

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE REV. MITZI LESHER-THOMAS**

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

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Air*  
Robert Parkins, organist

Florence Price

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Weicher

**PRELUDE**

*La Majesté*  
Kent Foss, trumpet; Gordon Campbell, organ

Georg Philipp Telemann

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Joy, wonder, delight;  
All: **Doubt, peace, restlessness;**  
Leader: Sorrow, contentedness, anxiety;  
All: **Confidence, hope, pardon;**  
Leader: We lay our hearts, full of these things, before our God.  
All: **Unburdened and awaiting,  
Let us worship God.**

**HYMN No. 652**

*A Grateful Heart*  
(Video featuring Brent and Lesley Curtis)

Rockingham

***A grateful heart is what I bring, a song of praise, my offering.  
Among the saints I lift my voice: in you, O God, I will rejoice.  
Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the poor with gentle hands.  
Your word is true; your works are just; in you, O God, the faithful trust.  
With saving love you set us free, and still you dwell in mystery  
with wisdom none can comprehend. Your praise, O God, will never end.***

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Zaida Rodriguez

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Most High God, hear our prayer.  
We know there is much that clamors to possess us:  
power and addiction;  
false peace and false community;  
fear and anger.**

**We know that sometimes we say yes to these forces.  
We know, too, that you are stronger than even hate and fear and prejudice.  
So we ask for your help.  
We ask for your healing.  
We ask that you make us whole, through the love of Jesus.  
Hear now our silent prayer.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 820, sung twice)

*Nada Te Turbe*

***Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.  
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.  
God alone fills us.***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Sue McLaurin

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Wisdom of the ages,  
we come wanting to hear your voice of truth,  
which is too often drowned out  
by the noise of worldly speech.  
We are listening; speak to us now.  
Fill our hearts with a love of your Word  
that our lives may engage your ways and will. Amen.**

**PSALTER LESSON**

Psalm 111

Sue McLaurin

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:21-28

Lori Pistor

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"What Is This?"*

Lori Pistor

**HYMN No. 793 (verses 1, 4-5)**

*O Christ, the Healer*

*Erhalt Uns, Herr*

***O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.***

***How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?***

***In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?***

***Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.***

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

John Weicher

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**SERVICE OF INSTALLATION**

**Statement on Ministry of the Church**

Lisa Hebacker

**Constitutional Questions to the Minister**

Lynn Voss

**Constitutional Questions to the Congregation**

Michael Honeycutt

**Prayer of Installation**

Lori Pistor

**Declaration of Installation**

Lisa Hebacker

**In spite of many unanswered questions, I believe.**

**I believe in the living God, the joy of the universe,  
who is the pulse and purpose of all things seen and unseen,  
who from the dust of earth calls up living beings to be children of eternity,  
who through countless ages has provided for us many liberators,  
and tirelessly seeks to bring victory out of defeat and life out of decay.**

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's true Son,  
who is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh,  
who took upon himself the healing of the human race,  
who bearing the burden of our sins went to Golgotha carrying his cross,  
who was betrayed, crucified, dead and buried in a borrowed tomb,  
who on the third day was found to be gloriously alive,  
meeting with those who trust him and serve him to the end of the world.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit of God,  
within and among all who cherish Christ and his way,  
who brings hope out of despair, love out of apathy, and joy out of sorrow,  
who unceasingly regenerates and reforms the Church  
that it may always be the contemporary body of the risen Christ,  
loving the world through prayer, word and deed.**

**I believe that even I am caught up in the resurgent life of Christ Jesus,  
and that nothing in life or death can separate me from his love and joy.**

**In spite of unanswered questions, yes, I believe. Amen!**

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

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

Mindy Douglas

**. . . 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. 755**

*Alleluia! Laud and Blessing*

*Weisse Flaggen*

***Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure;  
by whose grace we find redemption, in whose love we live secure.  
Righteousness and rich compassion shall attend us all our days;  
may God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!***

***Alleluia! God sustains us; matchless are the gifts we share:  
light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer.  
Ours to give as we are given: arms to lift when others fall;  
images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.***

***Alleluia! Holy Parent, all your children now reclaim;  
may our lives reflect your justice, heirs to your most sacred name.  
Fill our hearts with understanding, brace our weakness by your might;  
awesome honor, born in wisdom; your great glory, our delight!***

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

**POSTLUDE**

*Praise the Almighty, My Soul Adore Him*  
Gordon Campbell, organist

Flor Peeters

**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 January 24, 107 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

We **welcome back** to the pulpit today the **Rev. Lori Pistor** who served as Associate Pastor at FPC from 1993 – 2003. Since that time, Lori has served five congregations as Interim Minister. Lori and Mitzi served together during Lori's tenure as Interim Head of Staff at Cary Presbyterian where they shared a passion for creative worship, good music and the wild and wily ways of the Spirit.

Today's worship **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of **Chuck Barenchi** by **Linda Barenchi**.

**Music Notes:**

**Robert Parkins** is the University Organist at Duke University. His recording of Florence Price's "Air" is from his CD "Salome's Dance" and was performed on the Aeolian Organ at Duke Chapel. Dr. Parkins has kindly given us his permission to use his recordings for our services at FPC.

Florence Price (1887 - 1953) was the first African-American woman to gain national recognition as a composer. After winning the prestigious Wanamaker Competition, her Symphony No. 1 was performed by the Chicago Symphony in 1933. While that performance gained her some national note, she continued throughout her life to struggle against the endemic racism in American society that refused to grant recognition or support to women and African American composers. It is only in recent years that her work is receiving the attention that it so clearly deserves.

We are grateful to **Kent Foss** (*trumpet*), **Brent and Lesley Curtis** (vocalists), and **Gordon Campbell** (organist) for their music leadership in today's worship.

**Many thanks** to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online services.

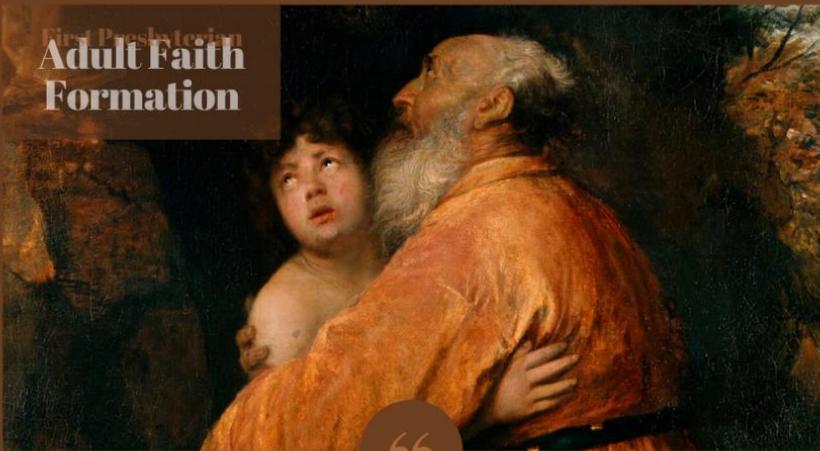
**Presbytery of New Hope Commission**

**Rev. Zaida Rodriguez, Chaplain, Transitions Life Care**  
**Elder Sue McLaurin, Covenant Presbyterian - Durham**  
**Rev. Lisa Hebacker, North Raleigh Presbyterian**  
**Rev. Lori Pistor, West Raleigh Presbyterian**  
**Elder Lynn Voss, Cary Presbyterian**  
**Elder Michael Honeycutt, First Presbyterian - Durham**

Portions of **today's worship texts** are taken from the blog of Beth Neel, *Hold Fast to What is Good*, and the blog of Bruce Prewer (<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BEASTER2.htm>). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

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This two-part Interfaith Dialogue concludes this afternoon . . .



**Adult Faith Formation**

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Rabbi Greyber from Beth El Synagogue & FPC's Jerry Postema will discuss Genesis 22:1-19 and Aaron Koller's Unbinding Isaac. Join us of a deep dive into God, suffering and more.

**Unbinding Isaac: A Jewish & Presbyterian Conversation about Public Life, Faith & Difficult Texts**

The zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87187441461>

All are welcome to join this conversation!

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### ~ Our Concerns ~

**Condolences:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Tyler Momsen-Hudson and family** on the death of a co-worker's husband. **Heather Szalanski**, Tyler's coworker, and 12-year old daughter, lost her husband/dad, **Paul**, on January 25<sup>th</sup> to COVID-19.

**Concerns:**

- **Lily Brigman**, recovering from ACL surgery
- **Tom Bloom**, preparing for back surgery
- **Catherine Dumas**, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- **Dub Gulley**
- **Phillip Herndon**
- **Kerry Holbrook**
- **Robin Morey**
- **Kathy Parkins**
- **Margaret Sims**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- **Carol Wills**
- Our nation during this season of leadership transition and unrest
- The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

### Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

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: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

### Family and Friends of the Congregation:

**Everlyn Bass**, aunt of Valerie McMillian

**Brendan Bequette**, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

**Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden

**Linda Capers**, friend of Li-Chen Chin

**Flora Estrella**, family of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

**Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation

**Roberta Kessler**, mother of Kristen Brigman

**Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Ade and Sowande**, sons of Tolokun Omokunde, pastor of Timothy Darling PC in Oxford

**Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman

**Rev. Mark Stevens** of Phillips Chapel Methodist Church, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

**Nellie**, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

## FPC PLANS COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION SESSION

The FPC COVID-19 Advisory Team will offer an education session on the COVID-19 vaccine for FPC members and friends.

The date and time of our event are **Thursday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m.** and will be at this zoom link:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81601058404?pwd=NOV2Q1V2NW5Fb2M3VFFIM2Z2THRZz09>

**Please send your questions and the topics you would like for us to cover** – this can be anything from “Is it safe?” to “How to/do I get it?” to “What should I expect?” We welcome your questions and suggestions **by Monday at 3 p.m.** Send them to **Mindy Douglas**. Please help us plan for a successful event by sharing the topics and questions that would be of use to you and yours.

Thank you,

FPC COVID-19 Advisory Team

**Art Baker**

**Kathy Colville**

**Lesley Curtis**

**Howard Eisenson**

**Karen Romines**



## Sunday, February 21

The FPC Session has called an annual meeting of the congregation to hear a report from the Finance Committee, to vote on changes to terms of call for the pastors, and to elect church officers and persons to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place via the church's YouTube channel, at the end of our online worship (about 12 noon) on February 21.

Save the  
Date:

Sunday,  
Feb. 28,  
9:30 am



**Macky Alston**  
**McPherson Lecturer**

Documentary Filmmaker & Child of FPC  
First Presbyterian Church, Durham

## COMING SOON . . . CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Need help remembering what people look like without masks? Longing for a church picture directory? You know, the kind where the corners get crinkled and you write notes in the margins. Help us make it happen! We'll use photos from the online directory to create our print version so we need your help. We want to see your smiling faces, so please take a moment and upload those photos!

If you haven't already uploaded a picture to our online directory now's your chance and here are the directions! The instructions to install the ChurchLife app on your smart device are [here](#). The instructions for uploading your picture to the online directory are [here](#). If you would like to replace your existing photo, delete it first, then upload the new photo. For more information on using the ChurchLife app, or deleting and uploading photos, contact [Tom Bloom](#) or [Sybil King](#). Please upload your photo(s) by today, January 31, 2021. Thank you.

**Caste**  
The Origins  
of Our  
Discontents  
Isabel  
Wilkerson  
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize  
Author of THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS  
First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Book Study  
Tuesdays, 5 pm

Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNVcrTmwxL29UclM4TG9odz09>

### Book study is led by Mindy Douglas

Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89516889156?pwd=dXZlYXlZlZlozUXVmRTh6WndabDBwUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 1688 9156

Passcode: 270847

One tap mobile +13017158592,,89516889156#,,,,,0#,,270847# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,89516889156#,,,,,0#,,270847# US (Chicago)



**Growing thru Grief** offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4-6, for now on zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. Here are our speakers for February:

February 2: Nell Noonan, "What Do We Do When Our Hearts Hurt?"

February 9: Blaise Mercadante, To be announced

February 16: Amy Onstad, "Anger: Ally or Enemy?"

February 23: Mike McCleod, "What Is the Condition of Our Hearts: How Do We Heal?"

Growing thru Grief meets each Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. To register for one of these zoom meetings, please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) by 8:00 am on the Monday before the meeting.

## **Stewardship Campaign Update**

Thank you for the extraordinary support for our Stewardship Campaign – One Body, Many Parts and The Church is the People– during these challenging times and a virtual campaign! While we did not reach our ambitious goal, we have come close and have been able to support our budget for 2021. As a result of the campaign, we have budgeted \$972,496 in pledges, but there are still some whom we expect to participate but have not officially pledged, totaling about \$95,000. We still need to complete the puzzle!

If you are not sure if your pledge was received, please contact [Tom Bloom](#) (we have had some glitches with online pledges this year). Look for a survey from the Stewardship Committee in February as we work to improve our campaign next year after this unusual virtual campaign for 2020. Thank you for your generosity and support for the life and mission at First Presbyterian!

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# SHARING *God's* LOVE THROUGH HELPING THOSE IN NEED!

## **Items Needed for Day School**

The First Presbyterian Day School has a pressing need for personal protective equipment and other supplies for which it does not have current funding. Like so many other organizations in our community, the Day School has been seriously impacted by the pandemic, and was forced to close in mid-March. After reopening at the end of June to meet the needs of children of essential workers, the Day School has seen its enrollment remain at around 25, or half of normal capacity. Through heroic efforts by the faculty and staff, the school has not experienced any

cases of COVID-19, has maintained its 5 Star status, and has kept all faculty and staff on board. At her presentation to the Service and Mission Committee earlier this month, **Executive Director Michele Miller-Cox** noted that the school is doing well and providing a vital service to the community, but it has a need for supplies that are beyond its current capacity to purchase. Rather than asking for donations of supplies, the Day School has set up an Amazon site that lists the supplies needed. Those wishing to contribute can go to the site, purchase items of your choosing, and the supplies will be sent directly to the school. The link for the site is [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QNXF2NAUV1TB?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QNXF2NAUV1TB?ref=wl_share). Thank you for your support.

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### **Iglesia Emanuel still needs our support . . .**

2021 started off really rough on a national level (quite the understatement), but locally, we continue to work together as people of faith to provide nutritious food to over 500 families in need every single week at Iglesia Emanuel. Come join us as we seek to share God's love in this most tangible way! New volunteers are always welcome.

1. **Bag rice or beans from home.** For instructions and to sign up, contact Margaret Rubiera. 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 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: [\*\*\*Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius\*\*\*](#)
  3. **Your financial support** is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: [\*\*\*emanueldurham.org\*\*\*](http://emanueldurham.org), or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham NC 27704. Thank you so much! - ***Margaret and Miguel Rubiera***
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# A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of  
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the  
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you

The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the bass line accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I  
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your  
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - jice.  
works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.  
com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.

The third system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

# Sung twice and only in English

## Nothing Can Trouble

820

*Nada te turbe*

1

Noth-ing can trou - ble; noth-ing can fright - en. Those who seek  
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The melody consists of eighth notes and quarter notes. The accompaniment consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. A first ending bracket is placed over the final two measures of the system.

2

God shall nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.  
tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.

The second system of music is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The accompaniment consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. A second ending bracket is placed over the final two measures of the system, which end with a double bar line.

## O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for  
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies  
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our  
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -  
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we  
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those  
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -  
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

**Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator  
**Lenore Champion**, Children's Ministry Director  
**Mindy Douglas**, Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Susan Dunlap**, Parish Associate  
**Sybil King**, Administrative Assistant



**Mitzi Leshner-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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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