

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

PRELUDE

*Bourree for violin and keyboard*  
Taylor Eppinger, violin

William Babel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: Come! Come into the place where God listens!  
Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!  
People: **Come as you are, broken, whole, sick, well satisfied or with deep needs.**  
Leader: Come to rejoice. Come to cry. Come to hear. Come to see.  
People: **Come and be ready or come to be made ready.**  
**We are here, God is here too.**

RESPONSE

*Come to the Water*

arr. Howard Helvey

Cathy Snell & David Smith, singers

*Oh let all who thirst, let them come to the water.*  
*And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:*  
*Without money, without price. Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?*  
*And let all who seek, let them come to the water.*  
*And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:*  
*Without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?*  
*And let all who toil, let them come to the water.*  
*And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:*  
*All who labor, without rest. How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?*  
*And let all the poor, let them come to the water.*  
*Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:*  
*Bring the children, without might, easy the load and light: come to the Lord.*

\*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**God of favor, we have not been true to you. You have chosen the poor in the world, but we have dishonored them. You plead the cause of the afflicted, but we crush them. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have favored the rich and despised the poor. Forgive us, we pray. We have dismissed the needy with empty words. Soften our hearts and make straight our ways. Heal our unbelief and turn us back to you.**

\*Those who are able, please stand

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Laura McNab

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord God, pour out your Spirit upon us  
to bring good news to the oppressed,  
and let your word be fulfilled among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

## HEBREW LESSON

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Laura McNab

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup>The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

<sup>8</sup>Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. <sup>9</sup>Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

<sup>22</sup>Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; <sup>23</sup>for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

James 2:1-10,14-17

Laura McNab

My siblings, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my siblings. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that God has promised to those who love God? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my siblings, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a sibling is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 7:24-30

Mindy Douglas

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Standing in the Gap”

Mindy Douglas

**RESPONSE***Heaven Shall Not Wait**Heaven Shall Not Wait*

*Heaven shall not wait  
for the poor to lose their patience,  
the scorned to smile, the despised to find  
a friend: Jesus is Lord;  
he has championed the unwanted;  
in him injustice confronts its timely end.*

*Heaven shall not wait  
for triumphant Hallelujahs,  
when earth has passed and we reach  
another shore: Jesus is Lord  
in our present imperfection;  
his power and love are for now and then  
for evermore.*

*Heaven shall not wait  
for the rich to share their fortunes,  
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the  
least: Jesus is Lord;  
he has shown the master’s privilege:  
to kneel and wash servants’ feet before  
they feast.*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Susan Dunlap

**God sends us to strive for justice.**

**God has reached out to those who suffer injustice  
and defended the excluded, the poor, and the hungry.**

**The Lord is moving toward the time  
when justice will roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**We are persuaded God is at work here and now  
when people deal fairly with each other and labor to change customs  
and structures that enslave and oppress human beings.**

**We believe God sends us to work with others  
to correct the growing disparity between rich and poor nations,  
to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced,  
to make the operation of courts and penal institutions  
more just and humane.**

**We are charged to root our prejudice and racism  
from our hearts and institutions.**

**We are commissioned to stand with women and men  
of all ages, races, and classes as they struggle for dignity and respect  
and the chance to exercise power for the common good.**

**We must not countenance in the church and its institutions  
the inequities we seek to correct in the world.**

**We must be willing to make such amends as we can  
for centuries of injustice which the church condoned.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Mindy Douglas

**DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

Susan Dunlap

Invitation to Offering

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Susan Dunlap

Leader: Generous God, thank you for these gifts we bring from your abundance.

People: **Bless gifts and givers to show your love to all those in need  
through our glorious Lord Jesus Christ,**

Leader: healer of the sick, advocate of the afflicted,

All: **provider for the poor. Amen.**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

Susan Dunlap

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

Susan Dunlap

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved but stands fast forever.

(Psalm 125:1-2)

People: **The mountains surround Jerusalem.  
so you surround your people,  
O Lord, from this time forth and forevermore.**

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.**

**SENDING**

*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.*

*Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied  
in color and race;  
neighbors are near us and far away. (R)*

*Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. (R)*

*Loving puts us on our knees,  
willing to wash others' feet;  
this is the way we should live like you. (R)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Bourree*

Charles Callahan



**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 29, 100 joined us for in-person worship and 50 households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

Thanks to **Cathy Snell, David Smith, and Taylor Eppinger** for sharing their musical gifts today.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by **Logan Tice** in honor of **Cris Rivera's** birthday.

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

Portions of **today's texts and music** were reprinted from *Cláudio Carvalhaes Liturgies from Below, Feasting on the Word Liturgies for Year B. Vol.2.*, and *Book of Common Worship (2018)*.

**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.

### **Custodian Position Available**

First Presbyterian Church, an active, caring, and inclusive church in downtown Durham, is looking for a custodian (cleaning, maintenance, and event set-up and clean-up). The position is 35 hours a week. Pays \$16.92 an hour. Benefits include medical, dental, vision insurance for employee and 403(b) retirement plan. A criminal background check will be conducted. A full job description is available on the church's website ([Custodian Position](#)) and from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past employers) to [sexton-search@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:sexton-search@firstpres-durham.org). Application deadline is September 25, 2021. NOTE: Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

~ Concerns ~

**Condolences** to *Brandon Turner and family* on the death of Brandon's wife, *Keri Turner*.  
Brandon is the cousin of *Matthew Eggleston*.

**Added this week:** *Kate Strauman* daughter of Jancy Johnstone, displaced by hurricane.

*Chris Irwin*, cousin of Linda Barenchi, hospitalized in St. Louis, MO with the COVID variant.

*Will French*, 5-year-old son of Berry & Katie French, in the PICU at UNC-Hospitals (Berry is the Presbyterian Campus Minister at UNC)

*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*

Emerald Pond: *Paul Cornsweet*

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*, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

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

*Chris Grill*, former FPC intern

*Phil Goss*, a friend of the congregation

*Grace*, Chris James' great-niece

*Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

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

*Carlton Rounds' mother*, Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin

*Karen Renne Shoaf*, friend of Kathy Parkins

*Heath Tuttle*, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

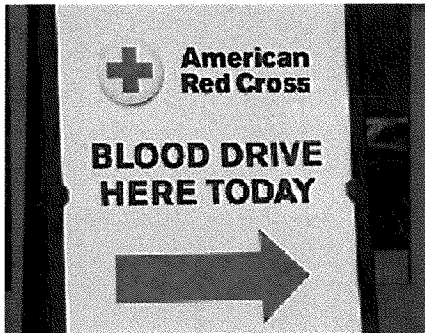
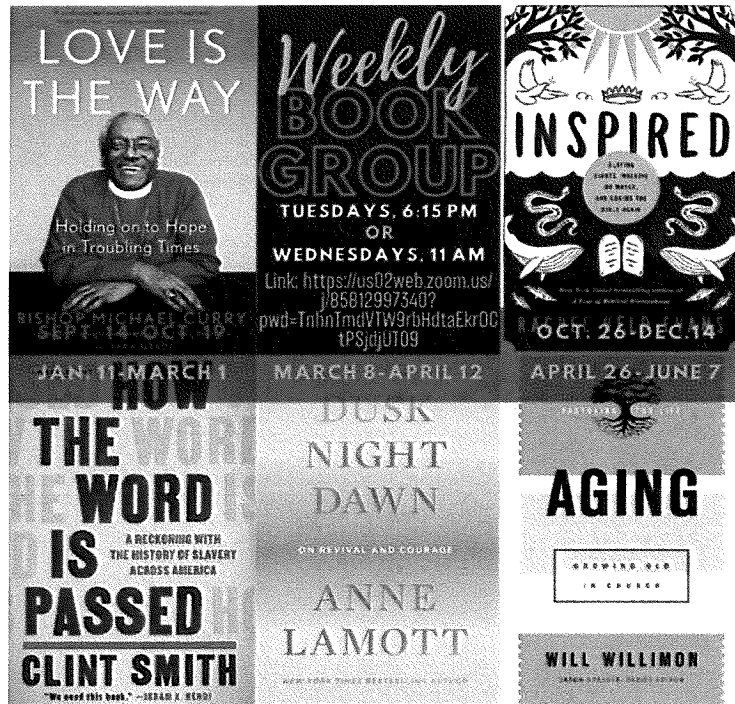
*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*Deb Walsh*, friend of Celia Dickerson

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



**Becoming**...because we're all striving to become more faithful in our journeys, more connected to the community and to God. We'll share times for study, fellowship, and prayer. Wherever *you* are on life's journey (Gen X, Y, Z, millennial or the label of your choice) you are welcome here. Join us on Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 12, 9:30 - 10:30 for a hybrid gathering (masked, in person, in the fellowship hall) or on Zoom We'll gather for prayer and begin Dr. Lisa Wolfe's series Uppity Women of the Bible as we consider Ruth, Song of Songs, Judith and Esther. We will also meet on the 4th Wednesdays in September and October at Hi-Wire Brewing from 6:00-7:00 p.m.



**FPC is hosting a second BLOOD DRIVE!**  
Well . . . not today, but soon!

**Save the date: Thursday, October 7**

More details forthcoming.

## **A Fun New Way to Support the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel!**



Volunteers are essential to the weekly success of the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel, and we try hard to keep them happy, safe, and healthy! One fun way that you could help support our hard-working and dedicated volunteers would be to take some yummy treats or drinks on **Wednesday mornings**. Everyone needs and appreciates a boost now and then! Sign up to provide treats using this link (<https://tinyurl.com/p6tz2wx9> or click [here](#)) and scroll down to the Wednesday opportunities.

*For other options, contact Margaret Rubiera. Thank you, thank you!!*

## The Week at a Glance!

<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 5</b>  <b>12:00 – 1:00 PM</b> Youth Group Lunch Out	<b>Monday</b> <b>September 6</b>  Church Office closed in observance of the Labor Day Holiday	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>September 7</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Worship Planning  <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>September 8</b>  No Chancel Choir
<b>Thursday</b> <b>September 9</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>September 10</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>September 11</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 12</b>  <b>9:30 -10:30 AM</b> Adult Faith Formation  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship

### FIRST FRIENDS ANNUAL BEACH TRIP

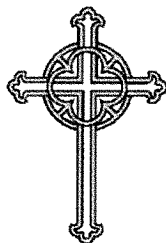
All are welcome.

**September 24-26**

Please contact **Kathy Conner** with questions by September 5.

#### 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 Leshor-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    919.682.5511**  
**ORGANIZED 1871**