

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Minute for Mission

Urban Ministries of Durham

John Weicher

Jancy Johnstone

PRELUDE

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

J.S. Bach

(Please see Hymn 237 for translation of Easter chorale text upon which this prelude was composed.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Weicher

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

People: God has given us new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

People: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

Leader: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;

And although we still do not see him, we believe in him.

People: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

***HYMN NO. 233**

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Living God, we confess that we look for the living among the dead.

We want to receive forgiveness,

but we are not ready to forgive.

We want to see Jesus' wounds,

but we ignore the woundedness of others.

Forgive us; give us new life!

Embrace us in Christ's body

so that we may embody for the world

the life that death cannot destroy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Those who are able, please stand.*

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 243**

Be Not Afraid

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Amy Dillon

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Guiding God,**

**send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word
 that it may serve to show us the path of life
 and lead us into your presence
 where there is fullness of joy. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

(Pew Bible, NT Page 119)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Amy Dillon

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

(Pew Bible, NT Page 232)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Amy Dillon

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

(Pew Bible, NT Page 115)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Scars”

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

John Weicher

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 817**

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

Dunlap's Creek

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem *Jesu, Hope of All Despairing (from Cantata BWV 475)*

J.S. Bach

*Jesu, hope of all despairing, to the lost, salvation bearing,
When with such triumphant might Thou o'ercame'st Thy foes in fight.
Breaking bars of death's dark prison, gloriously Thou hast arisen. Alleluia!*

*Valiantly Thou hast contended, death's dominion Thou hast ended;
Satan now can harm no more, rage as ne'er he raged before.*

Therefore Zion loud is singing, and her joyful voice is ringing: Alleluia!

*Earth the general joy pursuing, gladsome youth is now renewing,
All that live their joy display, clothe themselves in garments gay.*

Lo, the sea too, mirth is voicing, hills and valleys all rejoicing: Alleluia!

*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)

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The peace 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.

Happening Today

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

Minister of Music Survey Results: Are you interested in hearing more about the results of the survey you filled out regarding the Minister of Music search process? Join us in the Daye Meeting Room after worship today for a report. See you there!

"Wilmington on Fire," a documentary about the 1898 Wilmington Massacre, will be screened at FPC in Wilson Parlor today from 3:00-5:30pm. All are invited. Historians **David and Vera Cecelski** will attend and facilitate a discussion following the viewing. Racial Equity Task Force is sponsoring the event.

Youth Group will meet at 5:00pm for Guru Night and Senior Project.



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** in the sanctuary are given by **Laura Hanson** to the glory of God and in honor of **David & Vera Cecelski** and their contributions to public history.

Flower Donation Opportunities Available: There are open dates for worship flower donors during the next few months. To sign up, visit bit.ly/FPCflowers26 or click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter.

The **Paschal Banner** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten and Easter 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.

Our **paschal candle and stained red oak stand**, crafted by Marklin Candle Design of Contoocook, New Hampshire, is a visible sign of God's enduring presence in our beautiful century-old sanctuary. Rooted in Passover (Pesach) and adopted by early Christians, the lit candle represents the Risen Christ's triumph over darkness and death, his resurrection, to become the Light of the world. The beeswax candle is inscribed with a Cross and an **alpha** and **omega**, symbols attesting to Christ's presence among

us always. Traditionally, the candle, reminding us that we are preeminently an Easter People, is lit during worship services throughout the fifty days of Eastertide from Easter to Pentecost.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from *Feasting on the Word, Year A, Vol. 1* and *Call to Worship, Year A, Vol 47.1*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

These Days devotional books for April-June are available in the foyer.

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.

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 janebettach@gmail.com.

Grant Street Documentary: FPC's Racial Equity Task Force invites everyone to the premiere of a short documentary film to celebrate the history of Grant Street, one of Durham's historic Black neighborhoods, on Saturday, **April 18**, from 3:00-4:30pm at Hayti Heritage Center. Please join neighbors and community leaders for an afternoon celebrating the history and future of Grant Street, which is just a mile from FPC. Learn more and RSVP at bit.ly/4cwQjoe.

Covenant Presbyterian Church Women's Day: Covenant Presbyterian in Durham invites you to hear Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, next Sunday, **April 19**, at 10am, for Covenant's Women's Day service. She launched the Matthew 25 movement adopted by the PC(USA). Her love of justice, pastoral service, and professional training inform her compassion and messages.

Durham Public Library Fest: FPC's Racial Equity Task Force encourages everyone to register for the upcoming free programs at durhamcountylibrary.org/libraryfest/events. Both programs require registration – which is nearly full for the “Driving the Green Book” lecture. Both are at the Main Library (just across the street from FPC): “Pauli Murray: Writing the Path to Equality” on Thursday, **April 23**, 12-1pm; “Driving the Green Book” with Alvin Hall on Friday, **April 24**, 6-7:30pm. Check out these and the many other programs at the Library Fest!

First Friends: Save the date for First Friends in April! Join us on **April 25** at the home of **Jane Wettach** and **Paul Baldasare**. More details coming soon. First Friends is a community of 55+ individuals who gather monthly for fellowship.

Meaning in the Middle, a fellowship group for adults in their 30s and 40s, will enjoy pizza and good coffee together while growing in faith and community after worship on Sunday, **April 26**. Please RSVP at bit.ly/MnMrsvp so that we can order enough food. All are welcome—whether you're new to MnM or

returning for another great conversation together! Visit the MnM Homepage at bit.ly/MnMhome for more info.

Daytimers' Luncheon will gather on Tuesday, **April 28**, with guest speaker Chris Rice. Rice, an award-winning writer focused on social healing and spiritual renewal, will speak about his mentor, civil rights activist John Perkins. Daytimers will gather from 11am-12pm in Watts-Hill Hall with a catered luncheon by Isaiah Jernigan of Family Meal. Cost will be \$15 per person. For more information contact ***Mickey Velkey*** at marilyn.velkey@usa.net.

"Things That Matter" Book Group: On Tuesday, **May 12**, the group will discuss *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. ***Kathy Parkins*** will facilitate the discussion and ***Caroline Pritchett*** will host. The book discussion is at 4pm. Please RSVP to Caroline at 919-491-4490 or caropritch@gmail.com. All are welcome! For more information contact Kathy Parkins at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Floalice and Robert Reaves' great-niece, *Annie Reaves*, is in the hospital and facing heart surgery.

Phyllis Supple is in the ICU at Duke Hospital.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

John Fricks

Sue Fricks

Joe Harvard

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Vickie Luboff

Elizabeth Manceras

Harriett Mitchell

Fred Moore

Peggy Needham

Franzi Rokoske

Nora Tisdale

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Elizabeth High,
Alfred Tisdale*

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

Ashley Alvord, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

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

Anthony Ketcham, brother of Wil James

Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison

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

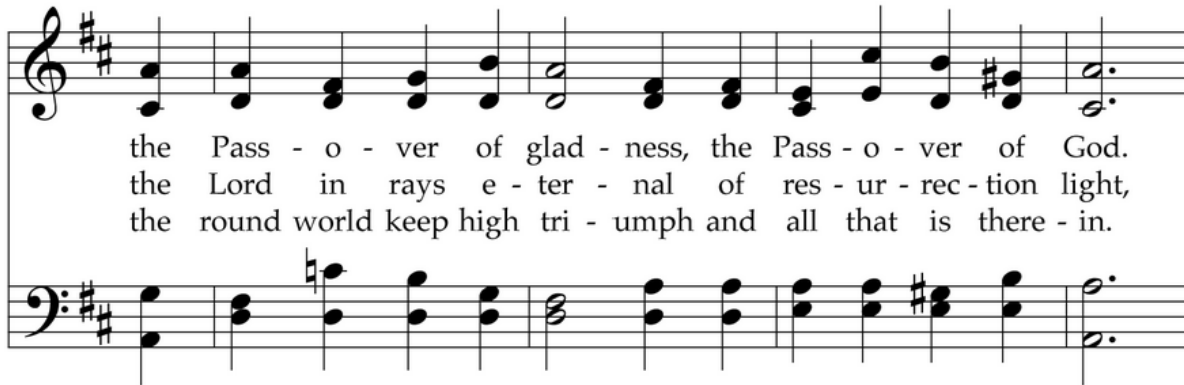
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Tanya Watkins, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

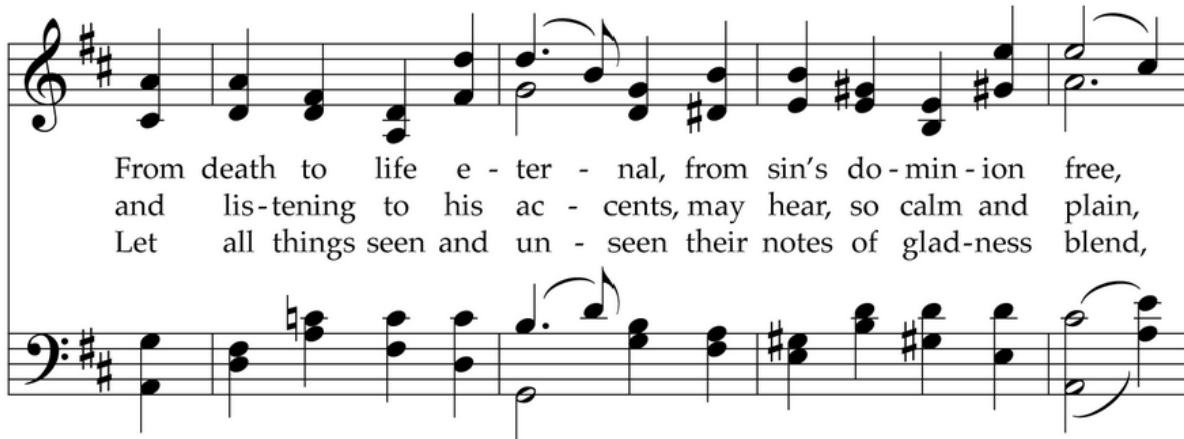
233 The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

254 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -

out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, April 12

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching.

Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)
Minister of Music Survey Results (Daye Meeting Room)

3:00 PM Wilmington on Fire Screening (Wilson Parlor)

5:00 PM Youth Group: Guru Night and Senior Project (Back Lawn)

Monday, April 13

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)

1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

6:00 PM

Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

Property Committee (Room 205)

Christian Education Committee (Zoom)

6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee (Watts-Hill Hall)

7:00 PM

Worship and the Arts (Wilson Parlor)

Welcome & Belonging (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 15

1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 16

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

Friday, April 17

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Sunday, April 19

Creation Care Sunday • Newsletter Deadline

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship: Esther Hethcox, preaching.

Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)

Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)

3:00 PM Choral Society Chamber Choir Concert (Sanctuary)

5:00 PM Youth Group: Farm Church (Watts & Green Streets)

CHURCH STAFF

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>.

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