

"Reckoning" Matthew 25:14-20 by Sarah Lea West 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

November 15, 2026

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Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost — November 15, 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 — Partita III in E Major: Preludio — *comp. J.S. Bach*
Jacob Roege, Violin

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Mindy Douglas

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;
People: You have been our home throughout all ages.
Leader: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.
People: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

***HYMN NO. 363** — Rejoice, the Lord Is King! — DARWALL'S 148TH

***CONFESSION OF SIN** — Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer
Prayer of Confession

We do what the world requires of us, O God of the commandments.
We go along to get along, or maybe just to get by,
without thinking too often about who we are leaving behind,
or who we are getting along with,
or how our investments shape the world.

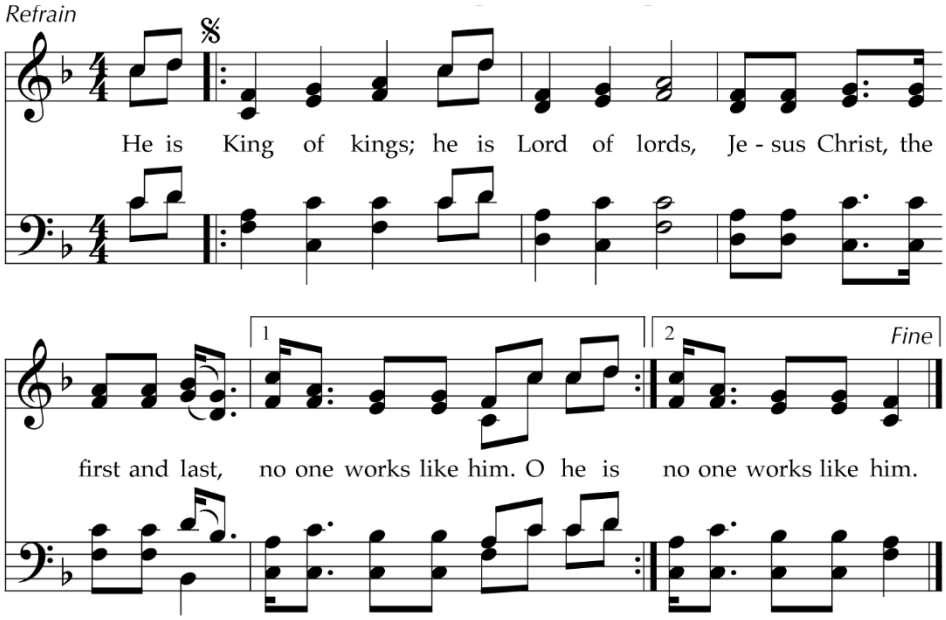
But you are not a God of "getting by."
You are the way itself, and the truth and the light.
Forgive us for investing in wealth instead of neighbors,
for settling for convenient half-truths instead of your Word,
for only shining our lights ahead
instead of looking back for those being left out.
Show us again what you require of us— justice, kindness and humility.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Forgiveness

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Those who are able, please stand.*

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 273** He Is King of Kings HE IS KING



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Noah Dillon

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray:
All: Your words are older than we can fathom, Creator of time and space.
And so you will forgive us if we need your Spirit once again…
to make fresh what is ancient,
to grant insight where there is confusion,
to reveal your will for us even here, even now.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 5:1-9 (Pew Bible, OT Page 52)
Noah Dillon

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM Celtic Laud *comp. Craig Courtney*

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat, for bread and for wine, the gift of your feast.
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.
For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees, for wood in the fire, your Spirit in me.
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.
For springtime's green earth, for morning's first light, for every new birth, for grace and for life.
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise, O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30 (Pew Bible, NT Page 28)
John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *"The God We Fear We Have"* John Weicher

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *The Barmen Declaration*) Mindy Douglas

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins,
so in the same way and with the same seriousness
is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life.
Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance
from the godless fetters of this world
for a free, grateful service to his creatures.
We reject the false doctrine,
as though there were areas of our life
in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ,
but to other lords—
areas in which we would not need
justification and sanctification through him.

***HYMN NO. 716** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

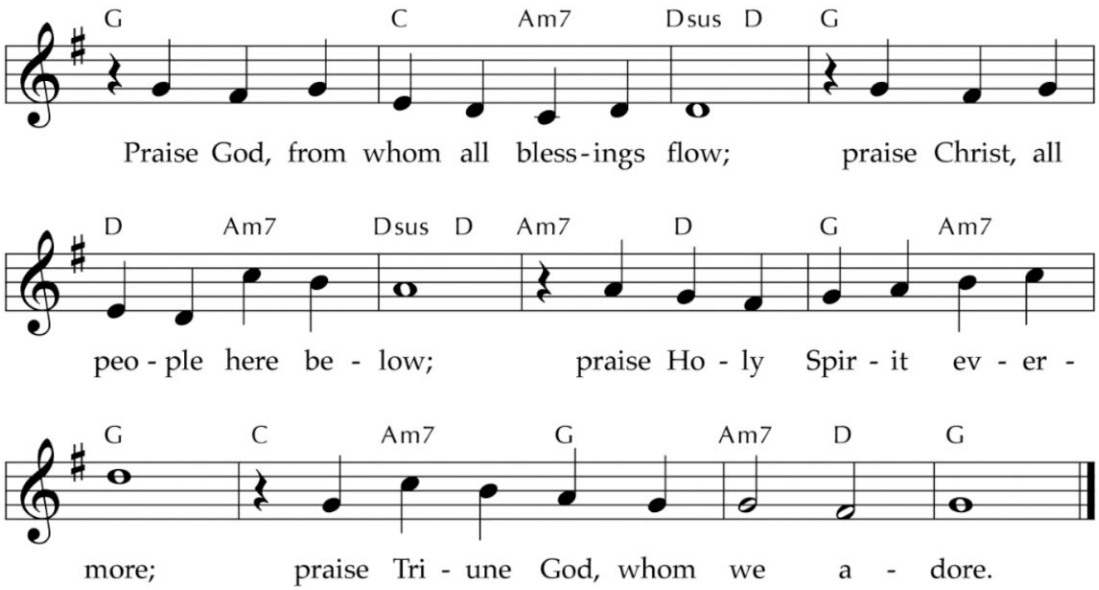
TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem Praeludium from *Suite for Violin & Organ*, Opus 166 *comp. Jos. Rheinberger*

**Doxology* HOPSON



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

Leader: 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.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.
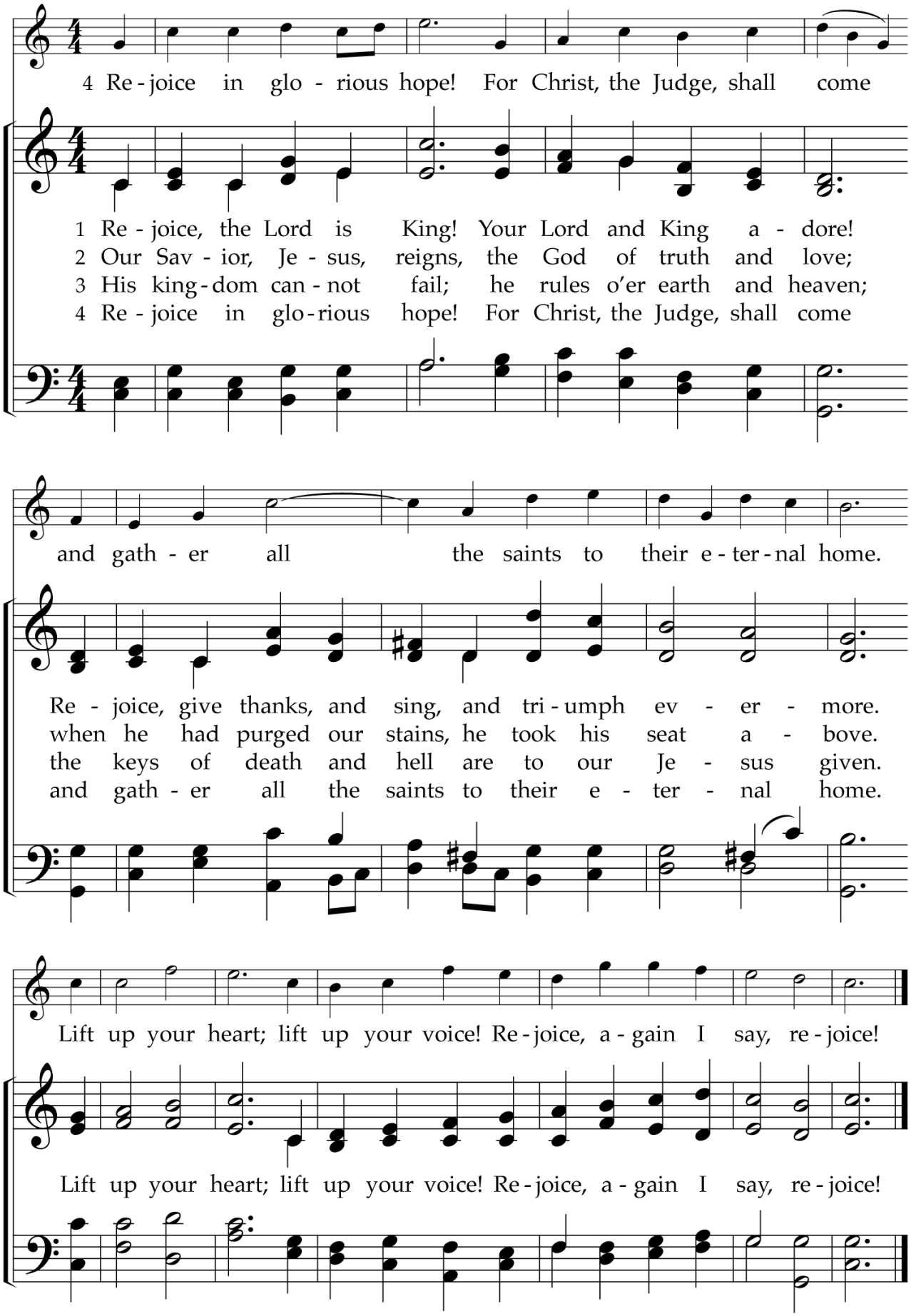
***HYMN NO. 771** What Is the World Like NEW WORLD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** John Weicher

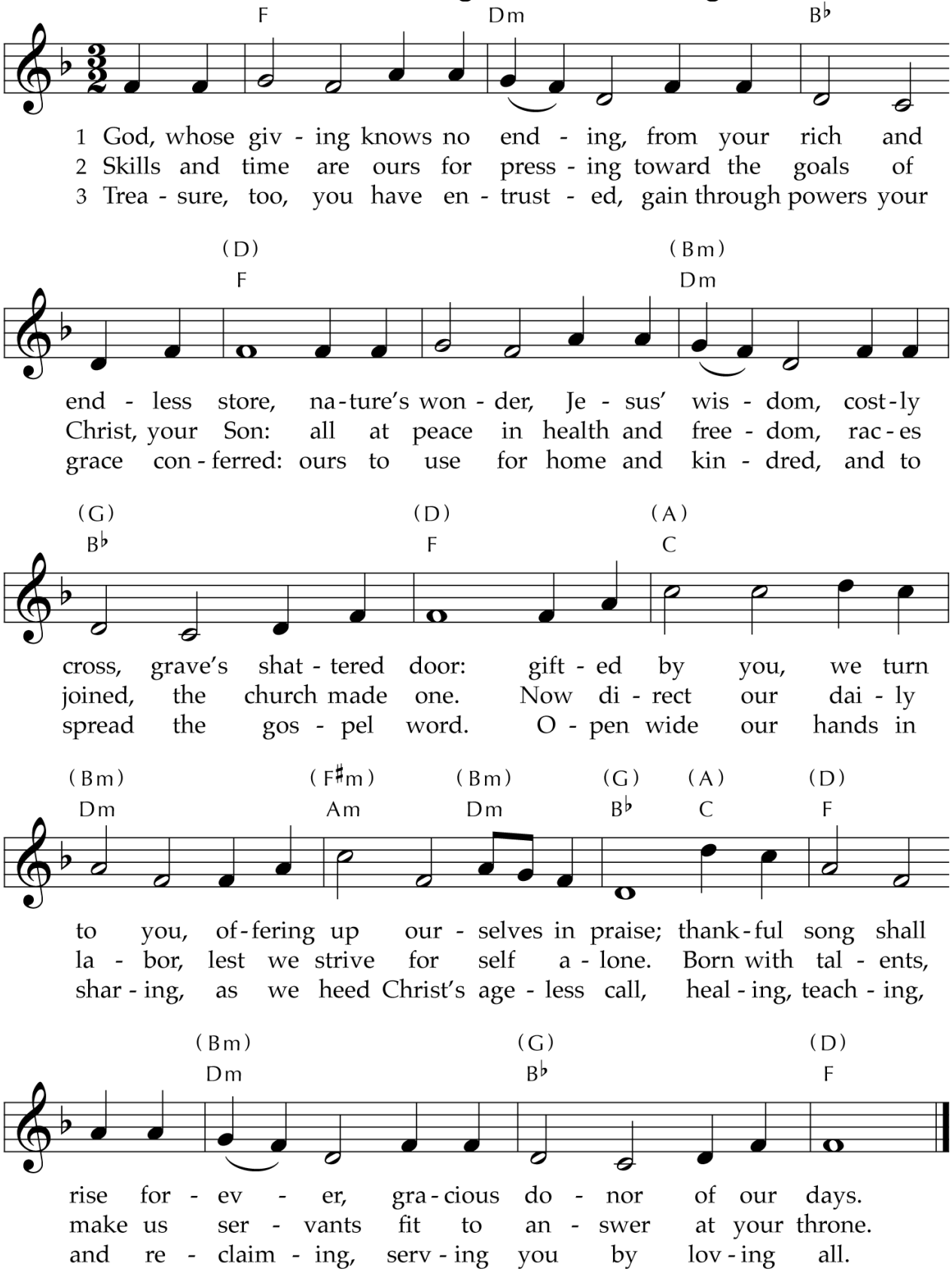
***POSTLUDE** Andante *comp. Giuseppe Tartini*

***HYMN NO. 363** Rejoice, the Lord Is King! DARWALL'S 148TH
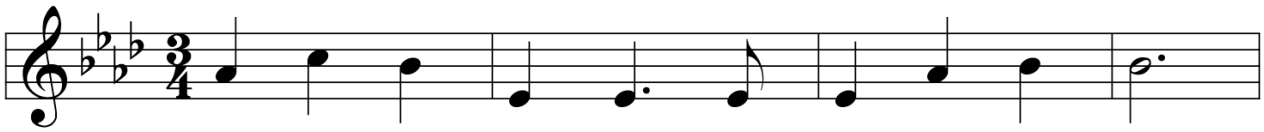
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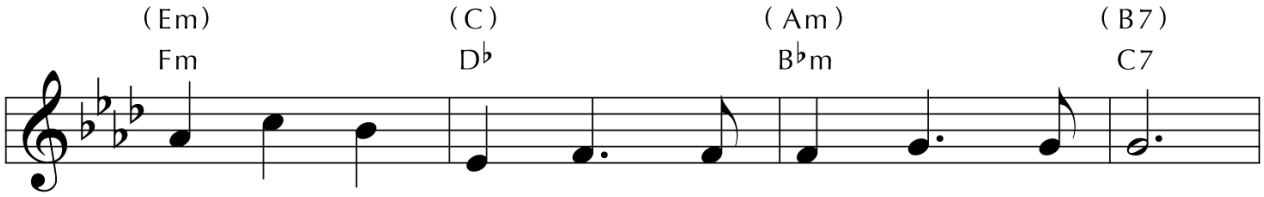
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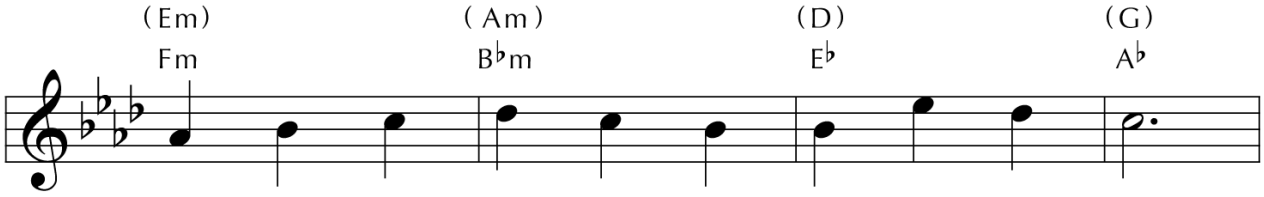
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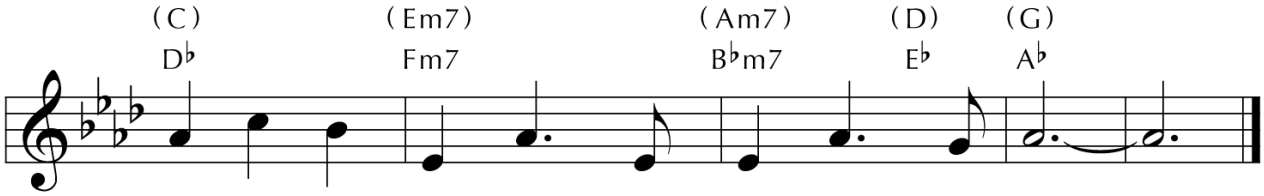


1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.



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.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary by ***Jean and Chuck Wilson***.

We welcome violinist ***Jacob Roege***, who joins us in worship today. Jacob Roege has built a versatile career as a performer, private teacher, and arts administrator. He is a member of the Triforce Quartet, a classically trained string quartet specializing in video game music recordings and performances. They have performed internationally and released five albums.

Sources for today's worship text: *Feasting on the Word* and *The Barmen Declaration*. ***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/

Building Update: Rebuilding Together – Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project will begin **this Monday**! As a reminder, once construction begins, the staff parking area will be reserved for construction staging, the Fellowship Hall will close, the kitchen will remain open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Questions? Email ***Betsy Williams*** at ***office@firstpres-durham.org*.**

2027 Pledges: Thank you to all who have turned in their 2027 pledges! We are about halfway to the goal we hope to meet in order to support the annual budget next year. If you have not had a chance to turn yours in, we invite you to do so using a pledge form and envelope (extras are in the foyer) or through our website using this QR code.

Your generosity and faithfulness allow us to continue to follow Jesus through the mission and ministry of this church. Together, we bear witness to Christ's love in the heart of Durham. Thank you for your gifts and support.

First Friendsgiving: Join First Friends on **Friday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m.** for First Friendsgiving, hosted by ***Carl Rist and Elisabeth Davis***. RSVP on Evite: ***https://tinyurl.com/first-friendsgiving-2026*** Save the date for our next two gatherings: **Saturday, December 12** and **Friday, January 29.**

MnM Lunch and Conversation: Join MnM for lunch and conversation next **Sunday, November 22**, right after worship. RSVP details will be shared soon. To get connected and join the MnM WhatsApp group for quick updates and invitations, email ***communications@firstpres-durham.org***.

Thanksgiving Day Gathering: If you'd like to spend the holiday with your church family, you're invited to join FPC's ***David and Judy Smith*** for food and joy on **Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, at 3:00 p.m.** at their home. Our hosts will provide a turkey (or chicken!) and pumpkin pie, and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. For more information, contact ***Pastor Esther Hethcox***.

Mahjong Save the Date: Join us for Mahjong on **Friday, November 27**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the Daye Room. New or just-learning players are welcome, and we'll pair you with an experienced player. Feel free to bring a snack to share. For more information, contact ***Amy Wilson*** or ***Chris Uithoven*** or email ***communications@firstpres-durham.org*** to get connected.

We the People *at the Nasher:* Join ***Brent Curtis***, FPC member and Nasher Museum of Art docent, for "We the People," a guided tour of rare early copies of the Declaration of Independence and related art at the Nasher Museum of Art on **Sunday, November 29, at 2:00 p.m.** The hour-long tour is suitable for ages 9 and up, and space is limited. Register with ***Brent Curtis*** at ***brentacurtis@gmail.com*** by **November 27**.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We Remember in Prayer:

Debbie and Lynn Cupp, *sister and brother-in-law of* ***Dawn Shelton****, following complications after falls.*
Paul Pasquarella, *husband of* ***Michael Honeycutt,*** *hospitalized after a fall.*
Sydnor Patrick, *for a recent diagnosis.*
Audrey Vallance, *as she prepares for knee replacement surgery this week.*
Sarah Wright, *as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.*

Judy Arrowood	***Tony Brown***	***Paul Cornsweet***	***Sam Crabtree***
Susan Cyr	***Susan Dunlap***	***Sue Fricks***	***Cesar Guajardo***
Joe Harvard	***Dennis Hill***	***Kerry Holbrook***	***Lee House***
Ann Huff	***Jenni James***	***Jancy Johnstone***	***Bob Lewis***
Harriett Mitchell	***Beth Neece***	***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***
Arbor Terrace, Asheville: ***Mal King***

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
Minnie Sue Douglas, mother of Mindy Douglas
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
Susan Hoffman, niece of Mickey Velkey
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
Elizabeth Manceras, mother of Julio Manceras
Peter McClain, father of Erin McClain
Sandra Mikush**,** mother of Katie Fogleman
Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin
Patrick O'Neill, father of Brianna Bennett
Janet Ouzts, sister 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
Jean Shaffer, friend of Cheri Reece
Lydia Still and Emory Grace, daughter and granddaughter of Kelli Hunnicutt
Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner
Jim Vacca*,* father of Jamie Chambliss
Charlotte West*,* friend of Michael Honeycutt and Paul Pasquarella
Eric Wright*,* friend of FPC Durham

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE!

Sunday, November 15

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation
11:00 AM Worship: John Weicher, preaching
5:00 – 7:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Monday, November 16

7:00 AM Construction Begins
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry (By Phone)
11:30 AM Coalition of Affordable Housing & Transit Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)
6:30 PM Fellowship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)
6:30 PM Welcome & Belonging Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 17

10:00 AM Gather & Grow: Chronic Conditions Support Group (Wilson Parlor)
7:00 PM Somethings Book Group (Associate Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, November 18

1:00 PM FPC Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 19

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry (By Phone)
7:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force Book Club (Zoom)

Friday, November 20

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)
4:00 PM High School Keep Awake Retreat (Parking Lot)
6:00 PM First Friends Gathering (Offsite)

Saturday, November 21

All Day High School Keep Awake Retreat (Offsite)

Sunday, November 22

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation
11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching
12:00 PM Diaconate Meeting (TBA)
12:15 PM MnM Gathering (TBA)
5:00 – 7:00 PM Middle School Youth Group (Offsite)

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
Betsy Williams, Church Administrator

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: https://firstpres-durham.org.