

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 11, 2021

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

### PRELUDE

*Two Variations on Amazing Grace*

Denis Bedard

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: God has accomplished all things through Christ,

All: **so that we might live as God's own children.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

All: **and live for the praise of God's glory.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord*

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

*Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.*

*Laudate Dominum,*

*Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.*

*laudate Dominum,*

*Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!*

*omnes gentes, alleluia!*

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

**We know that you call your people to lives of service and works of justice.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, when we keep our lives**

**just loud enough to drown out your call.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, when we keep our days**

**just busy enough to convince ourselves**

**that we have a righteous excuse.**

**We know that you work for the healing of all that is broken in the world.**

**Heal us, O Lord, of our blindness to your grace.**

**Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to begin again.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,*

*what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss*

*to bear the dreadful cross for my soul, for my soul,*

*to bear the dreadful cross for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,*

*to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;*

*to God and to the Lamb, Jehovah, great I Am,*

*while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;*

*while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Laura McNab

Leader: Holy Trinity, yours is the justice that calls power to account  
**People: Yours is the love that calls sinners to repent.**  
 Leader: Yours is the mercy that forgives us and grants us eternal life.  
**People: Lead us in the truth about the Beloved, and set us free to rejoice  
 with all our might over the great mystery you have revealed:**  
**All: that you are bringing all things into harmony through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amos 7:7-15

Laura McNab

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

## EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mindy Douglas

<sup>3-6</sup>How blessed is God! And what a blessing God is! God is the Parent of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before God laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of God's love, to be made whole and holy by love. Long, long ago God decided to adopt us into God's family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure God took in planning this!) God wanted us to enter into the celebration of lavish gift-giving by the hand of Jesus, God's beloved Son. <sup>7-10</sup>Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, Christ's blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. *Abundantly* free! God thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans God took such delight in making. God set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in Christ, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth. <sup>11-12</sup>It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, God had God's eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose God is working out in everything and everyone. <sup>13-14</sup>It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life. (*The Message* translation, adapted)

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

## SERMON

*"Signed, Sealed, Delivered."*

Mindy Douglas

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

V. Earle Copes (b. 1921)

*Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed us  
unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of love, our love's expression,  
love's creation, loved indeed!  
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits;  
into joy and laughter lead.*

*Sung to Kingdom*

*Child of God, your loving Parent,  
learn to listen for God's call.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship;  
trust and love God more than all.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the PCUSA Study Catechism)

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: What is God's purpose for your life?

**All: God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**All: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to offer thanks and praise.  
Thank you for filling us with every spiritual grace that we might be a blessing for others.  
Consecrate the gifts we offer for the increase of your love. May they bring blessings to others and praise to your glorious name. Amen.**

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

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

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

(Psalm 85:7)

**People: and grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Let us pray.

*(prayers of intercession and thanksgiving)*

**All: 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.**

**CHORAL SENDING**

*Amazing Grace*

*New Britain*

Solo by Drew Cummings (baritone)

arr. by Adrienne M. Tindall

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound! That saves a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see!  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace that fear relieves!  
How precious does that grace appear when e'er a heart believes!  
Through many dangers, trials and snares I have already come!  
'Tis grace has brought me safe, this far, and grace will lead me home!  
The Lord provides all good to me, his word my hope secures.  
All trials will pass, all turmoils flee, his grace alone endures.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Prelude in A Major*

J.S. Bach



***Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.***

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 identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On July 4, 83 joined us for in-person worship and 39 households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

The ***flowers*** are given by ***Alice Raney*** to the glory of God and in memory of her husband ***Thomas Blount Fuller Raney***.

***Many thanks*** to ***John Fricks, 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.

Portions of ***today's texts*** and music were reprinted from *Feasting on the Word*, *Call to Worship* and the hymnal, *Glory to God*.

***Childcare***: a staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the Christian education building for use during worship.

***Worship activity bags*** are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

***Large print worship bulletins*** along with ***children's worship / activity bulletins*** are available from the table as you enter the sanctuary from the foyer.

***Hearing Assistance Receivers*** are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

***Restrooms*** are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

***Donors needed for worship flowers***: We have Sundays this summer and fall for which we need flower donors for worship. Click [here](#) to see open Sundays and to sign up to be a donor.

**Playground Train Dedication TODAY!**

**From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**, the refurbished train on the FPC Day School playground will be dedicated to ***Bob & Sheila Breitweiser***. Close friends of Bob & Sheila (Pat and Tom Rocks of Wilmington) made a generous donation in honor of them to help refurbish the train. Please join the Day School in this dedication.

**Are you ready to join FPC?**

We will welcome and introduce new members on Sunday, July 25 during our 11:00 a.m. worship. Please let [Mindy Douglas](#) (pastor) or [Mitzi Leshner-Thomas](#) (associate pastor) know if you are ready to join. Session approval is needed prior to you being received into membership at First Presbyterian.

## **~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~**

**Condolences:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the family of ***Frances D. (Fran) Bryant***, who died this week at The Forest at Duke. Final arrangements will be shared with the congregation when they become available.

**Added this week:**

The prayers of the congregation are with Peggy Hammond upon the deaths of her sister-in-law Judy Adams and dear friend Allen Addison.

***Linda Barenchi      Kerry Holbrook      Fred Moore      Ruth Roberson      Margaret Sims***

***Victims and their families in the Surfside Condo building collapse in Florida.***

**Care Communities:**

Brookdale Durham: ***Julian Boswell***

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: ***Arthur Clark***

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: ***Phillip Herndon***

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: ***Walter Chambliss***, father of Will Chambliss

**Family and Friends of the Congregation:**

***Brent Blanton***, friend of Bob Pleasants and Kim Abels

***Carolyn Bonner***, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

***Margaret Cleveland***, friend of Katharine Whitmore

***Flora Estrella***, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

***Phil Goss***, a friend of the congregation

***Grace***, Chris James' great-niece

***Lori Griffin***, great niece of Jeanne Hervey

***Dorothy Collin Horne***, mother of Ginny Horne

***Brian Keyt***, cousin of Laura Kelley

***Peggy Mordecai***, mother of Beth Eisenson

***Burt Mulford***, friend of Floalice Reaves

***Joy Orval*** and ***Sharyl***, friends of Kerry Holbrook

***Ed Overton and wife Abby***, friends of Doug Butler

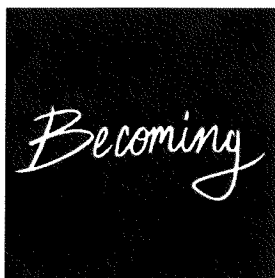
***Jennifer Paetzold-Garcia***, cousin of Sharon Hirsch

***Shannon Putman***, daughter of Mary Putman

***Carlton Rounds' mother***, who is fighting cancer. Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin.

***Deb Walsh***, friend of Celia Dickerson

***Please remember to update the pastoral staff on the progress of your loved ones.***



### **New Small Group: Becoming**

Fresh out of college, single, married, graduate student, young professional or piecing it together one day at a time – we're all becoming (or striving to become) ... more connected, faithful, joyful. If you're interested in sharing the journey and shaping a new small group, join us at the following gatherings:

\*\*\***TODAY**\*\*\* **Sunday, July 11 Neomonde 12:45 p.m.** (after worship)

**Sunday, July 25 Ninth Street Bakery 12:45 p.m.** (after worship)



### **Let's (re)introduce ourselves via the Bulletin Board.**

As you return to worship in the church building, whenever that is, please bring a photo of you and yours doing something fun (or at least something) from during the pandemic. It can be anything, but make sure your face(s) is/are visible. Then, label it and tack it up on the long bulletin board in the foyer—supplies will be available. *For our children*, there will be a border on around the bulletin board that they can draw on as they return.

### **Grounds Workday**

**Saturday, July 17**

**8:00-11:00 a.m. at the church**

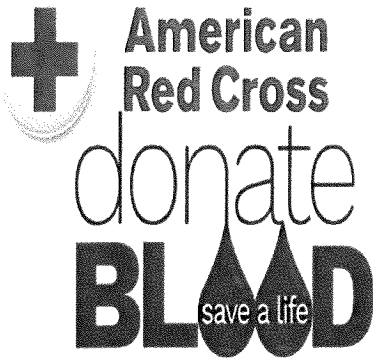
**Barbara Buckley is organizer**

### **Tour Historic Stagville**

The Faith & Community Class will tour Historic Stagville again on **Saturday, July 17 from 8:00-10:00 a.m.** FPC's own *Vera Cecelski* will lead this tour which is limited to 25 persons. Please sign up ([here](#)) in advance if you plan to take this tour. Stagville is a state historic site located in Durham that includes the remnants of the one of the largest plantations in North Carolina. The site consists of original slave quarters (1851), a massive barn (1860), and a Bennehan family house (1787-1799). Stagville is dedicated to teaching about the lives and work of plantation slaves.

### **Discussion Leaders Needed for Faith & Community Class**

Later this summer, we're continuing to learn and understand the stories of race in our country. Following *The Best of Enemies*, the Faith & Community class will be watching Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s documentary, *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. Each week, **July 18-August 15**, we'll watch 30 minutes together over Zoom and then discuss, so there's no homework required. This class needs discussion leaders. *It's easy to do – please contact John Weicher if you are interested.*



### **FPC Sponsors Community Blood Drive**

There is a critical blood shortage right now because of the lingering pandemic. FPC will host a Community Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on **Thursday, July 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall**. Today following worship, you will be able to sign up at the table in the church foyer. **FPC has a goal to fill 30 appointment slots during this drive.** Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative, and A negative. According to the Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type that can be safely transfused to anyone and is often used to treat trauma patients. To sign up online, go to

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: **firstpres**. Each donor who participates in FPC's blood drive will be eligible to receive a \$10 Amazon gift card from the Red Cross. Contact FPC's coordinator, **Julie Whiddon**, if you wish to help with the drive or have questions about donating blood.

### **SUMMER SABBATH PRACTICES rescheduled!**

We have new dates for our ALL-Church event, Summer Sabbath Practices which will be held at church each evening from **Monday, August 16 through Friday August 20!** Come for 1, 2, 3, 4, or ALL evenings!! Each evening we will explore a different FAITH PRACTICE: Hospitality, Prayer, Service, Storytelling, and Retreat. There will be something for EVERYONE plus FREE DINNER is included - EAT PICNIC STYLE OUTSIDE OR GRAB DINNER TO TAKE HOME! Also, we need volunteers to sign up to help at this event.

### **Growing thru Grief - July Preview**

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m., 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 July:

- July 13** Sarah Woodard, "A Journey through Grief—Facing It with Self-Compassion"
- July 20** Margaret Albert, "The Influence of the Pandemic"
- July 27** Margaret Albert, "Loneliness and Being Alone"

To register for one of these Zoom meetings, please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) by 8:00 a.m. on the Monday before the meeting.

[3 Times: English, LATIN, English]

ADORATION

# 635 Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord

*Laudate Dominum*

**F** Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.  
Lau - da - te Do - mi - num, lau - da - te Do - mi - num,

**p** Peo - ples! Na - tions! Al - le - lu - ia!  
om - nes gen - tes, al - le - lu - ia!

**F** Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.  
Lau - da - te Do - mi - num, lau - da - te Do - mi - num,

(FF <sup>3RD</sup> time)

**p** Peo - ples! Na - tions! Al - le - lu - ia!  
om - nes gen - tes, al - le - lu - ia!

By the way the notes fall on the syllables, repeated singing reveals that this refrain based on Psalm 117:1 originally set the Latin text. The refrains of the ecumenical community at Taizé, France, often use Latin because it is not the language of any current political power.



1. Melody - SOPRANO & Tenor
4. IN CANON - S, T Begin; A, B. Follow
5. All in UNISON

## 25D What Wondrous Love Is This

Music: Southern folk hymn, arr. by Alastair Cassels-Brown, b.1927  
Text: Alex Means, 1801-1853

### 2-part canon

Optional guitar A Em<sup>7</sup> A

Soprano

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing  
3. Ye wing-ed ser-aphs fly, bear the news, bear the  
4. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will  
5. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Bass

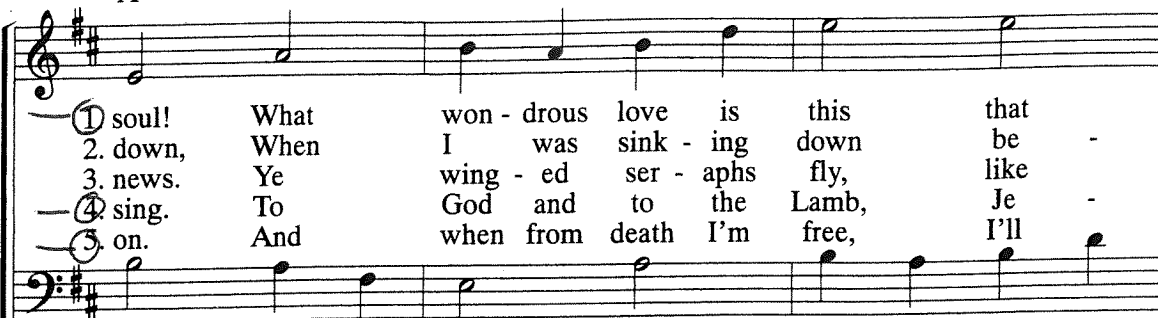
1. What won-drous love is this, O my  
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing  
3. Ye wing-ed ser-aphs fly, bear the  
4. To God and to the Lamb, I will  
5. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing

Bm<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> Bm<sup>7</sup>

1. soul! What won-drous love is this, O my  
2. down, When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing  
3. news. Ye wing-ed ser-aphs fly, bear the  
4. sing. To God and to the Lamb I will  
5. on. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing

1. soul, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
2. down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing  
3. news, bear the news. Ye wing-ed ser-aphs  
4. sing, I will sing. To God and to the  
5. on, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

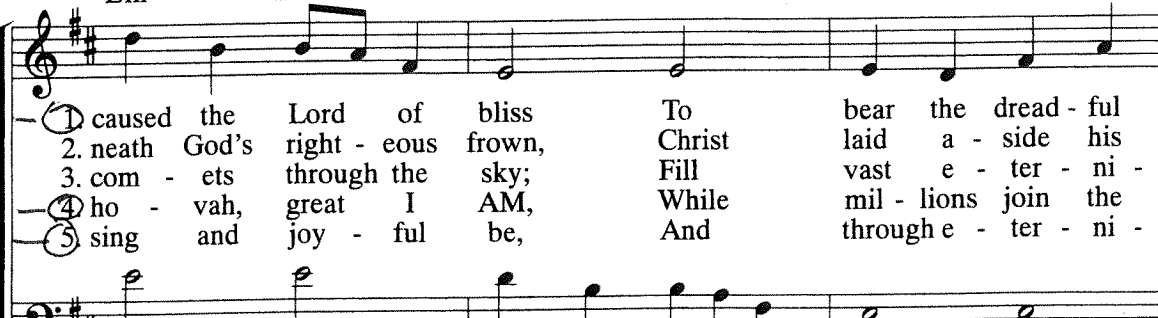
A<sup>7</sup> G Bm<sup>7</sup>



① soul! What won - drous love is this that  
 ② down, When I was sink - ing down be -  
 ③ news. Ye wing - ed ser - apts fly, like  
 ④ sing. To God and to the Lamb, Je -  
 ⑤ on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

1. this, O my soul! What won - drous love is  
 2. down, sink - ing down, When I was sink - ing  
 3. fly, bear the news. Ye wing - ed ser - apts  
 4. Lamb I will sing. To God and to the  
 5. free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

Em<sup>7</sup> Bm<sup>7</sup> A Em<sup>7</sup>



① caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread - ful  
 ② neath God's right - eous frown, Christ laid a - side his  
 ③ com - ets through the sky; Fill vast e - ter - ni -  
 ④ ho - vah, great I AM, While mil - lions join the  
 ⑤ sing and joy - ful be, And through e - ter - ni -

① this that caused the Lord of bliss To  
 ② down be - neath God's right - eous frown, Christ  
 ③ fly, like com - ets through the sky; Fill  
 ④ Lamb, Je - ho - vah, great I AM, While  
 ⑤ free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, And

A      Bm<sup>7</sup>      Em<sup>7</sup>

① cross      for      my      soul,      for      my      soul,      To  
 2. crown      for      my      soul,      for      my      soul,      Christ  
 3. ty      with      the      news,      with      the      news.      Fill  
 ④ theme,      I      will      sing,      I      will      sing.      While  
 ⑤ ty,      I'll      sing      on,      I'll      sing      on.      And

① bear      the      dread - ful      cross      for      my      soul,      for      my  
 2. laid      a - side      his      crown      for      my      soul,      for      my  
 3. vast      e - ter - ni - ty      with      the      news,      with      the  
 ④ mil - lions      join      the      theme,      I      will      sing,      I      will  
 ⑤ through      e - ter - ni - ty,      I'll      sing      on,      I'll      sing

Bm<sup>7</sup>      Em<sup>7</sup>      A      Em

① bear      the      dread - ful      cross      for      my      soul. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. laid      a - side      his      crown      for      my      soul. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. vast      e - ter - ni - ty      with      the      news. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ④ mil - lions      join      the      theme      I      will      sing. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ⑤ through      e - ter - ni - ty,      I'll      sing      on. \_\_\_\_\_

① soul,      To      bear      the      dread - ful      cross      for      my      soul.  
 2. soul.      Christ      laid      a - side      his      crown      for      my      soul.  
 3. news.      Fill      vast      e - ter - ni - ty      with      the      news.  
 ④ sing.      While      mil - lions      join      the      theme      I      will      sing.  
 ⑤ on      And      through      e - ter - ni - ty,      I'll      sing      on.

# 486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

→ ① Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized  
 → ② Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -  
 ③ Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you  
 → ④ Child of God, ~~you~~<sup>our</sup> lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

→ with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has  
 → a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our  
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly  
 → lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

→ sealed <sup>us</sup>~~you~~ un - to love and grace di - vine.  
 → spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.  
 → wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

## The Week at a Glance!

<b>Later Today</b>  <b>12:30 PM – 1:30 PM</b> <b>“Becoming”</b> (new small group) meeting at Neomonde  Playground Train Dedication (FPC Day School)	<b>Monday, July 12</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Worship Planning  <b>2:00 PM</b> All Church Staff	<b>Tuesday, July 13</b>  <i>Newsletter today</i>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Things That Matter Book Group (Watts-Hill Hall)	<b>Wednesday, July 14</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday, July 15</b>	<b>Friday, July 16</b>	<b>Saturday, July 17</b>  <b>8:00-11:00 AM</b> Grounds Workday	<b>Sunday, July 18</b>  <b>9:45 -10:30 AM</b> Adult Faith Formation  <b>10:00-10:30 AM</b> Children's Faith Formation  <b>11:00 AM Worship</b> Rev. Vanessa Hawkins Transitional Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk (in-person and live-streamed)

### CHURCH STAFF

*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>.

**305 EAST MAIN STREET**

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701**  
**ORGANIZED 1871**

**919.682.5511**