

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.) WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Savior of the Nations, Come Lo, How a Rose Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.

Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Leader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

- Leader 2: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.
- Come, Lord Jesus, come! People:

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

*LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: We live in a world oppressed by sin; a world of hunger, pain, injustice. We acknowledge that we are part of this world and have not always played our People: part in confronting the darkness and bringing the light of Christ to troubled places. Leader: We are part of the Body of Christ; a Body which is broken by the sin of its members. People: We recognize that we belong to the broken Body of Christ; that our lives are touched by the sin of others and that our sin touches their lives. Leader: We are unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God. We confess that we do not live up to God's dream for us: that where God says, People: "Let there be light," we fear to come out of the shadows, afraid of the power of God's love for us. (Silent Confession) Leader: We gather as people aware of the shadow that sin casts on the world, People: Celebrating the healing love of Jesus; God's power to dispel the darkness of our hearts, minds, and souls.

- Leader: May the God of tenderness and compassion, who enters this world so weak and so vulnerable, bless us today and every day into eternity;
- The Maker, the Healer, the Holy Spirit. People:
- Leader: Until we meet again,
- People: May we be held in the palm of God's hand.

* Those who are able, please stand.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Praetorius

Peter and Barbara Fish

Sam Miglarese

December 23, 2018

Mindy Douglas

J. S. Bach

Away in a Manger

Appalachian Tune, arr. David Ashley White

St. Louis

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side til morning is night.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I prav. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

COI

COLLECT FOR	R THE DAY		Bob Yoder
Leader:	The Lord be with you.		
People:	And also with you.		
Leader:	Let us pray.		
All:	God, our light and our sa	lvation, you bring hope and	d peace to the lowly and oppressed.
	we may work for justice, kingdom at hand and ou	that our lives may bear wi	love the widow and orphan, that tness to the good news of the ople to your salvation; through rit. Amen.
HEBREW SCRIPTURE		Micah 5:2-5a	(Pew Bible OT Page 865)
Leader:	The Word of the Lord		

People:	Thanks be to God!	
*HYMN No. 121		O Little Town of Bethlehem

Luke 1:39-55 **GOSPEL LESSON** (Pew Bible, NT Page 57) Leader: The Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God! "How Silently, How Silently" SERMON Marilyn Hedgpeth (Silent reflection) **INSTRUMENTAL** Silent Night Stille Nacht Mary Kay Robinson, violin ***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** John Weicher

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch revives the weary, heals the wounded, dazzles 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 creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. Amen. (by Cally Booker, Candles and Conifers)

*Hymn No. 34	7 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	Picardy
PRAYERS OF T	HE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER	Mindy Douglas
Leader:	O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and	

der all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation. Come, Lord Jesus. People:

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 worship during "The Peace.")

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Children's Choir Anthem The Snow Lay on the Ground Italian Folk Melody (The children sing the carol first and the congregation joins the second time.)

> The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum. Refrain: Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.

(Following "A Time with the Children," the children may return to the childcare room or join their parents or guardians in the pew. There is no Children's Choir rehearsal after worship today.)

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

 Invitation to the Offering
 John Weicher

 Offertory
 Schlafe, Mein Liebster (Aria from the Christmas Oratorio)
 J.S. Bach

 Rebecca Robinson, alto; Joseph Robinson, oboe; Mary Kay Robinson, violin
 (English translation)

 Sleep now, my dearest, enjoy now thy rest, Wake on the morrow to flourish in splendor!

Lighten thy breast, with joy be thou blest, Where we hold our heart's great pleasure!

(Following the anthem, please come forward with your Hunger for Change Offering.)

*Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6)

Divinum Mysterium

Christ to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, To thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

All: Be still, my soul, and steadfast.

Earth and heaven both are still watching though time is draining from the clock and your walk, that was confident and quick, has become slow.

So be slow if you must, but let the heart still play its true part. Love still as once you loved deeply and without patience. Let God and the world know you are grateful. That the gift has been given. Amen.

(from Mary Oliver's The Gift)

John Weicher

*HYMN NO. 100

Canticle of the Turning

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nations, Come

Star of the County Down

Marilyn Hedgpeth

Savior

Johann Pachelbel

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 <u>return it to the starting point</u>, noting the names of those sitting near you. On Sunday, December 16, we welcomed 32 visitors to our worship service.

We are grateful to Joseph and Mary Kay Robinson and their daughter Rebecca for sharing their musical gifts with us in worship today.

The *Christmas Joy Offering* will be received today. This offering is distributed to the PC(USA) Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and also supports education programs at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. See the insert for more information about this special offering.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from Arthur Clark.

Special thanks to Alice Raney, Jane Williams, Dale Georgiade, Brent Curtis and Robert Daye for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

The striking *Advent paraments*, purchased with funds from the bequest of Anne St. Clair Williams, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, a fiber-artist internationally known for her "Unweavings." The *pulpit hanging* contains a text in Hebrew and English drawn from Isaiah 12: 3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" while the text for the lectern hanging is from Luke 1:78-79: "The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by *George Danser* and is given to us by his wife, *Jean Cary* and him. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Nursery care for infants to 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. 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 Feasting on the Word Advent Companion, Book of Common Worship (2018 edition), The Gift, and Candles and Conifers.

Year-End Giving: Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, 2018; or place them in the offering plate at a service through Sunday, December 30, 2018; or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2018, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2018 taxes. If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the church's website (www.firstpres-durham.org) at any time. To be deductible on your 2018 taxes, please initiate the gift by Friday, December 28. 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. Members aged 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ + who own an IRA may be able to make a tax-excludable gift directly to First Presbyterian and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2018.

A Call for Nominations: The Nominating Committee has two important tasks to complete this 2018-2019 church year. They will manage the process to nominate members to the Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families Nominating Committee and in the spring, will present a slate of candidates for the Diaconate, Session, and at-large members of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee. Forms for submitting nominations can be picked up from the tables in the foyer and narthex. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 6, 2019.



Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

The livestream radio broadcast of the King's College Lessons and Carols event at FPC has been canceled.

3:00 p.m. - Worship with Communion and Candles (in the sanctuary) A simple 45-minute service featuring carols from around the world.

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary) The birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in word and song with Communion by candlelight.

At both services on Christmas Eve, childcare will be provided for younger children and an offering will be received to support Welcome Baby and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC.

~ Our Concerns ~

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Dale Gaddis* on the death of her former husband, *Steven Earl Gaddis*, who died December 12th in Durham.

Added this week:

Robin, friend of Mary-Jo Keenan (3 years old, recovering from a rooster attack) Margaret Mubanga, recovering at home from surgery Joseph Ngumi, a patient at Duke Hospital

Recovering at Home:

Barbara Gerwe Franzi Rokoske Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: Julian Boswell Croasdaile Pavilion: Bette Conroy, Lee Courtland, Ann Prospero, Bob Rankin Durham Regent: John Kerr Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: Helen Garrison The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Doug Hervey, son of Jeanne Hervey Shirla Hudson, mother of Tyler Momsen-Hudson Jim Mau, father of Shirley Frederick's daughter-in-law, Sharon Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss Nellie Van Ewyk, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp



The following members and friends of FPC send Christmas greetings to the church family. In the Spirit of Christmas, they also made donations to Christmas Concerns to support two parents in sanctuary.

Tom and Ellen Bacon Paul Baldasare/Jane Wettach Mary Banner **Bob and Sheila Breitweiser** Mindy Douglas & Tim O'Brien Will and Jamie Chambliss Susan Buck and Lenore Champion The Comptons (Will, Mary Ann, James, Peter, and Anna) Linda Dobson Peter and Barbara Fish Shirley Frederick "John" John and Sue Fricks **Dale Gaddis** Wib and Libby Gulley **Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey and Kwesi Aggrey** Joe and Carlisle Harvard Marilyn and Hedge Hedgpeth **Philip Herndon** Maxie Honeycutt Dan Hudgins and Ann McKown Mary-Jo Keenan Tom and Margaret Keller Mal King

Dewey and Bet Lawson David Lorimer Marcia Lorimer Carolyn McAllaster and Coin Page Valerie and Tyrone McMillian Laura H. McNab Miriam and Robin Morev Parker and BJ Morton Vern and Beth Neece **Presbyterian Women** Ed and Caroline Pritchett Mary E. Putman Rod and Sara Radtke Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield Mary Jane Rivers Ruth and Russell Roberson Joe and Mary Kay Robinson Margaret and Miguel Rubiera David and Marie Sappenfield Jim Seitzer David and Judy Smith Marila Stone **Phyllis Supple Bob** and Lina Yoder





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 hungerrelated 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 hungerrelated 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**/a 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.

Descent

They sought to soar into the skies Those classic gods of high renown For lofty pride aspires to rise But you came down.

You dropped down from the mountains sheer Forsook the eagle for the dove The other Gods demanded fear But you gave love.

Where chiseled marble seemed to freeze Their abstract and perfected form Compassion brought you to your knees Your blood was warm. They called for blood in sacrifice Their victims on an altar bled When no one else could pay the price You died instead.

They towered above our mortal plain, Dismissed this restless flesh with scorn, Aloof from birth and death and pain, But you were born.

Born to these burdens, borne by all Born with us all 'astride the grave' Weak, to be with us when we fall, And strong to save.

by Malcolm Guite















~ Serving Today ~

Liturgist: Bob Yoder Narthex Greeter: Will Chambliss After Worship Greeters: Andy Henry (side/font); Alice Raney (rear/narthex) Ushers: Emily Wilkins (head), Johanna Bernhardt, Dale Gaddis, Wayne House, Mary-Jo Keenan, Amy Sanchez

	The Week a	t a Glance!	
Later Today 12:15 – 1:30 PM Middle School and High School Youth Groups Eve of Christmas Eve Lunch	Monday, December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Norship</i> 3:00 PM Worship with Communion and Candle Lighting	Tuesday, December 25 Nativity of Jesus Christ / Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 26
	5:00 PM Worship with Communion and Candle Lighting	Church Office is Closed	Church Office is Closed
Thursday, December 27	Friday, December 28	Saturday, December 29	Sunday, December 30
9:30 – 11:00 AM FPC preparing lunch	8:00 – 9:30 AIM FPC Men Breakfast and		First Sunday After Christmas
bags at Durham Urban Ministry	Conversation at Nosh's Cafe		No Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship
Church Office is Closed	Church Office is Closed		No Youth Groups

About the bulletin cover: "Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem" from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56350 [retrieved December 14, 2018].

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

305 EAST MAIN STREET

CHURCH STAFF



Cheryl Henry, Parish Associate Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator Sam Miglarese, Associate Pastor Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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