A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The God of the ages has always been faithful to God’s people.
People: God gives comfort and courage to those who are suffering.
Leader: God gives strength and skill to those working to save and to heal.
People: God gives peace that passes all understanding in these moments of fear and sorrow.
Leader: Let us open our eyes, hearts, and hands to the movement of the Spirit,
People: That we might be comforted and comfort others.
All: Let us worship God together.

CONFESSION OF SIN (remain standing)

Call to Prayer
Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Everything is so broken,
O Creator of all things,
so cancelled,
so paused.
We think we can fix it, of course.
We are smart.
We are competent.
We are American.
Forgive us for such pride and denial.
Forgive us for playing the Lone Ranger,
when now, more than ever,
living in the world is a team sport.
Teach us to rest, to be gentle, and to yield.
Turn our drive to fix into a resolve to flatten.

Silent Confession
Declaration of Forgiveness

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
**PSALM LESSON** (in unison)  
Leader: Let us read the Psalm 23 together, using the King James Version.  
All: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**  
(silent reflection)

**SOLO**  
*He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*  
Lesley Curtis, soloist

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
*Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Leader: Therefore it says, “Sleepers, awake!”  
People: “Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”  
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.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**CLOSING PRAYER (from Sarum Primer)**

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: God be in my head, and in my understanding;
    God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
    God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
    God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
    God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

John Weicher

John Dykes

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. More than 100 households tuned in to the March 15, 2020 live-stream broadcast of worship.

Special thanks to Lesley Curtis for sharing her vocal gift with us in worship today.

Portions of today’s worship texts were reprinted from Book of Common Worship (2018).

E V E N T / SCHEDULE CHANGES

Until further notice, the pastoral staff (Susan, John, Kathy, and Mindy) will be working remotely from their homes. You can reach them by email, mobile phone, or texting. Administrative staff (Valerie, Tom, Sybil, and Robert) will continue to serve, working at FPC on Mondays and Fridays, and available by email or phone/text on other days of the week, as needed. Office volunteers are not needed at the church at this time. The Walk-in Ministry will interview clients between 9:00 a.m. -12 noon, only on Mondays, and only by telephone. We will not be handing out blessing bags.

The Daytimers’ Luncheon (March 24) and Seniors’ Spring Luncheon (April 22) have been canceled.

Presbyterian Women will not meet for Circle and Bible study on Monday, April 6.

Lenten Book Study

Until further notice, the Lenten Book Study, led by Mindy Douglas, will continue and meet online on Tuesdays from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. using Zoom. If you wish to join this online Lenten discussion group, please contact Mindy at m.douglas@firstpres-durham.org so you can receive the unique connection ID and password.

Iglesia Emanuel's Annual Ministry Celebration

Unfortunately, the Iglesia Emanuel Dinner Celebration scheduled to take place on March 28 has been postponed out of respect for the current widespread health concerns over the coronavirus. The event will be rescheduled, possibly for early fall. Please keep in mind the needs of many of the most vulnerable members of our community during this challenging time. If you have further questions, or would like to find tangible ways to provide additional support to our immigrant families, contact Margaret Rubiera at margaretmr29@gmail.com.

The 46th Durham CROP Walk has not been cancelled but is now considered a “virtual walk.” We will continue to raise money to support CROP walk; the easiest way to support at this time is to make a donation through our team page (https://www.crophungerwalk.org/durhamnc/Team/View/127294/First-Presbyterian-Church). For more information on other ways to support this virtual walk, contact Jody Maxwell by email: jodymaxwell3@hotmail.com.
~ Our Concerns ~

Tony Brown, recovering from surgery
Jaxon Buck, son of Susan Buck and Lenore Champion, returning home from the Peace Corps
Conrad Carter, recovering from surgery
Brent Curtis, recovering from knee surgery
Becky Evans, sister of Vernon Neece
Dolores Ewald, mother-in-law of Susan Ewald
Kristin Meade
Margaret Mubanga
Whitney S., friend of Chris and Meredith Brown

Care Communities:
Brookdale Durham: Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett
Croasdaile Pavilion: Bob Rankin
Dubose Center at The Cedars (Chapel Hill): Arthur Clark
Durham Regent: John Kerr, Ann Prospero
Emerald Pond: Paul Cornsweet
Hillcrest Convalescent Center, Durham: Jean Lazarides
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: Helen Garrison
Southern Living for Seniors, Louisburg: Phillip Herndon
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant

Family and Friends of the Congregation:
Jennie Bodkin, sister of Mindy Douglas
Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss
Camilla Crampton, companion of Mal King
Chris Kovach, friend of Jeanne Hervey
Doug Neece, brother of Vernon Neece
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Judy Wood, mother of Sharon Hirsch

CHURCH STAFF

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

Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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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