

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 7, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

PRELUDE

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand
Wind Quartet

arr. Don Hustad

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: All that we have is a gift from God;

People: by the grace of God we live.

Leader: As Jesus gave his life for us

People: let us offer our lives to the Lord.

All: Let us worship God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish.

It is easy to love you with all that we are,

except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have.

We find it hard to love our neighbor, when it is linked to the way we love ourselves.

And it is difficult to love anyone – even you – more than we love ourselves.

Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us,

help us to take risks to love others compassionately,

to love ourselves genuinely,

and to love you as completely as you love us

in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

* Those who are able, please stand.

Silent Confession
Declaration of Pardon

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennie Alwood

Leader: By the power of your Holy Spirit

People: startle us with your Word, O God,

Leader: and awaken us to your truth,

People: for Jesus' sake. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 17:8-16

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, OT Page 324)

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:38-44

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 49)

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Walls"

John Weicher

RESPONSE

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
Wind Quartet*

Here I Am

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

John Weicher

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles

rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,

engages us through the Word proclaimed,

claims us in the waters of baptism,

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

and calls people to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

AFFIRMATION OF CONFIRMANDS

John Weicher/ Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Presentation of Scarves

Litany of Affirmation

Leader: Friends in Christ, in baptism we make promises for our children, for those who remain near, and for those who move far away; for everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

People: **We have promised to rely upon God's grace as family, mentors and friends; to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to you as children, into your adulthood.**

Leader: God has embraced you confirmands within this covenant of faith.

People: **We have promised, through prayer and example, to support and encourage you throughout your life to be faithful Christians.**

Leader: Christ has embraced you confirmands within this covenant of hope.

People: **As members of the church of Jesus Christ, we have promised to guide and nurture you, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging you to know and to follow Christ and to be faithful members of Christ's church.**

Leader: By water and the Holy Spirit, you confirmands were made members of Christ's church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of justice, peace, and love. The Holy Spirit has sealed within you the covenant of love.

People: **Our promises are binding. Our love is strong. Our intent is clear. Because you have been chosen by God and are precious to God, you are also precious to us.**

Leader: The triune God will continue to embrace you within this covenant because God's love knows no end.

All: **Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God.**

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Prayer of Dedication

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

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.**

SENDING*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant**The Servant Song*

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

POSTLUDEFugue in D*

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 October 31, **100** joined us for in-person worship and **43** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

The **flowers** today are given by **Vickie** and **Stan Luboff** to the glory of God and in memory of Vickie's father, **John Hyde**.

Music notes: The **Prelude** is an arrangement of a rousing American hymn tune, first published in 1835 with verses by a British pastor. The refrain says "I am bound for the promised land." The **Response** hymn, found at #69 in our hymnal, uses verses of scripture to model a faithful response to God's call: "Here I am, Lord." We are grateful to the Wind Quartet (**Christyn Klinck, Sheya Wehrman, Brent Curtis, and David Smith**) for their musical contribution to today's service.

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** were reprinted from the *Lectionary Liturgies* blog, *Call to Worship* and *Feasting on the Word*.

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.

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.

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

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.

The congregation will continue to be masked as an act of generous hospitality to children who cannot yet be vaccinated and transplant recipients and others on medication that reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:

Family of Fred Moore upon the death of his aunt **Sylvia**, a former missionary to South Korea.

Family of Mitzi Leshner-Thomas upon the death of her grandmother **Arlene 'Peg' Leshner**.

Concerns:

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown, as he undergoes surgery on Monday.

Leroy Brown, grandfather of Chris Brown, who began hospice care.

Carlisle Harvard, recovering from a fall

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Paul Cornsweet

Kerry Holbrook

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 Tice

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

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



The Spiritual Crisis of Gun Violence

November 13, 9:00 AM-Noon

This virtual retreat will explore the complexity of gun violence in Durham, NC by listening to multiple voices and perspectives. Retreat participants will hear from representatives from law enforcement, city government, the judicial systems as well as from victims of violence.

Through these voices and in conversation with one another, participants will be invited to reflect on God's presence within the challenges and suffering caused by gun violence as well as to consider God's call to each of us.

Registration link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e48aaab2ba4fc1-fall>

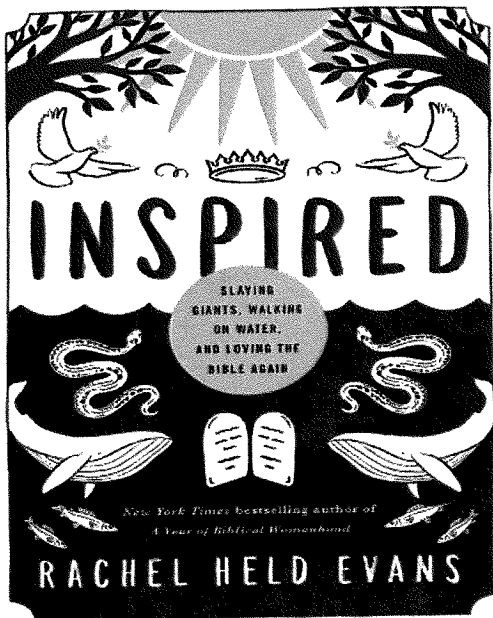
Presented by: The Congregation at Duke Chapel and the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham
Co-facilitators **Rev. Dr. Fatimah Salleh** (A Certain Work) and **Ben Haas** (Director, RCND)



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 21

- *Advent devotional materials can be picked up
- *Advent crafts provided for children of all ages
- *Advent candles w/cedar block will be available
- *Purchase alternative gifts from local mission partners
- *Food truck provides refreshments



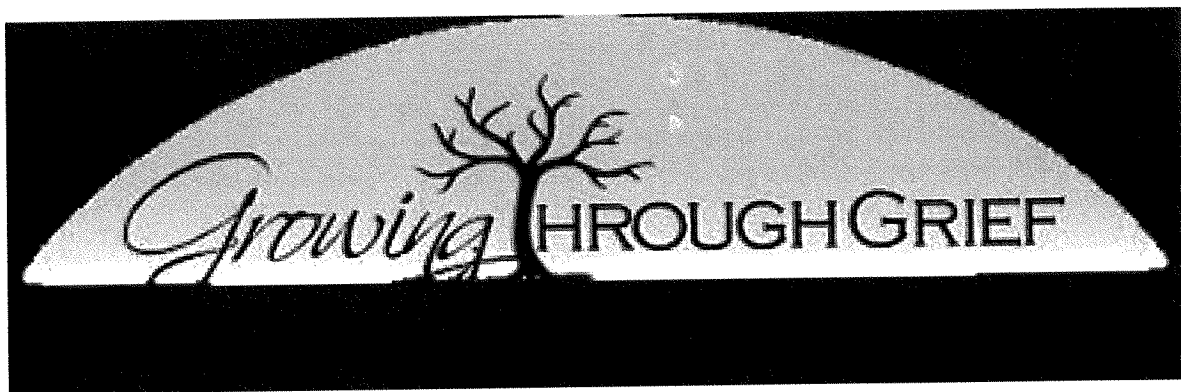
**The Weekly Book Study group
continues with a new book!**

Inspired
by Rachel Held Evans

November 9th and 10th

Join the discussion via Zoom.
Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85812997340?pwd=TnhnTmdVTW9rbHdtaEkrOCtPSjdjUT09>



Growing thru Grief meets year-round, except for major holidays. Here is our schedule for November:

- Nov. 9 Grief and Joy as Traveling Companions, by Terry Allebaugh
- Nov. 16 Surviving the Holidays, joint session with Duke HomeCare & Hospice
- Nov. 23 Hope, by Gates Vrooman

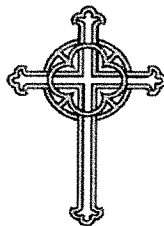
Our meetings begin with a presentation about a part of the grief process and then we break into small groups for conversation and sharing. With the pandemic, we are meeting on Zoom, though we hope to return to in-person meetings. To register, contact admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8:00 a.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Growing thru Grief is sponsored by a coalition of religious and civic organizations; there is no charge to attend.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today 4:00-5:30 PM All Youth at Farm Church (Watts & Green Sts. Center)	Mon., November 8 1:00 PM Worship Planning 2:00 PM Program Planning 6:00 PM CE Committee 6:00 PM Property Committee 6:30 PM Service & Mission 7:00 PM WATA Committee 7:30 PM Youth Committee	Tues., November 9 3:30 PM The Things That Matter Book Group (Watts-Hill Hall) 6:15-7:15 PM Book Study: <i>Inspired</i>	Wed., November 10 11:00 AM -12:00 PM Book Study: <i>Inspired</i> 7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir
Thurs., November 11	Fri., November 12 <hr/> Sat., November 13	Sun., November 14 9:30-10:30 AM Faith Formation Classes for Adults and Confirmation 10:00-10:30 AM Faith Formation Classes for Children and MSers 11:00 AM Worship 4:00-5:00 PM The Book of Job discussion (Watts-Hill Hall & via Zoom) 4:00-5:30 PM Middle School Youth Group 5:00-6:30 PM High School Youth Group	

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
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>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511
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