A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
(As we prepare to worship, please silence all cell phones.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ritual of Friendship

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE (with handbells)
Two Carols for piano and handbells
O Come, Little Children
What Is this Lovely Fragrance?

arr. Douglas Wagner

INTROIT
Hark the Herald

Cookham, Harmonia Sacra, 1760

Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”

See he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die;
Born to raise the souls of earth; born to give them second birth.

Hail, the holy Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness;
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

Let us then with angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Chris Williams and Matt Cline

AND CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying “yes” to God’s challenge,
accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

All: God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 102
Savior of the Nations, Come
Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland

CONFESSION OF SIN (remain standing)

Sam Migliarese

Call to Prayer
Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to live into your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom.
We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find
the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready
for his coming.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

* Those who are able, please stand.
COLLECT FOR THE DAY
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lord Christ, born in Bethlehem, give us grace to live the generosity of your humility.
   With great joy,
People: We celebrate your birth.
Leader: Lord Christ, Lord of all creation, give us grace to live the compassion of your justice.
   With great joy,
People: We wait for your coming.
Leader: Lord Christ, whose Spirit is active in your Church and your whole world,
give us grace to live the calling to be your body. With great joy,
People: We proclaim your presence. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING
   Isaiah 11:1-4b (Pew Bible, OT page 640)
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 129
   Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
   Es Ist Ein’ Ros’

GOSPEL READING
   Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, NT Page 56)
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE (see Page 6)
   The Angel Gabriel
   Basque Carol

SERMON
   “Favor”
   Marilyn Hedgpeth

CANTICLE
   “Magnificat”
   Leslie Curtis, soloist
   Luke 1:47-55

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
   (from Candles and Conifers)
   Sarah Finbow
We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.
We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was scorned and put to death, but whose radiance
could not be quenched; whose touch brings new life, reviving the weary, healing the wounded,
dazzling the satisfied.
We walk with God, guided by the light of God’s loving Spirit, who enters the shadowed places
of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.
We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God’s promises, for the time when the darkness will
hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but when creation will be made whole once more
and God’s peace will reign forever. Amen.

*THE PEACE
   Let us pause and pray that there may be peace not only in our church but in the whole world.
   Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
   People: And also with you.
   (Children through 1st grade enter worship during “The Peace.”)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN
   Marilyn Hedgpeth
The children may return to the nursery or join their parents in the pews for the remainder of the service.
JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.
People: Come, Lord Jesus.
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 OFFERING
Anthem Ave Maria Sergei Rachmaninoff
Ave Maria, Blessed Mother of God. Hail, thou Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb;
For thou hast brought forth the Savior, to redeem us all.

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

*Doxology

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearyed praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise.
All: Lord God, what a risk there was in your becoming flesh! What a depth of self-giving
love for your world! What a power bent by such love to accept humiliation for us.
Your suffering love is the power above all power, the power which transforms the
universe and wins its freedom. We bless and adore our incarnate Lord, God most high,
who was brought low for our sakes. Amen

*HYMN NO. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

* Benediction

Marilyn Hedgpeth

*POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

Richard Proulx

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. On Sunday, December 17 we welcomed 37 visitors to our worship service.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from Arthur and Mary
Clark. Special thanks to Alice Raney, Dale Georgiade, Brent Curtis, and Robert Daye for decorating the
sanctuary for the season.
The striking *Advent paraments*, a gift from Anne St. Clair Williams, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, a fiber-artist internationally known for her “Unweavings.”

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by *George Danser* and is given to us by him and his wife, *Jean Cary*.

*Nursery care* for infants—children 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. After the sermon is delivered, the 3-6 year old children join worship for the remainder of service or return to the nursery. There is an *infant changing table* in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

*Large print worship bulletins* along with *children’s worship / activity bulletins* are available from the ushers. You are invited and encouraged to use these during worship.

*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 near the baptism font.

Portions of *today’s texts* were reprinted from *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints’ and Advent* and *Book of Common Worship*.

*Year-End Giving Reminders*: Timely payment of pledges by December 31st will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2017. The church office must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on *Friday, December 29*, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2017, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2017 taxes. If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock; please notify *Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator, (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

*These Days* devotional books for the first quarter 2018 have arrived. Pick up a copy (regular or large print) from the table in the church foyer while supplies last.

~ Serving Today ~

Acolytes: *Charlie Kelley, Maddie Brigman*
Crucifer: *Sam Henry*
Liturgist: *Torrell and Vanessa Armstrong*
Narthex Greeter: *Mickey Velkey*
After Worship Greeters: *Miriam Morey* (side/font); *Alice Raney* (rear / narthex)
Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head), *Alissa Miles, Michael Honeycutt, Amy Sanchez, Mickey Velkey, Christy Gudaitis*

![Christmas Eve Worship](image)

**This evening at 5:00 p.m.**

**Holy Communion and Candle Lighting Service**

*Mindy Douglas, preaching*

Childcare provided for younger children

The recipients of the Christmas Eve offering will be Welcome Baby of Durham, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and Senior PharmAssist.

Please give generously!
~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to Mac and Wendy McCorkle upon the birth of their first grandchild, Lucy McCorkle, born to Chip and Allison McCorkle, in New York on December 15th. Everyone is doing well.

Condolences to Susan Dunlap, Prasad and Anna Kasibhatla and family on the death of Prasad’s mother, Dr. K. Sita, on December 16th in London.

Added this week: Heath Huberg, recovering from brain surgery, along with his wife, Rebecca, and their new born baby, Julia, from Iowa. Heath is receiving care at Duke Hospital.

The Lorimer Family  Julie Maxwell  Ruth and Russell Roberson  Rosemary Seve (in Kenya)

Individuals and families displaced by the California wildfires

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): Julian Boswell
Croasdaile Village: Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): Helen Garrison
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:
Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark
Marc Crawford, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Lindsay Efland, friend of Cherrie Henry
Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church
Brooks Mikkelson (and her family), sister of Lucie House
Wagner family and Wintemute/Littles families, friends of Kerry Holbrook
Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman
Jerry Walter, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle
Christina Z., mother of Franzi Rokoske

Sunday, December 31
First Sunday after Christmas
Celebration of FPC's 146th Anniversary
No Sunday School
Worship at 11:00 a.m. - Robert Brawley, preaching

Epiphany

SONAM presents its Winter Concert
“Music of gifts and light for Epiphany”
Saturday, January 6, 2018
7:00 pm in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church

Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM) is a local chorus committed to creating high-quality sacred and secular music and giving back to the community. The concert includes music in celebration of Epiphany and the end of the Christmas season, featuring works by Whitaker, Victoria, Poulenc, Sametz, and more. A suggested $10 donation will benefit Gigi's Playhouse of Raleigh, an achievement center for individuals with Down Syndrome that offers education, therapeutic, and career-building programs. All are welcome.
The Angel Gabriel

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
   his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
   "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
   most highly favored lady,"

2. "For now a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
   all generations laud and honor thee,
   thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
   most highly favored lady,"

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
   "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
   "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
   Most highly favored lady,

4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
   "in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
   and Christian folk through-out the world will ever say--
   "Most highly favored lady,"

"Gloria!"
"Glory!"
"Glory!"
"Glory!"
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<th>Later Today</th>
<th>Monday, December 25</th>
<th>Tuesday, December 26</th>
<th>Wednesday, December 27</th>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>The Church Office is CLOSED</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Nativity of Jesus Christ / Christmas</td>
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<td>First Sunday After Christmas Happy 146th Birthday to FPC!</td>
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<td>11:00 AM Worship</td>
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<td>After Worship:</td>
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<td>No Evening Youth Groups</td>
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**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 Migliarese, Associate Pastor  
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music

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

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