

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Bill and Jane Brown

PRELUDE *Overture and Trumpet tune on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

Mark A. Radice

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 16:7-11)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Bless the Lord who counsels and guides us.

People: **Because we keep the Lord ever before us, we shall not be moved.**

Leader: Rejoice! Let your hearts be glad! Let your spirits rejoice and your bodies rest secure.

People: **For God does not give us up to death but shows us the path to life.**

All: **Praise the Lord!**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

The Days Are Surely Coming

Llangloffan

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.*

*My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.*

*The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.*

*The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**God of grace, all around us are wars, and rumors of wars,
and we are afraid for ourselves and our world.**

We follow after false leaders and grasp for whatever security we can find.

Forgive us, Lord, for we are quick to forget that all of life is in your hands.

**Renew our hope, increase our courage, and keep us watchful for the signs
of your just and peaceful reign that is to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

* Those who are able, please stand.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

John Weicher

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

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.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 12:1-3

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, OT Page 834)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALTER READING (*read responsively*)

Psalm 16

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

People: **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**

Leader: But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

People: **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**

Leader: O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.

People: **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

Leader: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.

People: **I have set the Lord always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Leader: My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

People: **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

**All: You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:1-8

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 50)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Center Holds"

Mindy Douglas

RESPONSE

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:*

*Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from *A Declaration of Faith*)

John Weicher

All things will be renewed in Christ.

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation

God has already begun and will surely finish.

We do not know when the final day will come.

**In our time we see only broken and scattered signs
that the renewal of all things is under way.**

**We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
in the world, the church, or our own lives.**

But we see Jesus as Lord.

**As he stands at the center of our history,
we are confident he will stand at its end.**

He will judge all people and nations.

Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation.

There will be no more tears or pain.

All things will be made new.

The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.

**But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.**

**Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.**

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

Even now he is Lord.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **How can we thank you, O God,
for all that you have done?**

You give us life;

you give us hope;

you give us your very self.

**Take our offerings – and our very selves –
that your will may be done**

in our church, in our community,

and throughout your wide and beautiful world.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Mindy Douglas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

Leader: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

(Psalm 16:1)

People: **I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."**

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

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

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout Star of the 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)*

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.

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

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.
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.*

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Aeolian Fanfare

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 November 7, **132** joined us for in-person worship and **28** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

The **flowers** today are given to the glory of God and in honor of FPC faith formation teachers and students of all ages by **Kathy Colville and family**

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 worship text** were reprinted from **Feasting on the Word, Book of Common Worship** (2018) and **Glory to God** (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.

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.

Masks are required: 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.

A Call for Nominations: The Nominating Committee is asking you to use the enclosed form to submit names for the Class of 2025 ruling elders and deacons and five at-large members to the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee. The deadline to submit nominations is **November 30**.

An Interfaith Conversation on Book of Job and Suffering

To whom or what can we turn for help in finding meaning in suffering? What kind of message are we likely to find comforting? The biblical Book of Job offers profound reflections on these questions. In two sessions, **Rabbi Daniel Greyber** from Beth El Synagogue and FPC member **Jerry Postema** will explore Job's struggle with the help of Rabbi Harold S. Kushner's book: *The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happen to a Good Person*.

The conversations will take place **THIS AFTERNOON** and again on next Sunday, November 21, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at FPC in the Robert Daye Meeting Room (East Parlor) as well as being accessible on Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372211056>. Attendees are

encouraged to read the biblical book of *Job* (two especially good contemporary translations: by Robert Alter and by Stephen Mitchell) and Kushner's book. (Note this is different from Kushner's other book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*.)



New Bulletin Board Display (with guide) Christian Symbols in the Windows of First Presbyterian Church

For more than one hundred years, First Presbyterian Church has held worship services in the third house of worship to occupy the corner of Roxboro and Main. The sanctuary, dedicated in 1916, was designed and appointed



with the intent of drawing the eye, mind, and heart beyond oneself and into the presence of the Holy. Christian symbols in the windows represent the teachings of our faith and the life and ministry of Jesus. **There are laminated guides to the windows on the table in the foyer and in the narthex.** May the display (and guide) deepen your understanding of these timeless symbols and so deepen your worship experience.

Next Sunday following Worship

- * Advent devotional materials can be picked up
- * Advent crafts for children of all ages
- * Purchase Advent Wreaths with candles
- * Purchase gifts from local mission partners
- * Purchase lunch from Bull City Eatery food truck



~ Our Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Chris and Meredith Brown, Logan and Evelyn*, on the death of Chris' grandfather, *Leroy Brown*.

Added this week: *Jim Brown*, father of Chris Brown, recovering from surgery
Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams, recovering from surgery
Tim Tyson, friend of FPC, hospitalized at Duke

Carlisle Harvard 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
John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter
Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera
Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett
Grace, Chris James' great-niece
Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi
Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson
Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins
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
John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Growing thru Grief

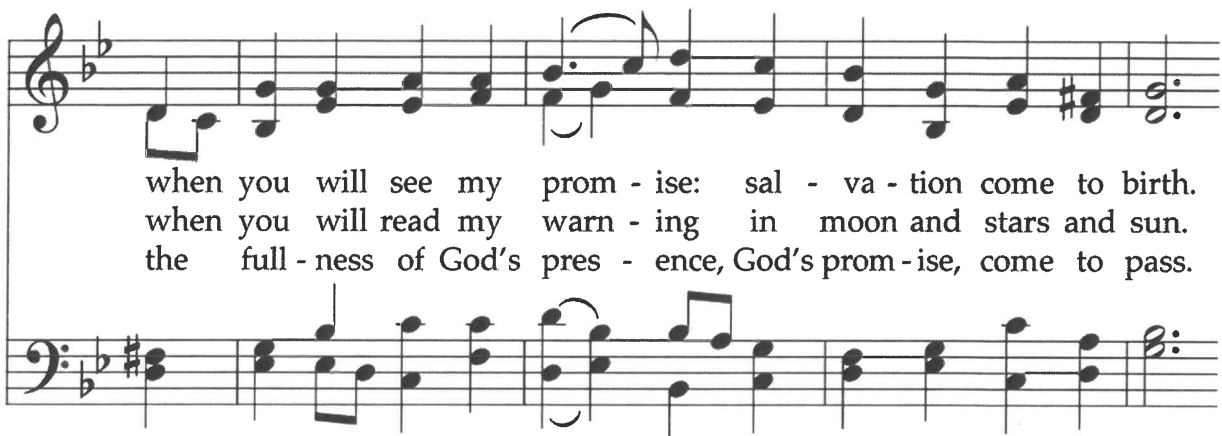
Nov. 16 Surviving the Holidays, joint session with Duke HomeCare & Hospice
Nov. 23 Hope, by Gates Vrooman

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.

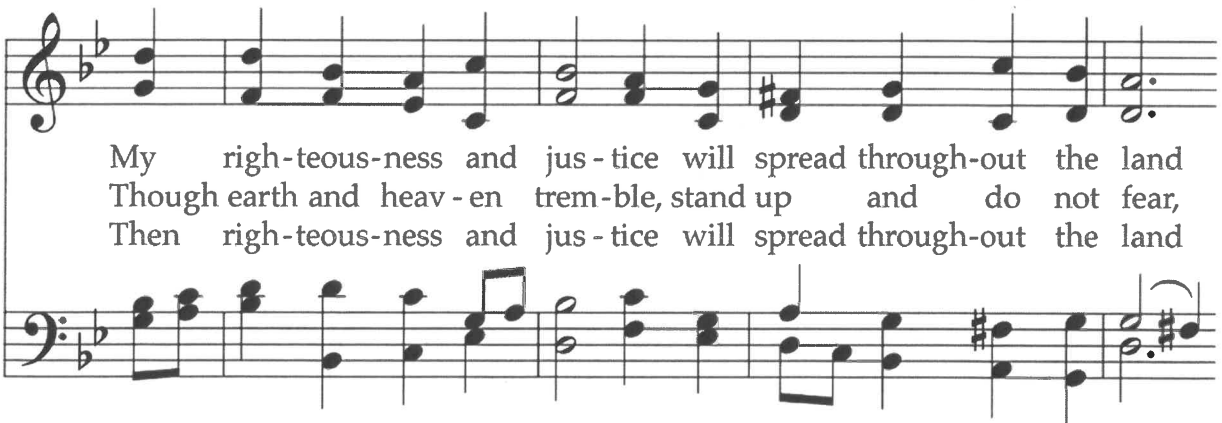
The Days Are Surely Coming 357



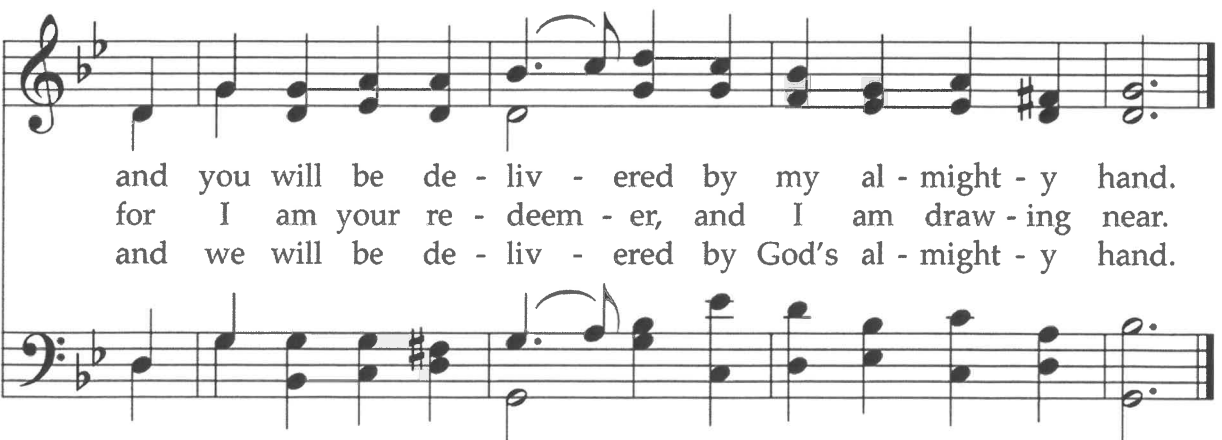
1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom-ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last



when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.



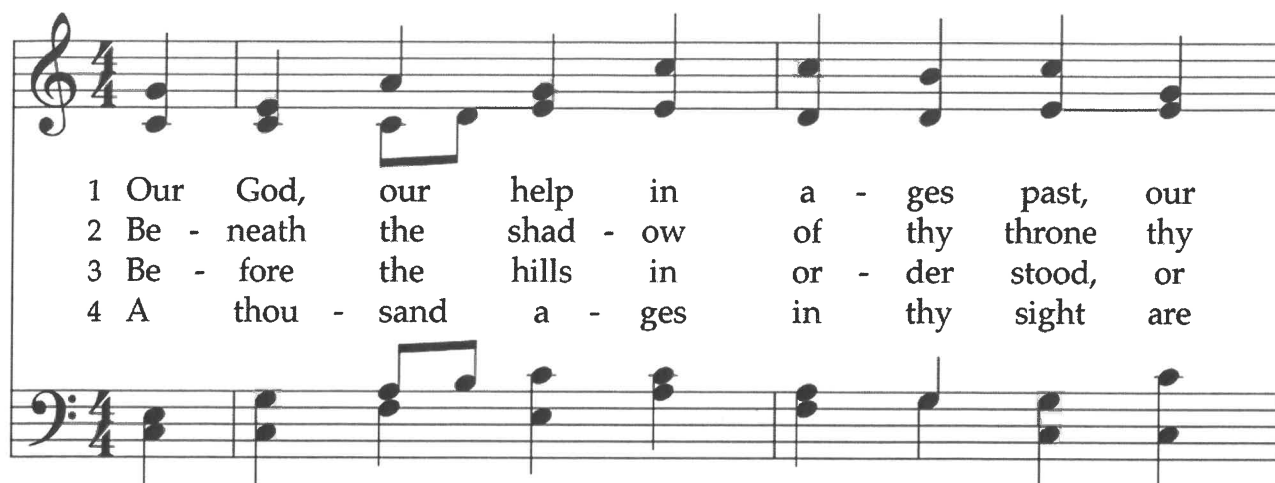
My righ-teous-ness and jus-tice will spread through-out the land
Though earth and heav-en trem-ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ-teous-ness and jus-tice will spread through-out the land



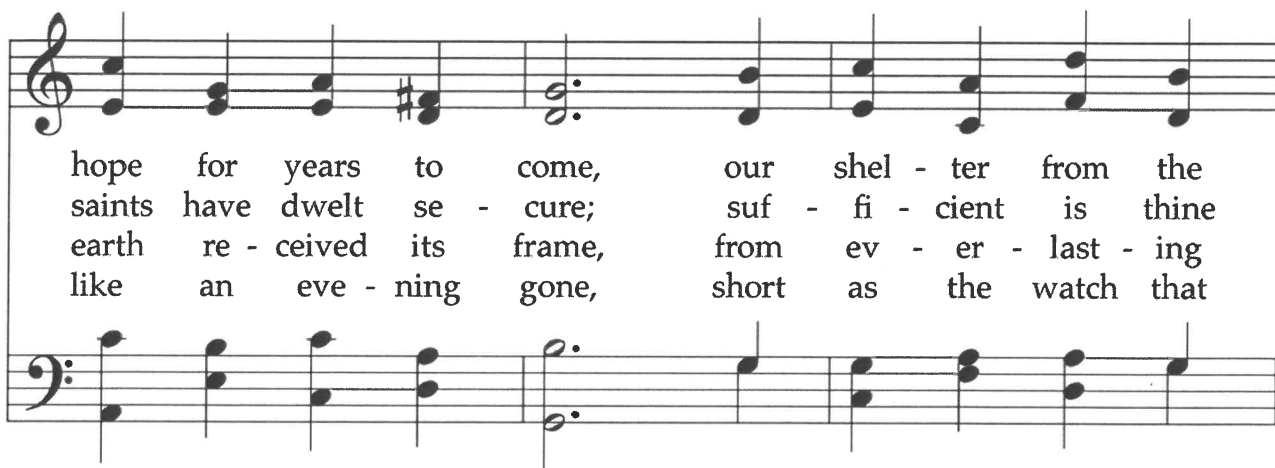
and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

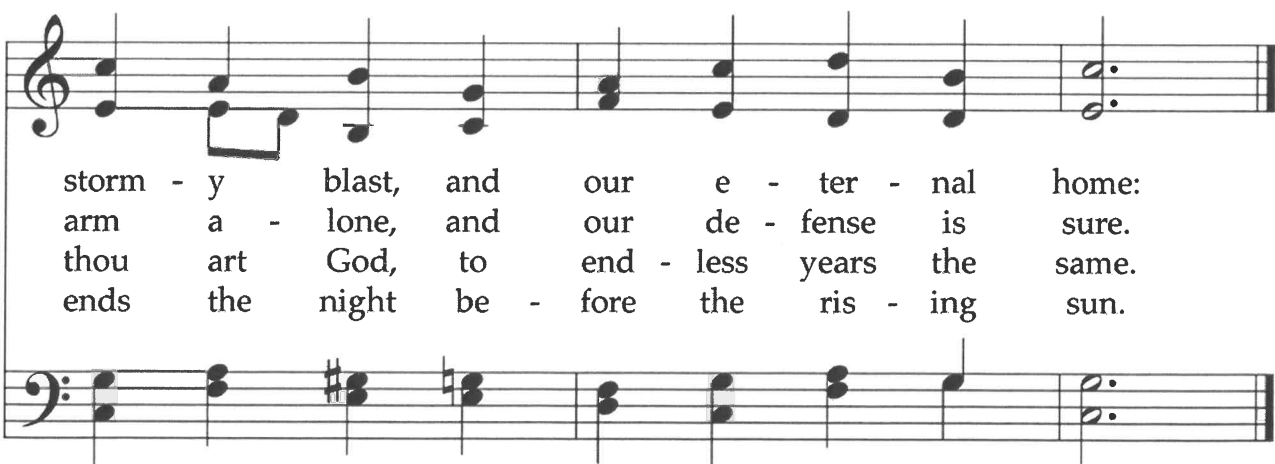
(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



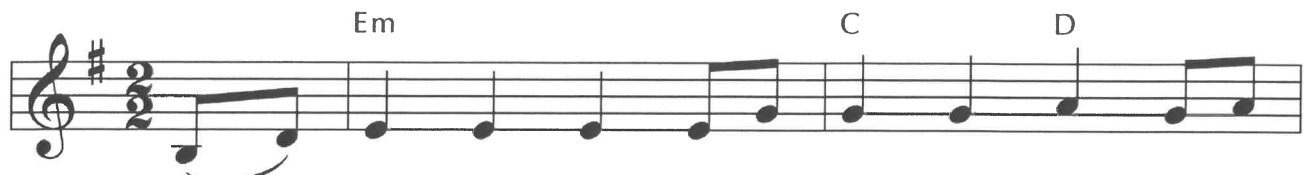
storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

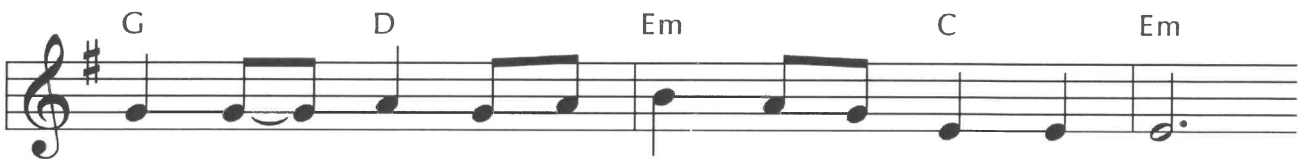
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



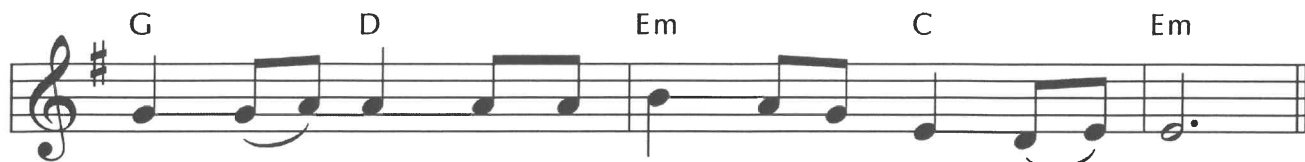
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

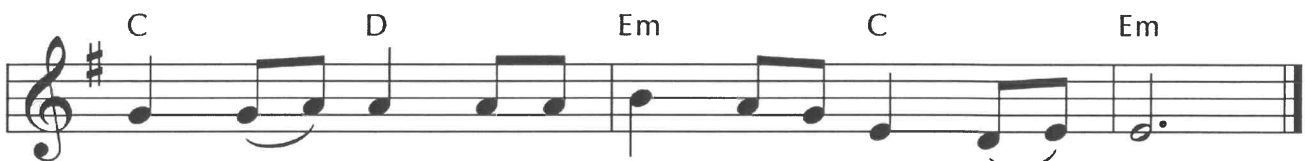
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the




fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today 4:00-5:00 PM Interfaith Conversation on Book of Job (at FPC and via Zoom)</p> <p>4:00 PM Natalie Wolf Ordination Service (Westminster PC)</p> <p>4:00-5:30 PM Middle School Youth</p> <p>5:00-6:30 PM High School Youth</p>	<p>Monday, November 15</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM All Staff</p> <p>5:00 PM Vision Team (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 16</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance Committee (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:15-7:15 PM Book Study: <i>Inspired</i> (via Zoom)</p> <p><i>Newsletter today</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, November 17</p> <p>11:00 AM-Noon Book Study: <i>Inspired</i> (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (via Zoom)</p> <p>7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, November 18</p>	<p>Friday, November 19</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday, November 20</p>	<p>Sunday, November 21</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reign of Christ Sunday</p> </div> <p>9:30-10:30 AM Faith Formation Classes for Adults Youth Confirmation Class</p> <p>10:00-10:30 AM Faith Formation Classes for Children and Middle Schoolers</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship & Communion (Dedication of Pledges)</p> <p>12 Noon-1:15 PM Advent Festival and Alternative Gifts Market</p> <p>4:00-5:00 PM Interfaith Conversation on Book of Job (at FPC & via Zoom)</p>	

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>.

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ORGANIZED 1871