

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Ascension Sunday

May 28, 2017

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A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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*(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Minute for Mission  
Ritual of Friendship

Mindy Douglas  
Lenore Champion

**PRELUDE**

*O Worship the King*

Willem Mudde

**INTROIT**

*Peoples, Clap Your Hand!*

Genevan Psalter

*People, clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!  
King of all the earth is the Lord Most High;  
all humanity stands in awe of God.  
With a mighty hand God brings nations low,  
and beneath our feet casts down every foe;  
our inheritance comes from God the Lord.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marilyn Hedgpeth

Leader: Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,  
People: **For God reigns over all the earth!**  
Leader: God has gone up with a shout!  
People: **Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!**  
All: **Let us worship God.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 260**

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

*Hyfrydol*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN** (remain standing)

Marilyn Hedgpeth

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet we feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Response (Hymn No. 265, verse 5)

*Duke Street*

*Let every creature rise and bring  
honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!*

\* Those who are able, please stand.

## COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

(Pew Bible, OT Page 192)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 118)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:44-53

(Pew Bible, NT Page 91)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*"Start with Courage"*

Mindy Douglas

## \*LITANY FOR ASCENSION

Marilyn Hedgpeth

Leader: Arise, O Lord, in your strength.

People: **We will praise you for your glory!**

Leader: Let us pray with joy to Christ at the right hand of God, saying: You are the king of glory! You have raised the weakness of our flesh. Heal us from our sins, and restore to us the full dignity of life.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Leader: May our faith lead us to the Father as we follow the road you trod.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Leader: You have promised to draw all people to yourself;

Let no one of us be separate from your body.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Leader: Grant that by our longing we may join you in your kingdom where your humanity and ours is glorified.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

Leader: You are true God, and you will be our judge, so lead us to contemplate your tender mercy.

People: **You are the king of glory!**

## \*HYMN NO. 262

*Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus*

*All Saints*

## \*THE PEACE

Marilyn Hedgpeth

*(Children through 1<sup>st</sup> grade enter worship during "The Peace.")*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Marilyn Hedgpeth

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,  
People: **Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**  
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.**

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus* Alan Smith

(The anthem text is found in the Hymnal, No. 260)

The *Hunger for Change Offering* will be received following the anthem.

\**Doxology* (Hymn No. 232, verse 4) *Easter Hymn*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
All: **Great and mighty God, we praise you that Christ has ascended to rule at your right hand. We rejoice before the throne of his power and peace, for he has put down tyrannies that would destroy us, and unmasked idols claiming our allegiance. We thank you that he alone is Lord of our lives. By your Spirit, give us freedom to love with his love, and to embrace the world with his compassion. Accept the offering of our lives, that we may obey your commands to serve in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* *Ein' Feste Burg*

\*BENEDICTION *Mindy Douglas*

\*POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation* *Johann Ludwig Adam*

*Peter Fish* will be signing copies of FPC's newly published history book following worship today in Watts-Hill Hall. You may purchase a copy for \$25.00.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that we may better know each other, please sign the *Ritual of Friendship pad*, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then **return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you. We welcomed 12 visitors on Sunday, May 21.

The *flowers* are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *John R. Supple* by *Phyllis Supple* and family.

## WORSHIP NOTES AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Nursery care* for infants through 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. There is a changing table in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

*Worship bags and activity bulletins* are available in the foyer for children and youth. Books are on the pews in the narthex which young children can read and enjoy if they need to take a break from the worship service.

*Hearing Assistance Receivers* are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from *Feasting on the Word* and *Book of Common Worship*.

Copies of *sermons* are available from the table in the foyer.

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In celebration of Pentecost (the birth of the Church), **please wear red, orange or yellow on next Sunday.**

**All-Church Breakfast gathering / Sunday School Grand Finale and Teacher Appreciation** at 9:45 in Watts-Hill Hall as we honor our Sunday School teachers and thank them for another great year. Finger foods will be available for everyone. Following our "thanksgiving ceremony," children will be dismissed to the playground, and adults will remain to hear reports from our adult teachers about each of their classes and inspire students to come to Sunday School classes.

**Worship at 11:00 a.m.** - Holy Communion will be celebrated. We will also recognize our 2017 graduates and ordain and install the Class of 2020 ruling elders and deacons. The **PCUSA Pentecost Offering** will also be received during worship on Sunday, June 4. This offering benefits programs for children at risk, youth and young adults. Please give generously!

**Welcoming the Stranger:** We can be grateful that our church is blessed with many visitors. On occasion, some of the visitors have asked for money or other forms of assistance, and it is not always clear how to respond. **Marie Sappenfield** and **Susan Dunlap** are offering an opportunity on **Sunday, June 4 following worship** to discuss ways to respond to such requests. We will talk about practical, faithful ways to welcome all our visitors and how to graciously and appropriately offer Christian hospitality. A light lunch will be offered.

**The North Carolina Boys Choir will present their Spring Concert at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 4 at 5:00pm in the sanctuary.** The choir was founded 45 years ago at First Presbyterian by Bill Graham and is glad to return home for this event. Currently led by Robert Unger and David Cole, the treble-voiced boys in the concert choir are augmented by a chamber choir of several fathers and alumni singing tenor and bass on a number of selections. A girls' ensemble *Prima* will also participate, along with the training choir. The program will consist of classical, folk, and patriotic selections, with some audience participation. Composers include Casals, Fauré, Parry, and Purcell. Admission is free but donations are welcome.



This year's Vacation Church School has been transformed into a new event:

**The Great Big Church Family Festival.** FPC will host the event on **Sunday, June 11 and Wednesday, June 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Registration forms with more information are in the foyer and narthex. The theme is "Surprising Friendships." Please register your family and plan to attend.

### **Sunday, June 11 – Summer Sunday School begins!**

**Children** will meet upstairs in the Education Building at 9:45 to begin watching *Zootopia*, which depicts the unlikely partnership between a rabbit police officer and a red fox con artist. The film is rated PG.

**Adults** will meet in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 to begin a discussion of the book *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*, by Will Willimon. A few copies of the book are available in the church office for \$10. See Marilyn Hedgpeth for books.

### **~ Our Concerns ~**

*Peaches McPherson*, recovering from a fall

*Barbara Gerwe*, recovering at home following back surgery

*Lauren Bethune Scroggs*, sister of Alec Bethune

**Brookdale Senior Living (Durham):** *Julian Boswell*

**Eno Pointe Assisted Living (Durham):** *Helen Garrison*

**Croasdaile Village:** *Bette Conroy, Joanne Harrar, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford*

**Forest at Duke:** *Fran Bryant, Ken Goldner, Peaches McPherson*

**Family and Friends of FPC Members:**

- *Dot Blyth*, aunt of Libby Gulley
- *Robert G. Cope, III*, great nephew of Sam Miglarese
- *Katrina Downey*, friend of Joanne Harrar
- *Michael Gilbert*, friend of Kerry Holbrook
- *Mike Gray*, cousin of Linn Lopez
- *Rick Hager*, friend of Celia Dickerson
- *Cherie Haines*, sister of Vernon Neece
- *Paul Martin*, brother of Beth Neece
- *Tyrone McMillian*, husband of Valerie McMillian
- *Shade Mecum*, stepfather of Katherine Higgins
- *Linda Momsen*, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
- *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson
- *Janice Rattray*, friend of Robert and Jane Brawley
- *Lisa Short*, cousin of Alissa Miles

### **~ Serving Today ~**



Liturgist: *Cris Rivera*

Narthex Greeters: *Linn Lopez, Elizabeth High*

After Worship Greeters: *Phyllis Verhey* (side/font), *Eric Wiebe* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Julie Whiddon* (head), *Abi Warmack, Dale Gaddis, Jo Bernhardt*

## The Week at a Glance!

<p><b>After Worship:</b></p> <p>No Evening Youth Groups</p>	<p><b>Monday, May 29</b></p>  <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p><b>The Church Office is closed.</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Time Out Radio Show: Bill Hendrickson will interview Arthur Clark (Listen on FM103.5 / online at WCOMFM.org)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, May 30</b></p> <p><b>1:30 PM</b> Plan Worship</p> <p><b>2:30 PM</b> Program Staff</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, May 31</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir</p>
<p><b>Thursday, June 1</b></p>	<p><b>Friday, June 2</b></p> <p>No Book or Bible Study</p> <p><b>11:30 AM</b> First Presbyterian Day School Graduation with a reception and Open House</p>	<p><b>Saturday, June 3</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Scratch/Young Adults Brunch at the home of Laura Casteel</p>	<p><b>Sunday, June 4</b></p>  <p><b>PENTECOST</b> <i>Pentecost Offering received</i></p> <p><i>Recognition of Graduates</i></p> <p><b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School Grand Finale and Teacher Appreciation (Light breakfast provided)</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship with Communion and the Ordination and Installation of Officers</p> <p><b>After Worship:</b> "Welcoming the Stranger"</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> NC Boys Choir Spring Concert</p>

### CHURCH STAFF

*Tom Bloom, Business Administrator*  
*Robert Daye, Sexton*  
*Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff*  
*Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate*  
*Sarah Finbow, Youth Minister*



*Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor*  
*Cheryl Henry, Parish Associate*  
*Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator*  
*Sam Miglarese, Associate Pastor*  
*Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music*

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>

**305 EAST MAIN STREET    DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701    919-682--5511**