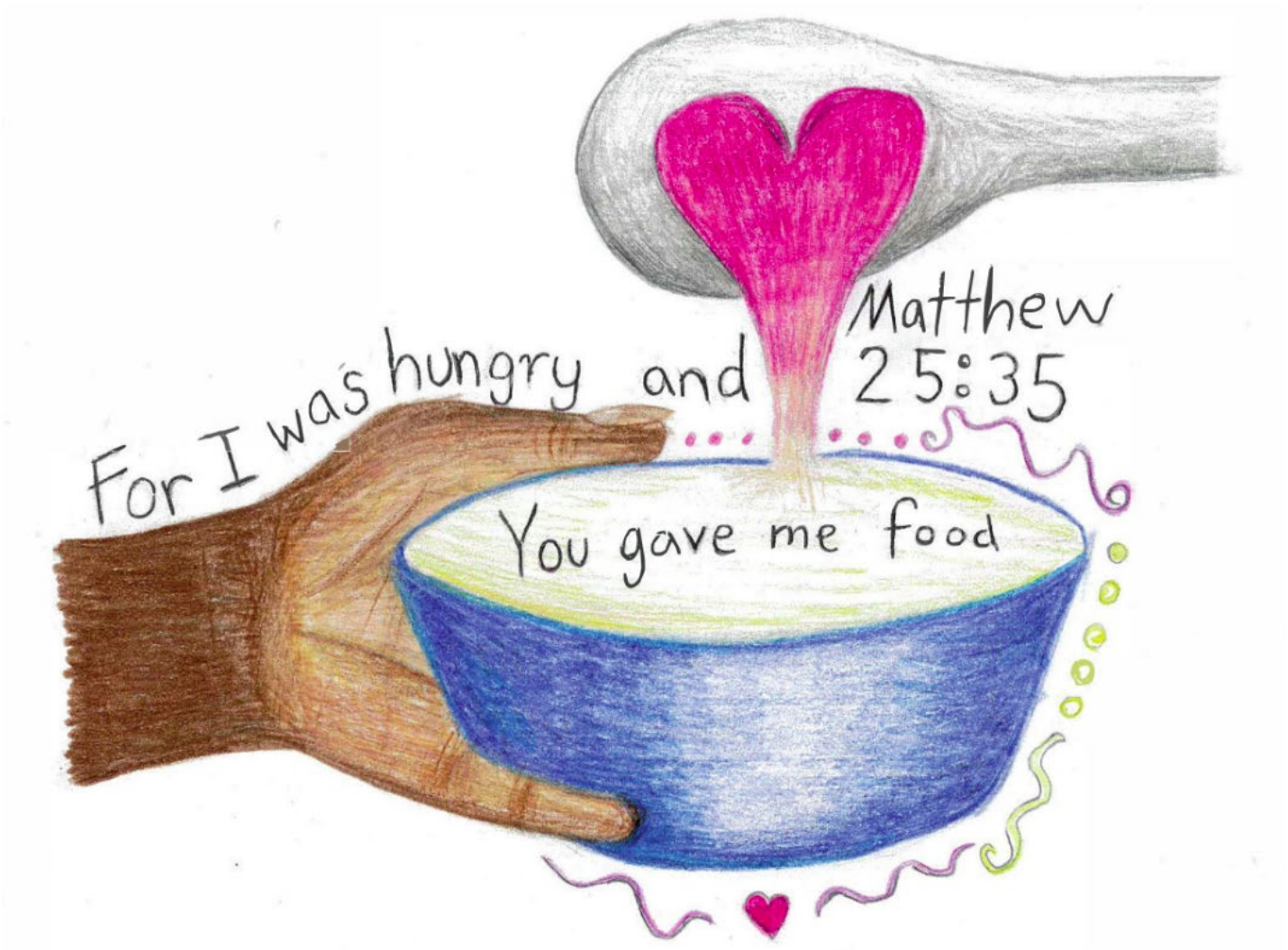


"For I was Hungry" by Nora Allison-Pleasants, 7th Grade

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

November 22, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Reign of Christ Sunday — November 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

PRELUDE — Diapason Movement *from a Voluntary* — *comp. Maurice Greene*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** — Mindy Douglas

Leader: The gates of the Lord are open to all;
People: Come before God with thanks!
Leader: The courtyard of the Lord welcomes all the earth;
People: Bless God's holy name.
Leader: The pastures of the Lord are places for all to dwell!
People: Shout with praise, all the earth,
Leader: because God is good;
People: God's steadfast love endures forever.
God's faithfulness lasts from generation to generation.

***HYMN NO. 369** — Blessing and Honor — O QUANTA QUALIA

***CONFESSION OF SIN** — Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer
Prayer of Confession

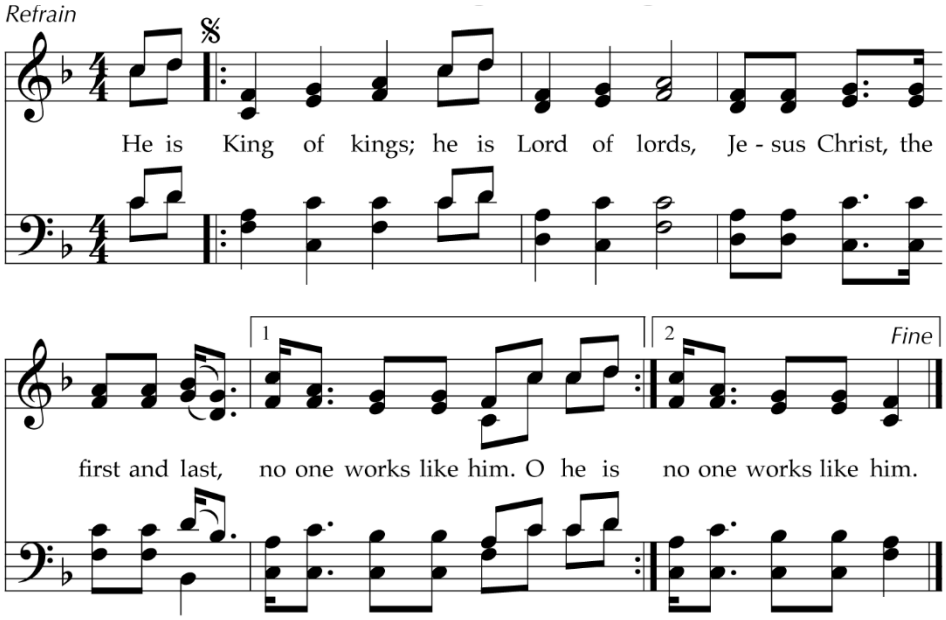
Sovereign God, we confess
that we are not ready for your holy realm.
You guide us toward right paths,
but we refuse to follow where you lead.
You love and feed and care for us,
but we fail to love and serve others.
Forgive us, merciful God,
so that we may return to your fold
and rejoice in your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the Lamb upon the throne.

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 Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray:
All: Holy God, open your Word.
Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
that our eyes may be enlightened
and we may know the hope to which we have been called;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23 (Pew Bible, NT Page 192)
Michael Honeycutt

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

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-46 (Pew Bible, NT Page 29)
Mindy Douglas

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

SERMON *"Seeing Jesus"* Mindy Douglas
(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Declaration of Faith*) Esther Hethcox

We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems
that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.

***HYMN NO. 320** The Church of Christ in Every Age WAREHAM

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Lenore Champion

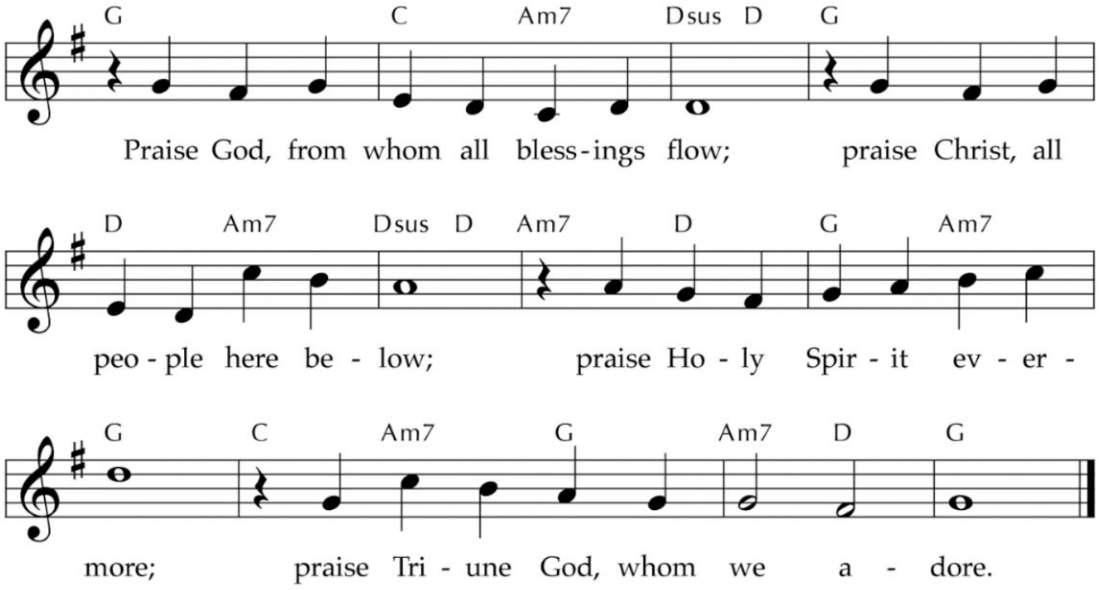
DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem The Kingdom *comp. André Thomas*

Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the Kingdom of God.
Don't you want to be a part of the Kingdom? Come on everybody!
The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. We are part of the earth, and it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers.
All things are connected. Rivers our brothers, earth our mother. The earth is the Lord's.

*Doxology HOPSON



INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

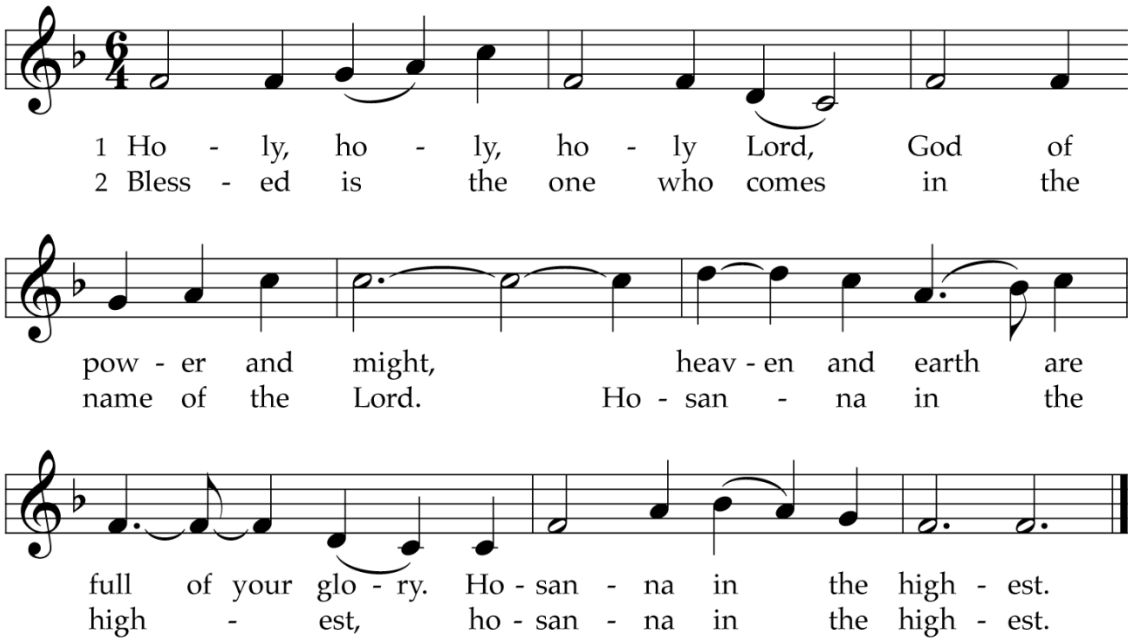
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

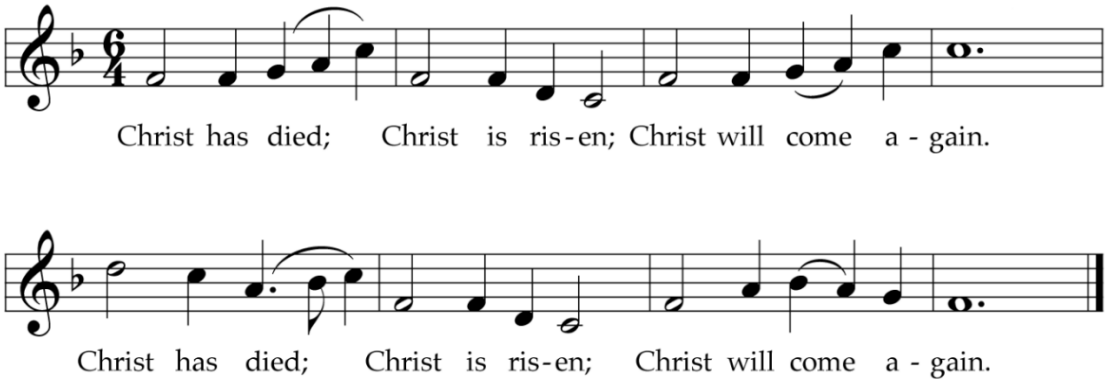
Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God:
you are a shepherd for your people—
feeding them,
protecting them from danger,
binding up their wounds,
searching for the lost and bringing them safely home.
Therefore we praise you, joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

All (sung):



Leader: Remembering your goodness and grace,
we offer ourselves to you with gratitude
As we share this joyful feast.
Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung):



Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Give us your Spirit of wisdom and revelation,
enlightening the eyes of our hearts
so that we may live in faith, hope, and love.
Through the Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
we bless you, God of glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

All (sung):



THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

★Ecumenical Version

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas & Esther Hethcox

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The bread and the elements are gluten free and were prepared in a gluten-free area. We use grape juice in the cup. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. The server will give you a piece of bread, which you dip in the cup. Parents, please assist children as they take bread and lightly dip it into the cup. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Esther Hethcox

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
All: Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life.
As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors.
As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry.
As we have been loved, help us to love the world—
because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 645** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above MIT FREUDEN ZART

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE** Voluntary in F *comp. William Hine*

***HYMN NO. 369** Blessing and Honor O QUANTA QUALIA



***HYMN NO. 320** The Church of Christ in Every Age WAREHAM



***HYMN NO. 645** Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above MIT FREUDEN ZART



Worship Notes



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.



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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 memory of, and thanks for, the life of ***Maxie Honeycutt*** by her family.

Sources for today's worship text: *Call to Worship, Feasting on the Word, Book of Common Worship,* and *A Declaration of Faith*. ***Music*** is reprinted under OneLicense.net: A.713926.

Our guest musicians today are ***Dr. Dessalines Ford***, piano and ***Mr. Bashir Shakur***, Djembe.

★ ***The Lord's Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated:*** From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way.

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/

MnM Lunch and Conversation: Join MnM for lunch and conversation **today, November 22**, right after worship in rooms 205 and 209. 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 Night: Join us for Mahjong on **Friday, November 27**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in Wilson Parlor. 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.

Children's Advent Festival: Join us **Sunday, November 29, from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.** upstairs in the children's Faith Formation rooms for this multigenerational event. Crafts range from toddler to adult levels and include Shrinky Dinks, button making, tree ornaments, beading, and Christmas cards for our homebound members. Advent candle supplies will be available, along with refreshments for kids and adults. We hope to see you there!

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**.

First Friends Gatherings: Save the date for our next two gatherings: **Saturday, December 12** and **Friday, January 29.**

Building Update: Rebuilding Together – Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project **has begun**! As a reminder, now that construction has begun, the staff parking area is reserved for construction staging, the Fellowship Hall is closed, the kitchen remains open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Look out for our Friday weekly reminders email for ongoing photos of the renovation project. Questions? Email ***Betsy Williams*** at ***office@firstpres-durham.org*.**

Advent Devotionals | Church Lobby & Social Media
In Advent, we journey together, slowly but surely, to the manger to meet the Christ child. This year, we have two faithful companions along the way, in the form of Advent devotionals. Pick up a color-along paper devotional in the church lobby and check out our social media as youth and youth volunteers share about their own family traditions all Advent long!

Advent Festival | November 29 | 9:45am | 2nd Floor Education Building
This year the Advent Festival will take place Sunday, November 29 from 9:45am to 10:45am upstairs in the children's Faith Formation classrooms. This is a multigenerational event - craft levels range from toddler to adult - including shrinky dinks, button making, tree ornaments, beading, and creating Christmans cards for the homebound. Advent candle supplies will be available. There will be refreshments for kids and adults, and we hope to see you!

Somethings Artvent | December 8 & December 15 | 7:00pm
Join Pastor Esther and Ashley Swavely to talk about Barbara Brown Taylor's Learning to *Walk in the Dark* and create a quilted landscape of our Advent journeys.

Durham Holiday Parade Watch Party | Saturday, December 12 | 10:00am
Cheer on hometown bands, drill teams, schools, and community groups as they make their way down Main Street for the Durham Holiday Parade. Come watch the parade from the sanctuary steps as we hand out hot chocolate!

First Friends Advent Gathering | December 12 | 6:30pm
Join First Friends for our annual Advent potluck with delicious food and engaging conversations. Our hosts are providing a main dish, but please bring a drink, side dish, or dessert to share!

Lessons and Carols | December 13 | 11:00am
Based on the historic service from King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, join us as we tell the Christmas story through scripture readings, choir anthems, and congregational singing.

Advent Supper & Carol Sing | December 13 | 6:00pm
The Christmas story, delightful food, and your favorite Christmas carols…what could be better? Everyone is invited to our annual Advent Supper & Carol Sing-along! Friends are welcome, so bring someone and bring a dish to share.

Christmas Pageant | December 20 | 11:00am
Anyone who would like to participate in our Christmas Pageant is welcome! Please join us for practices during the Faith Formation hour on December 3rd, 13th, and 20th. All ages are welcome to participate as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | December 24 | 5:00pm
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5) Join us for a worship service of candlelight, carols, and communion. All are welcome!

Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation

We Remember in Prayer:

Audrey Vallance, *as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.*

Judy Arrowood
Susan Cyr
Joe Harvard
Jenni James
Beth Neece
Sarah Wright
Tony Brown
Susan Dunlap
Kerry Holbrook
Jancy Johnstone
Paul Pasquarella
Paul Cornsweet
Sue Fricks
Lee House
Bob Lewis
Sydnor Patrick
Sam Crabtree
Cesar Guajardo
Ann Huff
Harriett Mitchell
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
Debbie and Lynn Cupp, *sister and brother-in-law of Dawn Shelton*
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
Doris Upchurch, cousin of Michael Honeycutt
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 22

9:45 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Faith Formation
11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching
12:00 PM Diaconate Meeting (Daye Parlor)
12:15 PM MnM Gathering (Rooms 205 & 209)
4:00 PM High School Youth Return (Parking Lot)
5:00 – 7:00 PM Youth Group (Offsite)

Monday, November 23 **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry (By Phone) **1:30 AM** Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)	**Thursday, November 26** **All Day** Office Closed **3:00 PM** FPC Family Thanksgiving Meal
Tuesday, November 24 **7:00 PM** Somethings Book Group (Associate Pastor's Study)	**Friday**, **November 27** **All Day** Office Closed **6:00 PM** Mahjong (Daye Meeting Room)
Wednesday, November 25	**Saturday**, **November 28**

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation; Advent Festival (2nd Floor Hall)
11:00 AM Worship: Esther Hethcox, preaching; Hunger for Change Offering
2:00 PM *We the People* Fellowship Outing (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.