FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 22, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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



In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, please have your bread and cup available at the beginning of worship so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's service.

GATHERING Music Partita on "O Worship the King" Randolph Currie

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRELUDE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Johann Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Matthew 25:31-46)

Leader: We come, for God gathers us here,

with that community called faith:

All: where the hungry are served first,

where the thirsty drink life's water.

Leader: We come, for God welcomes us here

into that home called grace:

All: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;

where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

Leader: We come, for God reunites us here,

sisters and brothers in that family called love:

All: where the imprisoned model justice,

where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

OPENING HYMN No. 268 (verses 1, 3) *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Diademata

Mindy Douglas

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Confession of Sin Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Righteous God,

you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him

and are slow to acknowledge his rule.

We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all

that we may be loyal ambassadors,

obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (Hymn No. 268, verse 4)

Diademata

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time; creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.
All: **Sovereign God,**

let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Jane Wettach

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

PSALTER LESSON (read responsively) Psalm 95:1-7 Jane Wettach

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

All: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

Leader: For you, Lord, are a great God,

and a great ruler above all gods.

All: In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

The heights of the hills are also yours.

Leader: The sea is yours, for you made it,

and your hands have molded the dry land.

All: Come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

Leader For the Lord is our God,

All: and we are the people of God's pasture

and the sheep of God's hand.

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:31-46 Mindy Douglas

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

SERMON "Lord, When?" Mindy Douglas

Affirmation of Faith (in unison) (from Colossians 1:15-20)

Mindy Douglas

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,

the firstborn of all creation;

in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,

things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,

so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Godself all things,

whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

HYMN No. 274 (verses 1,3,4) You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Picardy

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.

You, peace-maker and sword-bringer

of the way you took and gave.

You, the everlasting instant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.

You, who walk each day beside us,

sit in power at God's side.

You, who preach a way that's narrow,

have a love that reaches wide.

You, the everlasting instant;

you, who are our pilgrim guide.

Worthy is our earthly Jesus!

Worthy is our cosmic Christ!

Worthy your defeat and victory;

worthy still your peace and strife.

You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our death and life.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN John Weicher

Invitation to Give and Dedication of the Offering

John Weicher

(The Hunger for Change Offering is received today.)

Invitation to the Table Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessing, honor, and glory are yours, O God,

eternal source of all creation.

You are mightier than the thunder of waters,

stronger that the waves of the sea.

You are majesty on high.

Yet when the time was right you sent your Son,

a vulnerable infant of low estate, to testify to the truth of power

made known in your embracing love.

Jesus came to raise up the poor and cast down the mighty.

He taught us, like no other,

that your kingdom is one of forgiveness,

where human needs are daily met

and we are set free for love.

Remembering all that he has done for us,

we offer you our praise and thanks

and give our lives to your service.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal,

that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son

and filled with your life-giving Spirit.

Unite us in Christ and to one another,

that we may reveal your justice in the world.

Grant us your wisdom and keep us faithful

as we wait and work in hope for your coming reign of peace.

(prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns in glory, now and forever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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 COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord and God, creator and ruler of the universe,

for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace. Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN No. 203 (verses 1-3) *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Chereponi

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;

show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,

silently washes their feet,

Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,

varied in color and race;

neighbors are near us and far away. (Refrain)

These are the ones we should serve;

these are the ones we should love;

all these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Charge and Blessing Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God Russell Schulz Widmar

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 November 15, 125 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by *John Mozart and Elinor Hess* in memory of our mothers, *Josephine Mozart* and *Lois Hess*.

Celebrating the holidays: In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, **the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26-27**. Click here to read a recent email from Mindy about celebrating holidays during this pandemic.

Hunger for Change Offering: 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. 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. First Presbyterian applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from New Hope Presbytery to purchase blessing bag supplies in 2019.

Many thanks to *Jody Maxwell*, *Pat Dillon*, *Keith Rokoske*, and *Jay Klinck* 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 powerful images she finds to accompany our online worship.

Portions of *today's worship text* are taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018). *The Call to Worship* is written by Thom Shuman, and is posted on his Lectionary Liturgies website (http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2008/11/reign-of-christ.html). *Hymn texts* are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

CONDOLENCES: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the **family of** *Evelyn Bannerman*, friend of the PCUSA who died this week from COVID-19.

CONCERNS:

- Harold Dunlap
- * Carlisle Harvard
- ❖ Dennis Hill
- Jane Rourk
- Carol Wills
- ❖ Maureen Darcey, friend of Brianna Bennett, has brain cancer
- * Ann Loebrich, mother of Bruce Loebrich, in Ohio recovering from COVID-19
- ❖ Joe Rodriguez, brother of Jeanne Hervey, suffering with complications from a stroke
- The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon* Emerald Pond: *Paul Cornsweet*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: Walter Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

- Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera
- Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden
- Linda Capers, friend of Li-Chen Chin
- * Meg Courtney, daughter of Bob and Mary Lee Clark, active friends of the congregation
- Phil Goss, friend of the congregation
- Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson
- * Ellen O'Brien, mother-in-law of Mindy Douglas
- * Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman
- * Robert Reaves, husband of Floalice Reaves, friend of the congregation

Robert Daye is Retiring

Our own Robert Daye will be retiring at the end of 2020 with over 43 years of service as sexton of our church. Let's thank him!

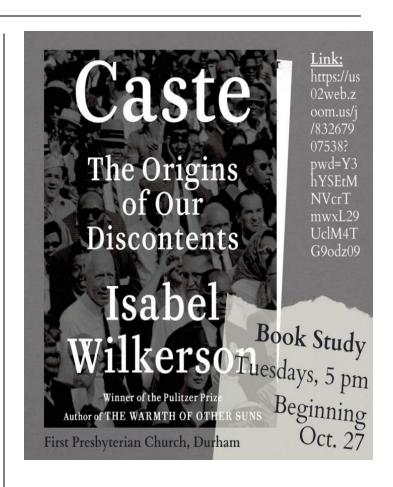
- We need your stories and pictures now.
 Please scan and email them to Celia. We want as many visuals as we can collect.
- Soon, we will ask for a shower of cards to Robert, thanking him.
- The Session has also approved a Love
 Offering collection for Robert. Please send
 your donation to Tom Bloom at the
 church office by December 10th. Make
 check payable to FPC. Memo: Robert's
 Retirement.

We are looking forward to our congregational thanks to Robert for his many years of service.

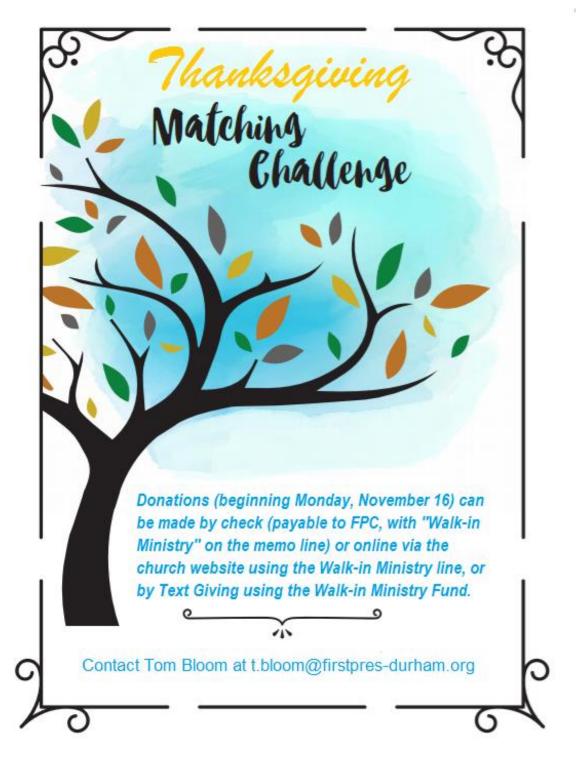
From the committee for Robert's retirement,

Celia Dickerson Beth Stringfield

Kate Busa Barbara Buckley



This fall book study class <u>will not meet</u> this week, Tuesday, November, 24.



A member of our congregation has offered to match all gifts to the Walk-in Ministry through November 30, 3030, up to \$25,000.

Donations can be given in any of the following ways:

- · By check (payable to FPC, with "Walk-in Ministry" on the memo line);
- Online via the church's website using the Walk-in Ministry line;
- Text Giving (Text WalkInMinistry to 917-373-3254)

Please contact Business Administrator *Tom Bloom* at 919-682-5511 or by *email* if you have any questions about giving to the challenge.



We are closing in on our due date for materials for our **Christmas Eve Pageant video**.

We need all photos and videos by December 12th in order to complete video editing on time.

Please spread the word!

Everyone can participate.

Click <u>here</u> to sign up for a part/scene in the pageant.

Contact <u>Lenore Champion</u> at 919-616-2360 for more information.



It will be a Christmas like no other.
Family gatherings, if they happen, will be smaller, parties may be virtual; many will feel the pain of loneliness and isolation. We need each other now more than ever. You are invited to share some hope this season by signing up to be a Christmas angel for someone in the FPC community. Sign up here and by December 6th, you'll receive a name as well as a short list of contact-less,

easy ideas for sharing a little hope and extending the love of Christ this Christmas.



During the Advent Festival Drive-Thru on December 6, we ask that you drop off donations for Durham Congregations in Action's hygiene supplies drive. We are asking for 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

These donations will be given to local food pantries for Durham families in need. This drive is a continuation of DCIA's hygiene drive which was launched this summer. Thanks for your support.



A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

As we look ahead to 2021, the Nominating Committee is beginning their work of gathering suggestions from the congregation for the new slate of ruling elders, deacons, and the next Nominating Committee. Ruling elders and deacons serve for three year terms and the Nominating Committee serves for one year. Ruling elders,

deacons, and Nominating Committee members may serve a consecutive term.

We normally receive paper nominations over the course of a few weeks that are placed in the offering plate during worship. Since we can't do that this year, we are calling for nominations via a Google form: <u>click here</u> OR you may contact *Mary Ann Compton*, one of our ruling elders who

is serving on the Nominating Committee. Mary Ann can be reached by <u>email</u> OR call her at 919-452-6500.

Especially in these unusual times, we look forward to hearing your suggestions of who should lead us as we work out how to continue being the church to each other and to the world around us. Thank you for your help.

Dawn Shelton and Mary Anne Compton, Co-chairs of the Nominating Committee



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with our partners and is responding to the urgent needs in Central America following Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Iota made landfall one week after Eta and hit many of the same regions. The double impact of these storms has resulted in over 100 lives lost and significant damage from flooding and mudslides; mass evacuations are further complicated by COVID-19. Priorities for the response include WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, shelter and livelihood restoration. PDA needs

our help to ensure that it can continue providing emergency response and long-term recovery support. **Give online:** <u>DR000194</u>.

Can you fund a turkey for Thanksgiving?

The Iglesia Emanuel Food Pantry continues to provide an abundant amount of healthy food to almost 500 families a week. Many families have come to depend on this help to keep their families going during this challenging time. Thanks so much to all our partners, volunteers and contributors for your faithful, consistent collaboration. For Thanksgiving, we would like to do something a little special for them. We will be purchasing turkeys or whole chickens to add to the boxes of food to be distributed on Wednesday, Nov 25. Your financial donation will ensure the success of this wonderful project. You can contribute online: http://emanueldurham.org, or by check, payable to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham, NC 27704. Note "Thanksgiving" on the memo line of your check or in the comment section of Pay Pal. We are forever grateful for you and your support!

Supporting the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel

This Christmas holiday season is going to be different for all of us, but we can still find wonderful, practical ways to share God's love with our neighbors. The Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel continues to provide large boxes of healthy food to almost 500 families a week, thanks to the dedicated help and generous donations from our community. We would welcome your participation or contributions at any time! Here are a couple of easy ways to be part of this special ministry:

- 1. Bag rice or beans from home. For instructions and to sign up, simply click this <u>link</u>. Put on music, sing and have fun while you fill those bags!
- 2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join with others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in

preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. You will work hard, but leave after your 2-hour shift knowing you have made a big difference in the lives of many families. For more information, and to sign up, click here: <u>Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food</u>

Bank Signup Genius

3. Your financial support is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: emanueldurham.org, or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham 27704.

Muchas gracias!

CHURCH STAFF

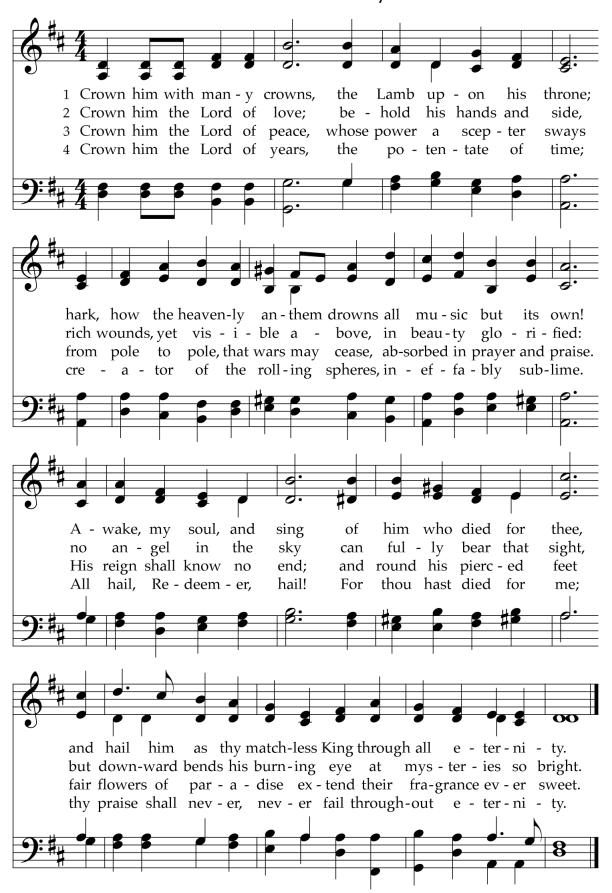
Tom Bloom, Business Administrator Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director Robert Daye, Sexton Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor 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.

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