FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 23, 2018

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
"Minute" for Mission  
Marilyn Hedgpeth  
Tyler Momsen-Hudson

PRELUDE  
*Toccata on "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"*  
Matthew Corl

INTROIT  
*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

*CALL TO WORSHIP* (from *Revelation 22*)  
Jennie Alwood

Leader: The angel showed me the river of the water of life,  
flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb;

People: **Flowing as clear as crystal down the middle of the great street of the city.**

Leader: On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit,  
yielding its fruit every month,

People: **And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.**

Leader: No longer will there be any curse.

People: **For the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city,**  
with all people serving God.

All: **Let us worship God.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 403*  
*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*  
Unser Herrscher

*CONFESSION OF SIN*  
Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer  
Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, we come to you as a people in need of your healing. We have  
gathered comfortably for one of the most segregated hours of our week to submit  
to your guidance. Fling wide the prison doors of our separation and isolation, and  
rekindle your unitive spirit within us. Soften our hearts and remold us in your image  
as we confess our sin before you and one another. Let us pray:  
For “the appalling silence of the good people,”

People: **Forgive us, O God.**

* Those who are able, please stand.
Leader: For the pain, suffering, and death that many have endured because of the hardness of our hearts,

People: **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For failing to “respect the dignity and worth of all persons,”

People: **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For failing to understand that you require justice, mercy and humility,

People: **Forgive us, O God.**

Leader: For failing to hear the cries of our neighbors, who continue to hurt,

People: **Forgive us, O God, and free us from the benign indifference and from “the dark depths of prejudice and racism” that prevent persons in our city from living fully. Through the guidance of your spirit, help us to learn to live as members of the family of God, in loving community, one with another.**

(quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* )

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Hymn of Response (No. 93, verse 2)  
*Truro*  
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**  
Tim Woolin *(StepUp)*
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE** *(read responsively)*  
*Iris Arnette (StepUp)*
Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.
People: **But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**
Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.
People: **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
Leader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous:
People: **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**EPISTLE LESSON**  
*Revelation 22:1-5*  
*Jeffrey Young (StepUp)* *(Pew Bible, NT Page 260)*
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**
GOSPEL LESSON
Mark 9:30-37
Jonathan Osei (StepUp)
(Pew Bible, NT Page 45)
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

INTRODUCTIONS
Syretta Hill

TESTIMONIES
Peggie English (StepUp)
Marilyn Peace (StepUp)

MEDITATION
The Hidden Life of Trees
Marilyn Hedgpeth
(Silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
(from A Declaration of Faith)
Mindy Douglas
All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

*HYMN
For the Healing of Nations
Sung to Regent Square
For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

JOYS AND CONCERNS
John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
Leader: Come near to God;
People: And God will come near to you.
Leader: Humble yourselves before the Lord,
People: And God will lift you up.
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.

**THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

*(Children through 1st grade enter during The Peace.)*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*(Following “A Time with Children,” children may join their parents in the pews or return to the nursery.)*

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to the Offering
Offertory Anthem

_Mindy Douglas_

_The Beauty of this Sacred Place_  _Prospect, Southern Harmony_  
(arr. J. Biery)

_The beauty of this sacred place inspires our hearts and minds to grow. We sing with love, bestowed by grace; from God all richest blessings flow._

_The meal, the word, the art, the song, are but a glimmer of the whole; With joyful hearts sing all day long, God’s blessings satisfy the soul._

_We look into each person’s eyes and see such longing hunger there. Respond with love to others’ cries; our neighbors’ burdens gladly bear._

_So many struggle and despair, we hear their silent voices plead, Our actions show how much we care, extending help to those in need._

_Doxology (Hymn No. 608)_

_Praise God (Hopson)_

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit everywhere; praise Triune God, whom we adore.
**Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise.
All: God, who labored creation into being, we give thanks for this day and the opportunity to work in your world. Grant us the strength to labor for what is right, just, and fair. Grant us the wisdom to speak out for those who are enslaved, oppressed, and exploited. Grant us the ability to break the chains of injustice and hear the voices of people long silenced. As we seek to work in your world this day, help us make it a better place for all. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn No. 744*  
*Arise, Your Light Is Come*  
*Festal Song*

*Benediction*  
*Children’s Choir rehearses immediately following worship in the choir room.*

*Marilyn Hedgpeth*

*Postlude*  
*Voluntary in D*  
*James Hook*

*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 September 16, we welcomed 16 visitors in worship.

We *welcome* our guests from *StepUp Durham* and thank them for providing worship leadership.

The *flowers* are given to the glory of God by *Carolyn Harrar Wolfe* in memory of her parents, *E. S. (Scotty) and Marion Harrar*, and her sister, *Joanne Harrar*.

*Nursery care* for infants to 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. A changing table is in the narthex (go left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary).

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

Portions of *today’s worship texts* were reprinted from *Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer edition*.

*These Days* devotional books for October–December 2018 are now available from the tables in the foyer and narthex. Pick up a free copy, regular or large print, while supplies last.

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**A Day of Service - Saturday, October 6**

FPC supports a number of ministries through its budget and through the work of individual members. The Service and Mission Committee is offering volunteer opportunities at several ministries on October 6th. Possible sites include the Food Bank of NC, Habitat for Humanity, Gleaning, Families Moving Forward and others. Volunteers of all ages will have opportunities to serve. Signup information and waiver forms are now available. To suggest additional organizations or to help lead a worksite, please contact Tyler Momsen-Hudson at tylermmh@embarqmail.com.
~ Serving Today ~

Liturgist: Jennie Alwood
Greeter: Chris Williams
After Worship Greeters: Carol Carson (side/front); Kathy Conner (rear/narthex)
Ushers: Emily Wilkins (head), Dale Gaddis, John Mozart, Amy Dillon

SYMPATHIES: We extend sympathies to Elizabeth High on the death of Bill Godwin, her niece’s husband, who died this week, and to Hendrika Vande Kemp, whose sister, Grace Fox, died this week in Kansas.

Added this week:
Beth Livingston - friend of Carol Wills
Hayden Williams - family member of Carol Wills
Families and individuals impacted and displaced by Hurricane Florence
Franzi Rokuske
Carolyn Wolfe

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: Julian Boswell
Croasdaile Pavilion: Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin
Dubose Center, Chapel Hill: Mary Clark
Durham Regent: John Kerr, Ann Prospero
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: Helen Garrison
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff
Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood
Brent Barber, brother-in-law of Christyn Klinck
Robert Bloom, father of Tom Bloom
Demario Brooks, friend of the Walk-in Ministry
Marc and Holly Crawford, friends of Brianna Bennett
John Hendrickson, cousin of Bill Hendrickson
Marsha Hussung, sister of Brent Curtis
Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham’s Farm Church
Kathy Johnston, niece of Jeanne Hervey
John Morey, father of Robin Morey
Ryan Washington, infant friend of Adrienne Allison and Bob Pleasants

Growing Through Grief
A six-week “Introduction to Grief” series
Tuesdays, September 25 – October 30
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church located at 1200 W. Cornwallis Rd, Durham
Gather at 4:00 p.m. for conversation and refreshments
Program runs from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
All are welcome!
**LET’S SHOW OUR PRIDE!**
**Saturday, September 29, 2018**
The festival is being held on Duke University’s East Campus and begins at 11:00 a.m. The parade starts at 12:30 p.m. FPC is signed up to march. We will also have space at a table with local sister churches, including Pilgrim UCC and Watts Street Baptist. Come join us for the march or help staff the booth (we’re giving out fruit snacks). Contact Mindy at m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org or 919-682-5511, ext. 211 if you plan to participate.

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**From the Stewardship Committee . . .**

We have long been proud of our church which is downtown by history and by choice. We invite you to join us in a luncheon sponsored by the Stewardship Committee to launch this year’s campaign.

**Theme: Love in the Heart of Durham: Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly**

*Seek the welfare of the city ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare* (Jeremiah 29:7)

Our theme celebrates our traditions of beautiful worship and music, inclusion, service and mission, and community. Building on the success of last year’s campaign, we are asking for your help to complete our goals for staff pay equity and restoring historic benevolences, and to enhance our ministries for children, youth, and their families.

As a departure from past campaigns which were held as dinner events on a weekday evening, we are providing a FREE LUNCH for all of our church members in Watts-Hill Hall on next Sunday, September 30 immediately following the worship service. We have planned a wonderful lunch of roasted pork loin, poached salmon, rice and vegetables, salad, macaroni and cheese and dessert ((NOTE: special dietary requests always welcome (mcrisriveraa@gmail.com)). Childcare will be available during the lunch. **Please RSVP** via Evite or use the reservation card in today’s church bulletin. One response per household is appreciated. If you come to church that morning but can’t stay for the luncheon, please pick up your stewardship materials in the foyer. Can’t come to church that morning? No worries! We plan to come by for a visit in the weeks to follow.

Dedication Sunday is October 28. Hope you can join us as we seek the welfare of our church and community!

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**A Season of Peace**

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**Plan for our celebration on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 7:**

- Wear something that comes from another country
- Give generously to the 2018 Peace and Global Witness Offering remembering that FPC has designated our 25% to the support of RECONCILE in South Sudan for their peacemaker training work. You can give online through the church’s website: [https://tinyurl.com/Peacemaking-Offering](https://tinyurl.com/Peacemaking-Offering).
- Pray always for God’s Peace on, in, and above this beautiful world.
THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

Hunger has become more prevalent, particularly since the recession. First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Kitchen at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect food for the members at Iglesia Emanuel Presbyterian Fellowship, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Our youth sponsor the annual Souper Bowl of Caring to raise money for hunger-related missions. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Hunger Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

- 50% - International Hunger Relief Programs
- 40% - Local Hunger Programs
- 10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries and Iglesia Emanuel have been frequent recipients.

If your family committed to saving a penny/day each month, you’d be donating about $0.30 per month or $3.65 for the entire year. That’s not much in the face of the rising need. Save a nickel/day, and you can contribute $1.50 per month. A dime/day will generate $3.00 and a quarter/day will generate $7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering today.
1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me
   enter there, where my soul in joyful duty
   waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed
   is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also
   unto me; where we find thee and adore thee,
   there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
   enter thou; let it be thy temple now.

3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be
   done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee,
   while thou dost thy people feed. Here of life the
   fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.
Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is for thee; Lord, abide. Let me thy inner drawing near; the Savior of the world is here. heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy. presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.
1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.
### The Week at a Glance!

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<th>Monday, September 24</th>
<th>Tuesday, September 25</th>
<th>Wednesday, September 26</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM Deacons</td>
<td>11:30 AM Daytimers’ Luncheon at Neo China</td>
<td>5:00 PM Bell Choir</td>
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<td>6:30 PM Officers’ Supper</td>
<td>1:30 PM Worship Planning</td>
<td>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Session</td>
<td>2:30 PM All Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 27</td>
<td>Friday, September 28</td>
<td>Saturday, September 29</td>
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<td>9:30 – 11:00 AM FPC preparing lunch bags at Urban Ministries</td>
<td>8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast at Nosh’s Cafe</td>
<td>11:00 AM Pride: Durham Festival and Parade (Duke University’s East Campus)</td>
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<td>Noon – 1:00 PM Isaiah Bible Study (room 205)</td>
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### CHURCH STAFF

*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Robert Daye*, Sexton  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Marilyn Hedgepeth*, Associate Pastor  

*Cheryl Henry*, Parish Associate  
*Valerie McMillan*, Parish Administrator  
*Sam Miglares*, Associate Pastor  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, check out the information tables in the foyer and narthex, email the church office at: info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our media platforms:

**Website:** [https://firstpres-durham.org](https://firstpres-durham.org)  
**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/firstpresdurham](https://twitter.com/firstpresdurham)  
**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/)  
**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/firstpresdurham/](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresdurham/)

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