates will be proficient in social media/digital platforms and able to manage an array of communications for our active church. FPC members, their family members and/or

close church friends should not apply but if you know of others who might be interested, encourage them to visit <http://firstpres-durham.org/2026/02/recruiting-for-church-communications-associate> for more details and send their cover letter/resume/references to adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org. Retirements committee: David Sappenfield, Al Arrowood, George Bernhardt, Brady Dennis, Deborah Hamlin-Aggrey, Michael Honeycutt, Deborah Momsen-Hudson, Alice Raney, Laurie Ray, Kati Ruark, Jane Williams.



THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

- 50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

- 40% - Local Hunger Programs

- 10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Condolences:

We extend our love and concern to **Katie Fogleman** and her family upon the death of Katie's grandmother, **Mary Lou Mikush**.

Sympathies to **Emily Barre** and family after the death of her grandfather **Richard Cloud**, who passed away on February 17.

We remember in prayer:

Dub Gulley, recovering from a fall and broken hip.

Bob Lewis, hospitalized with pneumonia.

Vickie Luboff, recovering from hip surgery.

Peggy Needham, recovering from a fall and two broken arms.

Joe Harvard, recovering from foot surgery.

Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison, in ICU.

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Ann Huff

Franzi Rokoske

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Kelli Hunnicut

Alfred Tisdale

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Harriett Mitchell

Phyllis Verhey

Susan Cyr

Lee House

Fred Moore

Linn Wakeford

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

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

Becky Birchfield, mother of Wil James

Amanda Briggs, friend of Mindy Douglas

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Gera Fleming, mother of Christyn Klinck

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Donna Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

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

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Tanya Watkins, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

307 God of Grace and God of Glory


1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our


bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

This Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>Following Worship <i>Youth return from retreat.</i> Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall) Meaning in the Middle Lunch (Daye Meeting Room) Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p>5:00 PM The Somethings' Lenten Kick-off (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Monday, February 23</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>7:00 PM Session (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 24 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p>11:30 PM Daytimers' Luncheon (Bullock's Bar-B-Cue)</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 25</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff (Pastor's office)</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir (choir room)</p>
	<p>Thursday, February 26</p>
<p>Friday, February 27</p> <p>10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>	<p>Saturday, February 28</p> <p>9:00 AM New Hope Presbytery Meeting (Peace Presbyterian, Winterville, NC)</p> <p>3:00 PM Women's Voices Concert (Sanctuary)</p>
<p>Sunday, March 1 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i></p> <div> <div> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship with Communion: John Weicher, preaching</p> </div> <div> <p>Following Worship Racial Equity Task Force (Watts-Hill Hall) Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group: Spring Adventure</p> </div> </div>	

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:
office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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