

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 19, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Coronation

Jean Langlais

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cris Rivera

Leader: Who will be first in the kingdom of God?

People: **The one who is last and servant of all.**

Leader: Who will be great in the realm of heaven?

People: **The one who comes as a humble child.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Cris Rivera

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**God of wisdom,
forgive our foolishness.**

**We desire what we do not need
and corrupt our relationships with envy.**

**You urge us to gentleness,
but we stir up conflict.**

**Give us your grace,
that we may harvest righteousness and peace,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Teacher, we pray.**

*Those who are able, please stand

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

James 3:13-18

Cris Rivera

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

Mindy Douglas

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Salve Regina

Hermann Schroeder

SERMON

“Upside Down”

Mindy Douglas

RESPONSE

These Treasured Children

Puer Nobis Nascitur

*These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus’ name.*

*Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our children know it well
within their souls and minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.*

*We long to trust as children do and so entrust our days to you;
in their young lives we clearly see a lesson in humility.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Who are you?

People: I am a child of God.

Leader: What does it mean to be a child of God?

People: That I belong to God, who loves me.

Leader: What makes you a child of God?

**People: Grace – God’s free gift of love
that I do not deserve and cannot earn.**

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to Offering

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Weicher

**Generous God, thank you for these gifts we bring from your abundance.
Bless gifts and givers to show your love to all those in need through our
glorious Lord Jesus Christ, healer of the sick, advocate of the afflicted,
provider for the poor. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.**

LITANY OF FAREWELL for: Jenna Kneepkens, Matt Susen & Hailey Susen Mindy Douglas

Leader: We send you forth as disciples of Jesus Christ and as ambassadors of friendship, spreading the good news of God's love in your new surroundings.
Go in the spirit of Christ. Be steadfast in your devotion to him.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Know that your ministry with us has served the cause of Christ in this community. Well done, good and faithful servants!

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: May your commitment to Christ grow as you enter another community and another congregation.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Remember that even though we will be separated in space, our shared faith in Jesus Christ will keep us connected.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Unison Prayer of the People:

Gracious God, a wandering Aramean is our ancestor and you have been with us every step of the way on the long journey of faith. Go now with Jenna, Matt, and Hailey, we pray. Keep them faithful to you, in prayer, worship, service, and in the new relationships they will make. Give them traveling mercies and a new community of faith through which they may continue to serve you. Bless this family. May our friendship with them continue, and may we ever be one in Christ. Amen.

SENDING

Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket Alle Gott

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Ein feste Burg

Barbara Harbach



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 September 12, 83 joined us for in-person worship and 42 households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

We are grateful to **Gordon Campbell** (organist), **Kent Foss** (trumpeter) and **Lesley Curtis** (soloist) for sharing their musical gifts with us today.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of **James Compton and Virginia Pearson** on September 18. James is the son of **Will and Mary Ann Compton**.

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 *A Spacious Faith, Call to Worship, Book of Common Worship, Feasting on the Word, and Lectionary Liturgies*.

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.

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Steve Rimmer** and **Lyn** and **John Williams** upon the death of **Martha Rimmer**, Steve's wife and Lyn's mother on Friday; and to Mary Goss and family upon the death of **Phil Goss**, Mary's husband, who passed away September 12.

Kerry Holbrook Margaret Sims Paul Cornsweet Minnie Cameron

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Carver Living Center: **Everlyn Bass**, aunt of Valerie McMillian

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,
Ellen O'Brien, mother in-law of Mindy Douglas

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

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

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Will French, son of Berry & Katie French

Lori Griffin & baby Teagan Rose, niece of Jeanne Hervey

Chris Grill, former FPC intern

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

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

Ty, Laurel, Joe, & Cheli Seddon, family of Martha Seddon, former FPC Parish Administrator

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.

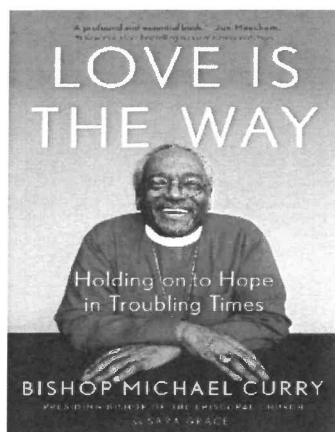
Custodian Position Available

We are looking for a custodian! The position is 35 hours a week and includes cleaning, maintenance, and event set-up and clean-up. A full job description of the Custodian Position is available at www.firstpres-durham.org. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them send an application letter and résumé (including two references) to sexton-search@firstpres-durham.org. Application deadline is September 25, 2021. First Presbyterian Church is a certified Durham Living Wage employer. NOTE: Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

Are there any quilters, or aspiring quilters, in the house?

For many years, under the leadership of *Ruth Roberson, BJ Morton, and Dawn Carsey Shelton*, baptized babies have been presented a handmade quilt to tangibly represent the love of the congregation for the newest member of the FPC family. These ladies have decided to pass the torch to a new set of sewers. *Jane Wettach* has agreed to take on the ministry and would love to work with experienced or aspiring quilters. If you would like to join the baptismal quilt ministry, please contact Jane at janewettach@gmail.com or 919-612-8396.

****PLEASE NOTE:** To access zoom links listed in this bulletin, go to www.firstpres-durham.org and click in the section for listed for Newsletters or Bulletins.)



Weekly Book Study!

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

via Zoom **

SCHEDULE: *Love Is the Way*

September 21/22 – Chapters 3,4

September 28/29 – Chapters 5,6

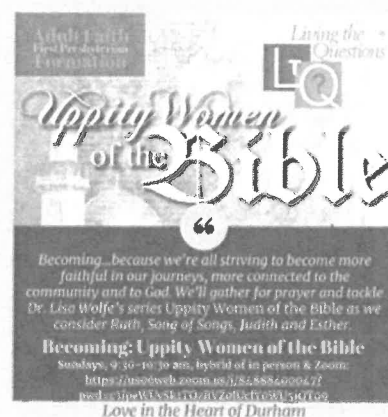
We welcome new faces & voices!

BECOMING – OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Zoom only **

Wednesday evenings, September 22 and October 27
at Hi-Wire Brewing from 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Wednesday Fellowship: Backyard Cookout

Wednesday, September 22, 6-8pm

Bring a side to share.

RSVP to Jane Brown

The Browns

131 Dollar Avenue



Thursday, October 7, 2021

1:00-6:00 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall

Primary contact/organizer: Julie Whiddon

Julie's email: foxylady2642@yahoo.com

Julie's phone number: 919-730-6673

Sign up through Julie or sign up online

at RedCrossBlood.org using code: firstpres. Informational brochures are available from the table in the church's foyer.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Sunday September 19</p> <p>4:00-5:30 PM Middle School Youth Group</p> <p>5:00-6:30 PM High School Youth Group</p>	<p>Monday September 20</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM All Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday September 21</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance and Investment Committee</p> <p>6:15 PM <i>Love Is the Way</i> Book Study</p>	<p>Wednesday September 22</p> <p>11:00 AM <i>Love Is the Way</i> Book Study</p> <p>6:00 - 7:00 PM Becoming Pop-Up at Hi-Wire Brewing</p> <p>6:00 – 8:00 PM Wednesday Fellowship Backyard Cookout at The Browns</p>
<p>Thursday September 23</p> <p>5:00-6:00 PM Youth Pop Up Disc Golf at Cornwallis Rd Park</p>	<p>Friday September 24</p>	<p>Saturday September 25</p> <p>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Grounds Workday</p>	<p>Sunday September 26</p> <p>9:30 - 10:30 AM Adult Faith Formation</p> <p>10:00 - 10:30 AM Children and Youth Faith Formation</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>12:00 - 1:00 PM Youth Group Lunch Out</p> <p>3:00 – 4:00 PM Children's Pop Up Playground</p>

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



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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