



"Messenger of sympathy & love, servant of parted friends, consoler of the lonely, bond of the scattered family, enlarger of the common life" by Eugene Francis Savage

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

August 30, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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

PRELUDE

Diapason Movement

comp. John Keeble

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

**we confess that our love for you and for others
has not been genuine.**

**We have not held fast to what is good,
and we have lagged in affection for one another.**

**We have not been patient in suffering,
nor have we persevered in prayer.**

**We have repaid evil for evil
and have failed to live peaceably with all.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.**

**Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 399**

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

(Pew Bible, NT Page 18)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

INTERLUDE

“Light of a Clear Blue Morning”
Leigh Wyncoop, soloist

comp. Dolly Parton

EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:9-21

(Pew Bible, NT Page 162)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Griffin Momsen-Hudson

SERMON

(silent reflection)

“*Genuine Love*”

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *The Declaration of Faith*)

John Weicher

Leader: God created and rules in love.

People: **God created all the worlds that are**

and upholds and rules everything.

We affirm that the universe exists

by the power of God’s Word and Spirit.

God has chosen to give it reality

out of the love we have come to know in Christ.

God still works

through the processes that shape and change the earth

and the living things upon it.

We acknowledge God’s care and control

in the regularity of the universe

as well as in apparently random happenings.

There is no event from which God is absent

and God’s ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving.

That purpose embraces our choices

and will surely be accomplished.

The Creator works in all things

toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

*HYMN NO. 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Reflection

John Weicher

comp. Betty Roe

*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!

HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

(You may come forward to make your offering.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

John Weicher

Leader: Lord, satisfy us with your love in the morning,

People: and we will live this day with joy and praise.

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. 313

Lord, Make Us More Holy

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

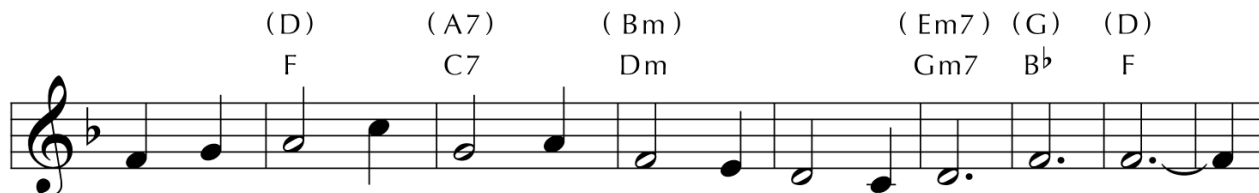
*POSTLUDE

La Réjouissance

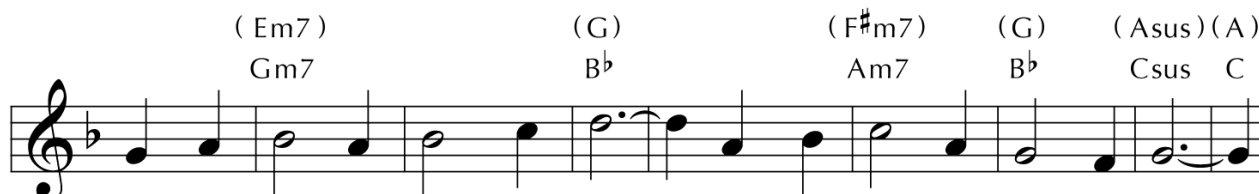
comp. G.F. Handel



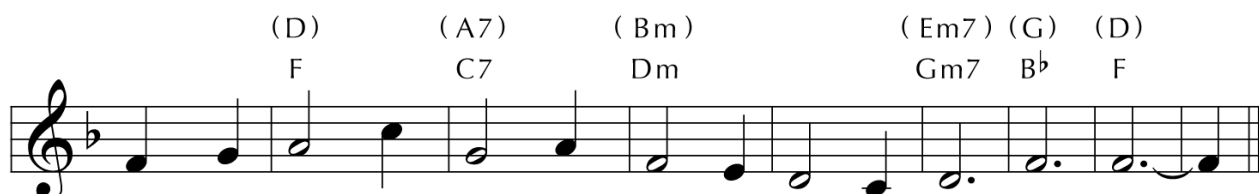
- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.



- 1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a-mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
4 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
our com-mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

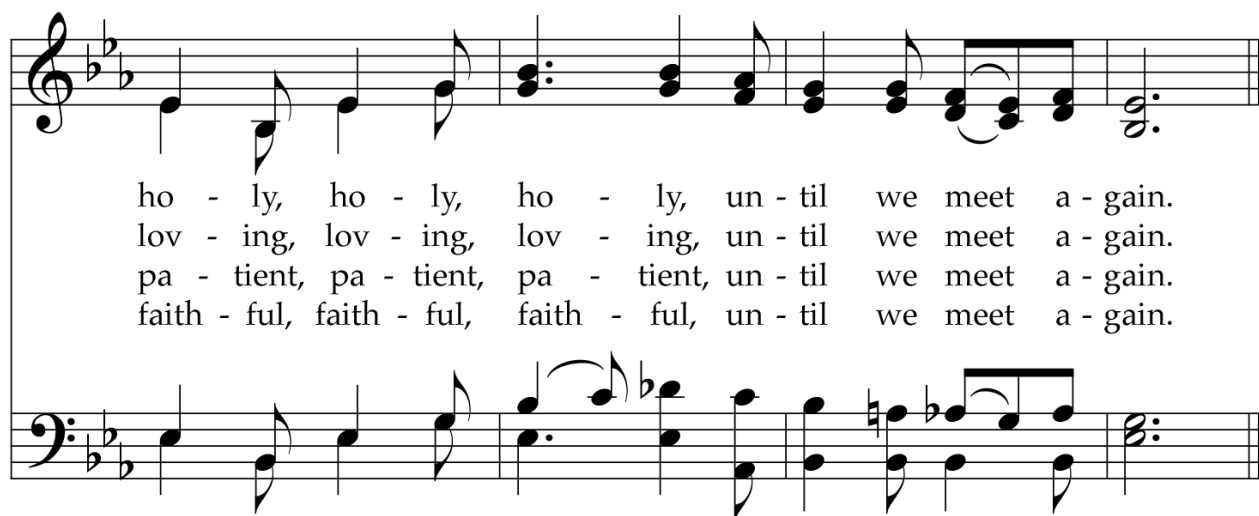




1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;



Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

Worship Notes



Sign In

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.



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.

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in great thanksgiving for the community of First Presbyterian Church by ***Deborah Momsen-Hudson***.

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

Hunger for Change: Hunger for Change supports local and international hunger relief through the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program. Your gift helps neighbors here in Durham and around the world.

Portions of today's worship resources come from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Declaration of Faith*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

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 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/>



New to FPC? Presbyterian 101 Continues: Curious about the robes, stoles, or what "session" means? Join Pastors Mindy, Esther, and Susan for a conversation on Presbyterian theology, polity, worship, and how to get connected. This is a 3-week class that runs **August 16, 23, and 30 at 9:45 a.m.** in Room 205. Come as you are, questions and all!

Mary Berry's Ordination: You are joyfully invited to ***Mary Berry's*** ordination at FPC **today, August 30 at 4:00 p.m.**, as she is ordained a Teaching Elder in her role as Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Campbell University Divinity School, with the support of FPC and New Hope Presbytery. Please RSVP for the reception following the service: <https://evite.me/9ykpz5yPzy>.

Fall Book Club: *How the Word Is Passed*: Join FPC's Racial Equity Task Force this fall for a book club tour by Zoom, from Monticello to the African American History Museum in DC, reading Clint Smith's *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, one of the New York Times' top ten books of 2021. Six sessions run every other **Thursday, 7–8 p.m., September 10 through November 19**; please have your book ready before the first meeting. To get the Zoom link or sign up to lead a discussion, RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/wZ3U4YpmVKkMRQUZ6>.

Building Update: *Rebuilding Together*: Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins **October 1, 2026**. Funded by the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, the project will improve accessibility, renovate the Fellowship Hall, add an elevator, reconfigure volunteer/Walk-In Ministry offices, add a columbarium and basement showers, plus several other additional renovations. Once construction begins, the Fellowship Hall and volunteer offices will close, the kitchen stays open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Questions? Email communications@firstpres-durham.org.

Choir Rehearsals Set to Begin!! Our official choir season rehearsals begin on **Wednesday the 2nd of September** in the choir room (upstairs in the Faith Formation hallway and around the corner) at **7:00 p.m.** Of course we welcome all our current members, plus a few new faces. If you have any experience singing in a choir (no matter how long ago) you are also welcome! For more information contact our Minister of Music, **Matthew Moore**, at music@firstpres-durham.org or find him after church on Sunday.

Save the Date: *First Acts Reads The Crucible*: Join us **Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m.–noon** in the Daye Meeting Room for a reading of Arthur Miller's award-winning drama about the Salem Witch Trials. The play's themes of community and family torn apart by ideology, theology, and mass hysteria in 1600s New England still offer valuable insight into our world today. No theater experience needed, all are welcome, and roles will be assigned that morning.

Things That Matter Book Club: Join us for the first meeting of the 2026–2027 year on **Tuesday, September 8 at 4 p.m.** at the home of **Jean Wilson. Laura McNab** will lead our discussion of *We, the Women*. Don't worry if you haven't finished (or started!) the book... Come anyway! Please RSVP to Jean Wilson at jeanjwilson@gmail.com so we know how many chairs to bring.

The Somethings Book Group: Join us **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** in **Esther's** office for a laid-back book discussion group. This fall we're reading through *Shameless* by Nadia Bolz-Weber (September), *The Women of Wild Hill* by Kirsten Miller (October), and *Rap and Redemption on Death Row* by Alim Braxton (November), with *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor carrying us into Advent (December). All are welcome to jump in at any point.

Men of Faith: All First Presbyterian men are invited to join Men of Faith at Mad Hatter's on **Friday, September 4 at 8:00 a.m.** for coffee, food, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best Wishes to Vernon Cooper: This week, we said goodbye to our sexton, Vernon Cooper. If you would like to send a note to Vernon, please mail it to the church at 305 E. Main St., Durham, NC, 27701. You may also thank Vernon for his five and a half years of service by donation online to a love offering in his honor at www.firstpres-durham.org/giving/.

Meet Our New Staff



Betsy Williams, Church Administrator

Betsy serves as Church Administrator, bringing a degree in Religious Studies from Appalachian State University and years of mission and youth ministry experience at Presbyterian churches in Charlotte and Raleigh. A Durham native, she is glad to be back home with her wife, Dorothy, a public school teacher, and brings a love of people, organization, and hospitality to supporting FPC Durham's staff and congregation.

Reach Betsy at [office@](mailto:office@firstpres-durham.org)



Janet Askew, Business Associate

Janet serves as Business Associate, overseeing the finance office after training closely alongside former Business Manager Tom Bloom. Working approximately 20 hours a week, she brings careful attention to detail and a steady, welcoming presence to FPC Durham's finances, and is the best contact for finance-related questions, from giving statements to reimbursements.

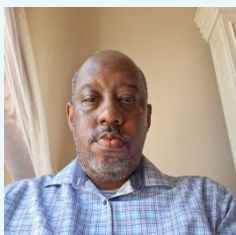
Reach Janet at [finance@](mailto:finance@firstpres-durham.org)



Brandi Kirkland, Communications Associate

Brandi serves as Communications Associate, working a hybrid schedule with mornings in the church office and afternoons from home. She produces the weekly Sunday bulletin, biweekly newsletter, Friday emails, and special announcements, and manages FPC Durham's social media and website, bringing creativity and consistency to how the church communicates with its congregation and community.

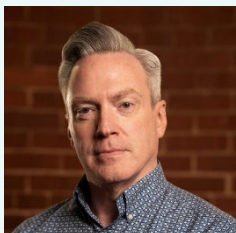
Reach Brandi at [communications@](mailto:communications@firstpres-durham.org)



Donald Turner, Facilities Associate

Donald serves as Facilities Associate, bringing years of experience maintaining large, historic buildings, most recently at the Montessori School of Raleigh and for eight years as Facilities Manager at Meredith College. He works closely with the Building and Property Committees and the Riggs-Harrod contractors on the fall renovation project, and is a father of four and grandfather of six.

Reach Donald at [facilities@](mailto:facilities@firstpres-durham.org)



J. Matthew Moore, Minister of Music

Matthew serves as Minister of Music, bringing nearly three decades of church music leadership, most recently at First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro. Trained in both organ and vocal performance, he builds music programs for all ages and sees a vital music ministry as one of a church's strongest tools for welcome and outreach. Outside the organ bench, he enjoys a growing stack of books, Irish and British culture, genealogy, and baking.

Reach Matthew at [music@](mailto:music@firstpres-durham.org)

**All staff emails are at @firstpres-durham.org*

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Kelli Hunnicutt, as her daughter **Lydia's** unborn baby has heart defects that will require surgery upon birth.
Julio Manceras' mother, **Elizabeth Manceras**, who is hospitalized in Texas.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Sue Fricks

Joe Harvard

Elizabeth High

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Elizabeth Manceras

Harriett Mitchell

Fred Moore

Franzi Rokoske

Care Communities:

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

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: **John Fricks**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Pruitt Health - Durham: **Fred Callaway**

Southpoint Atria: **Madge McKeithen**

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Ashley Alvord, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Eddie Cheatham, mother-in-law of Donald Turner

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy

Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Minnie Sue Douglas, mother of Mindy Douglas

Rosalynn Farrell, mother of Rachel Bethune

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah

Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox

Carl Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Anthony Ketcham, brother-in-law of Wil James

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Patrick O'Neill, father of Brianna Bennett

Janet and James Ouzts, sister and brother-in-law of Celia Dickerson

Rebecca Todd ("Toddie") Peters, mother of Sophie Peters

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Joe Quirk, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

Annie Reaves, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Presbyterian 101 Class (Room 205)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

10:00 AM Children's Faith Formation Teacher Training

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching,
Hunger for Change

4:00 PM Mary Berry's Ordination

Monday, August 31

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

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

Thursday, September 3

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

Tuesday, September 1

Friday, September 4

8:00 AM Men of Faith (Mad Hatter's)

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Esther Hethcox, preaching,

12:15 PM FPC Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)

CHURCH STAFF

Janet Askew, Business Associate
Lenore Champion, Director of Children's Ministry
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Brandi Kirkland, Communications Associate
Matthew Moore, Minister of Music
Donald Turner, Facilities Associate
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