A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click here to connect to today’s live worship.)

GATHERING MUSIC

So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower
There Is a Happy Land

George Shearing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

I Love Thee My Lord

George Shearing

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 138)

Leader: We give thanks to God with our whole heart.
All: We give thanks for God’s steadfast love and faithfulness!
Leader: Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.
All: Even when we are in deep trouble,
      God makes us live again.
      The love of God lasts forever!

Mindy Douglas

HYMN No. 175

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

(Music can be found on page 10.)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Conession
Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have conformed our lives
to the ways of the world
and not the ways of your kingdom.
We think of ourselves too highly
and regard others as lowly.
We exalt our possessions and power,
when you alone are to be exalted.
We let conflicts prevail over grace
and divisions over harmony.
Have mercy upon us, we pray.
Forgive and transform us,
that we may be holy and acceptable to you,
discerning and doing your will.
Through Jesus Christ we pray.

Silent Confession
Declaration of Forgiveness

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: Lord our God,
your name and your word
are exalted above everything.
We are listening for your word;
we are looking for your light.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
renew our minds and hearts
so we may discern your will
and respond in faith.
We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior. Amen.

**EPISTLE LESSON** Romans 12:1-8

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

**GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 16:13-20

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

**SERMON** “Who Is Jesus and Why Does It Matter?”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, blessing the children,
healing the sick, and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**Hymn No. 766** (verses 1,4) *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* McKee

(Music can be found on page 11.)

*The church of Christ cannot be bound*  
by walls of wood or stone.  
*Where charity and love are found*  
there can the church be known.  

*If what we have we freely share*  
to meet our neighbor's need,  
*then we extend the Spirit's care*  
through every selfless deed.

**Invitation to Give and Dedication of the Offering** John Weicher

*(The Hunger for Change Offering is received today.)*

**A Time with the Children** Mindy Douglas

**Celebrations and Concerns** John Weicher

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** John Weicher

(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.

**Hymn No. 766** (verses 2,3,5) *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* McKee

(Music can be found on page 11.)

*True faith will open up the door*  
and step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.
The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

**Closing Prayer**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to offer thanks and praise.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: Holy God, each new day begins with such promise.
Help us to enter into each day with joy and confidence in your power and goodness.
Whatever challenge we may face, help us to trust in your presence, remembering that you are stronger than any difficulty or threat.
Surround us in the embrace and affection of steadfast love and faithfulness, of righteousness and peace.
Then lift us up and strengthen us to follow you.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**Benediction**

Mindy Douglas

**Postlude**

*Once More My Soul*

George Shearing

Parents and children, join us TODAY between 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. for our virtual Sunday School kickoff!
Come to the church and drive through the parking lot . . .
where you will see teachers, get a popsicle, and receive a goodie bag filled with supplies for virtual Sunday School.

**First Presbyterian Church** welcomes all who worship with us. 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. On August 16, 103 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.
Special thanks to Gordon Campbell for providing the organ gathering music, Prelude, and Postlude for today’s worship.

Portions of today’s worship text are taken from Feasting on the Word (Year A, volume 2). Music and hymn texts are reprinted from Glory to God (PCUSA hymnal) under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. These funds are sent to the Presbytery of New Hope to combat hunger locally. The Presbytery disperses the funds to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, and Iglesia Emanuel are frequent recipients. FPC’s Walk-in Ministry received a grant for purchasing blessing bag supplies in 2019. Thank you for your offering today.

Many thanks to Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Jay Klinck, and John Weicher for their “behind the scenes” technical assistance with our virtual worship live broadcasts each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to Jennie Alwood for the beautiful images she finds for our online worship.

~ Celebrations and Concerns ~

SYMPATHY: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to Susan Buck, Lenore Champion, and family on the death of Susan’s mother, Ruth Buck on August 17th in Durham after a long illness and decline. We also extend our love and concern to Parker and BJ Morton on the sudden death of their son, Peter Morton, on August 20.

CONCERNS:

Linda Barenchi, tested positive for COVID-19 virus  
Joe Harvard, recovering after a toe amputation  
Dan Hudgins, preparing for surgery  
Wil James, recovering from surgery  
Jane & Henderson Rourk  
Carol Wills, recovering after a time in the Emergency Department  
All those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic  
School administrators, teachers, parents, and students as the new school year begins

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: Mickey Velkey; Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson  
Rose Vista Village /Kinston Assisted Living, Kinston NC: Phillip Herndon  
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera  
Jennie Bodkin, sister of Mindy Douglas
**Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden
**Becky Evans**, sister of Vernon Neece
**Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation
**Shannon Johnson**, daughter of Mary Putman
**Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, an active friend of the congregation

*Interested in joining FPC?*
*Tired of waiting until we can be in person again?*
*Ready to find more ways to be connected to the FPC Community?*

**We will welcome new members during our live-stream worship on next Sunday, August 30.**
If you are interested in joining FPC and making this your church home, contact [Mindy Douglas](mailto:).  

We want to especially thank the current Walk-in Ministry volunteers (*Judy Arrowood, Mary-Jo Keenan, John Mozart, Marie Sappenfield*, and *Jane Williams*) for the many hours they are spending each week interviewing and assisting our Durham neighbors in financial distress as a result of the pandemic. In coming weeks these volunteers hope to share stories of some of the challenges these recipients are facing. Please know your donations are very much needed and appreciated at this time. Thank you for your very generous giving.
Standing in Solidarity for Immigrant Justice
A 3-Part Virtual Learning & Action Program

Presented by Judea Reform’s Social Action and Adult Education committees with a grant awarded by the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Refugee and Immigrant Justice at the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center

Wednesday, August 26 at 8:00pm
Click Panel 3. Organizing for Dignity and a Fair Wage to register and receive access to the panel discussion.
For more information, email: socialaction@judeareform.org

Sign up to volunteer at Iglesia Emanuel’s Food Bank
Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius
Since the outbreak of COVID in March, volunteers from FPC and other churches have joined forces with Iglesia Emanuel to pack and distribute large boxes of fresh and staple food every week to families in need of assistance. Thank you to all who have responded with love! The needs continue, and we welcome your ongoing support. For questions, contact Margaret Rubiera.

KEEP THESE DONATIONS COMING!
Our local food pantries have been flooded with requests for basic sanitation items that have become hard to come by in the pandemic, but they have not had enough to meet the demand. To answer this urgent need, Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) has launched a hygiene drive to keep our partner pantries fully stocked with the supplies Durhamites need.
They are seeking the following items:
• CDC-approved disinfectant wipes or sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)
• hand sanitizer
• empty spray bottles
• paper towels
• toilet paper
• feminine hygiene products
• hand and body soap

If you can donate any of these, they can be dropped off at any of these partner congregations, from which the supplies will be delivered to area food pantries for distribution to our Durham neighbors!

• **First Presbyterian Church**
  Mondays and Fridays, 9:00am-1:00pm.
  305 E. Main Street

• **Cole Mill Road Church of Christ**
  Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm.
  1617 Cole Mill Road

• **Antioch Baptist Church**
  Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm.
  1415 Holloway Street

• **Pilgrim United Church of Christ**
  Tuesday through Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm.
  3011 Academy Road

• **Christus Victor Lutheran Church**
  Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:00am–2:00pm
  1615 E. NC 54 Hwy

*Thank you in advance for your support of this project!*
Sunday School Classes Schedule

Beginning August 30, each class will meet via Zoom on Sundays at the times indicated below.

- **9:00-9:30 a.m.**
  - 2’s, 3’s, and 4’s

- **9:30-10:15 a.m.**
  - Younger elementary class

- **10:15-11:00 a.m.**
  - Older elementary class

- **10:00-10:45 a.m.**
  - Middle School Youth
  - High School Youth

- **10:00-10:50 a.m.**
  - Faith & Community Journeys
  - Lectionary
  - Women’s Spirituality

**Scratch class at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings**
Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
3. You shall not live by bread alone,

and its righteousness,
seek, and you shall find;
but by every word

and all these things shall be added unto you.
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.
2 True faith will open up the door and step into the street. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.
3 True love will not sit idle by when justice is denied. True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.
4 If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor’s need, then we extend the spirit’s care through every selfless deed.
5 The church of Christ cannot be bound by the church be known.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children’s Ministry Director
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: https://firstpres-durham.org.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511