

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Marie Sappenfield

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Robert J. Powell

Taylor Eppinger, violin

(Played in honor of the people of Afghanistan)

*For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn,
and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead?." Jeremiah 8:21,22*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carlo Diy

Leader: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous;

People: **God's ears are open to their cry.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who clothes us in strength

People: **and quenches our souls with mercy.**

RESPONSE

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Katie Becker and Drew Cummings

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high
tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power
of my power*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

If we are honest with ourselves and with you, Holy God,

we can confess the many gods who have staked a claim in our hearts.

Whether it be our worship of money or power, nation or family,

personal liberty or individual choice, alcohol or some other form of numbing drug.

we betray you in a myriad of ways.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Turn us from the golden calves we erect in your presence.

Return us and our hearts to worship you. Amen.

*Those who are able, please stand

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken*

Listen

*Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2,14-18

Carlo Diy

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve the LORD in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

John Weicher

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON*"Be Loved, Be Kind, Be You."*

John Weicher

INTERLUDE*Canticle of the Turning**Star of County Down*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait. You
fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be
blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws
near, and the world is about to turn.*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Romans 8:35-39

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress,
or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Blessing of the Backpacks

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to Offering

Hunger for Change Offering is received today.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Weicher

Leader: May these simple gifts transform into shoes for those who have none,

People: **into clothes for those heading off to school,**

Leader: into faith, hope, peace,

All: **and grace for all of your children, Holy God. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
People: **and delivers them from all their troubles.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Psalm 34:17

(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.**

SENDING

Fight the Good Fight

Duke Street

Fight the good fight with all thy might.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.

God changeth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be

Only believe, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown eternally.

that Christ is all in all to thee.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.

God's boundless mercy will provide.

Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove

Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

*BENEDICTION

John Weicher

*POSTLUDE

Canticle of the Turning

Irish, arr. Edwin Childs



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 August 15, **71** joined us for in-person worship and **54** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

Thanks to **Drew Cummings, Katie Becker, and Taylor Eppinger** for sharing their musical gifts.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **David and Judy Smith** in celebration of 45 years of marriage.

Many thanks to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck** for their technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of **today's texts and music** were reprinted from *the Book of Common Worship, the Presbyterian Outlook and Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal*.

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.

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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.

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Marriage announcement: Congratulations to ***Ian Gitata and Marsha Barrett*** who were married on Thursday, August 12 at a ceremony at Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown, Connecticut. Ian is the oldest son of Mary Gitata who joined FPC in his youth.

Condolence: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the family of former FPC member ***Dr. Eddie M. Williams, III*** of Columbia SC. Eddie was a member of FPC back in the mid-to-late 70s before going to Zaire as a medical missionary.

Added this week: ***Karen Renee Shoaf***: friend of ***Kathy Parkins***. US military pilot recently sent to Afghanistan by the Army to transport people out.

Kerry Holbrook ***Margaret Sims***

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: ***Julian Boswell***

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

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

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: ***Jim Wolfe, Walter Chambliss***, father of Will Chambliss.

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

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

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Trice

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett is in the hospital. She's the mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Lori Griffin & baby Teagan Rose in NICU- niece of Jeanne Hervey

Chris Grill, former FPC intern, diagnosed with the COVID variant.

Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

Grace, Chris James great-niece

Dorothy Collin Horne, mother of Ginny Horne

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ed Overton and wife Abby, friends of Doug Butler

Jennifer Paetzold-Garcia, cousin of Sharon Hirsch

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

Kathy Stahl (mother) & ***Larry Purtzenski*** (stepfather), parents of Katy Loebrich.

Heath Tuttle is in hospital at Duke. He's the son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle.

Jim Vacca, father in-law of Will Chambliss

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

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



And it's a backyard cookout!

Winesday

August 25
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Come meet some new friends or reconnect
with familiar faces!

Hosted by Jane & Bill Brown
1312 Dollar Avenue

Sliders provided, please bring a side to share
RSVP to Jane Brown



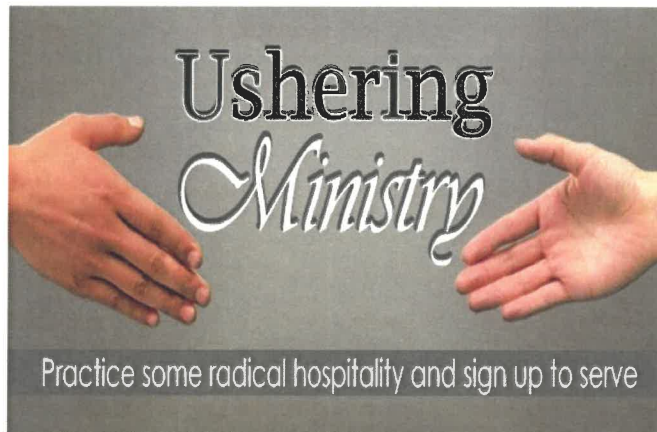
FIRST FRIENDS ANNUAL BEACH TRIP

September 24-26

We are good to go if all are vaccinated.
If there are some not vaccinated, then we need to mask when indoors.

Please contact **Kathy Conner** with questions.

Please respond to the Evite by September 5th.



Looking for an easy way to meet other FPC'ers?

An easy, low time commitment way to get involved?

Want to help others experience the warm welcome you received at FPC?

The deacons and Mitzi are looking for people willing to serve as ushers/greeters one Sunday per month. Don't worry about being locked in, substitutes and opportunities to change will always be available as lives and plans evolve.

You'll be part of a team working together to help welcome people to worship.

No committee meetings and no prior experience needed-just a willing heart.

Questions or ready to volunteer, email Mitzi Leshar-Thomas.

The Week at a Glance!

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| Sunday, August 22 After Worship Fall Kick Off Activities and food on the grounds | Monday, August 23 1:00 PM Worship Planning 2:00-3:00 PM FPC Staff 6:00 PM Diaconate (via Zoom) 7:00 PM Session (via Zoom) | Tuesday, August 24 | Wednesday, August 25 7:00-8:00 PM Sweet Treat Youth Gathering – The Parlour 6:00 – 8:00 PM Winesday at the home of Jane & Bill Brown No Chancel Choir |
| Thursday, August 26 | Friday, August 27 | Saturday, August 28 8:00-11:00 AM Landscaping and Gardening Workday (FPC grounds) | Sunday, August 29 9:30 -10:30 AM Adult Faith Formation 10:00-10:30 AM Children's Faith Formation 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Youth Lunch Out |

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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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