

First Presbyterian Church
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.

WELCOME

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

What Child Is This *English folk tune (Greensleeves)*
Charlotte Maxwell, violin; Ben Maxwell, cello arr. Rocherolle

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Good news! Great joy!

People: **Jesus Christ is born!**

Leader: Good news! Great joy!

All: **O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

***HYMN NO. 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*True God from true God, light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

***CHRISTMAS PRAYER (in unison)**

John Weicher

Living God, on this holy night we gather –
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy:
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

* Those who are able, please stand.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

Will, Leslie, and Laura McDow

Leader: "Good news of great joy," the angel said, "for to you a Savior is born."
"Peace on earth," the choir sang, "for God reigns in the highest."
"Follow me," the star beckoned, "for hope was born in Bethlehem."
As we light the Christ candle,

All: **we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

Leader: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

All: **Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

RESPONSE (sung)

Adeste Fideles (refrain only)

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lenore Champion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lenore Champion

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose

Michael Praetorius

(The words to the anthem can be found in the Hymnal, No.129.)

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

"A Great Light"

Mindy Douglas

*HYMN NO. 112

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Sussex Carol

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
Heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

THE OFFERING

John Weicher

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours, O Lord,

People: and of your own we give you.

Leader: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**People: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.**

Leader: Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love;
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mindy Douglas

Leader: God is with us.

People: We are not alone.

Leader: Christ is present here.

People: The Spirit moves within us.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God,

People: in memory and in hope.

Leader: Blessings be to you, Creator God,
who in the beginning brought light and life to the world,
and who continues to bring love and light everlasting.

**People: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages;
your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Leader: Over the ages, you sent prophets and messengers to your people,
reminding them of the promised time
of peace and justice that would surround the world.

People: They came in the middle of our despair and filled us with hope.

Leader: And then you came to a young woman named Mary
and laid out the promise in a new way.

**People: You promised her a son who would be called Jesus.
You promised that in her son the world would be changed.**

Leader: Now as we celebrate that child, we lift our voices in song,
singing together the praises of ages:

All: (sung) (Sung to Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of Hosts, by all adored!

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the Glory of your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh,

In the name of God the King! Hallelujah glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord to you!

Leader: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
we remember the life this baby will live.

**People: We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all
what the Banquet of Hope could be
as he ate openly with the despised and the outcasts of his world.**

Leader: And we remember one special meal,
foretaste of the banquet that is to come,
that he ate with his closest friends.

People: **Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation,
he prepared them for liberation.**

Leader: At the end of the meal, he took bread, blessed, and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

People: **Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world.
Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

Leader: After that he took the cup, blessed it and passed it to them saying:

People: **This cup is the sign of the New Covenant.
Whenever you drink it remember me,
for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.**

Leader: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable,
we remember also his life, his death, and his resurrection.

People: **We remember how he poured his love out to all he met
and we look forward to his return
and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**

Leader: Let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless,
the cold, the hungry and the oppressed;
the lonely and the unloved;
all who have none to care for them;
all those whose lives have been torn asunder by injustice, terror and war;
the aged and little children;
and all who know not the great loving-kindness of the Lord Jesus.
And now, as beloved children of a loving parent, we pray:

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.**

Leader: The bread we break is the Bread of Life.
The cup we share is the Cup of Promise.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

(The elders will now come forward to serve the elements.)

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(All the bread is gluten free. The elements were prepared in a gluten-free area.

You will be directed to come forward to receive the bread, then the cup.

Please return to your seat after receiving the elements.)

Communion Anthem

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the king of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at his blessed birth, the stars, their exultation voiced.
Venite adoremus Dominum. (O come, let us adore the Lord.)*

(Anthem text continues next page.)

*Again, the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, the king of love and light.
Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.
Venite adoremus Dominum.
The angels sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

John Weicher

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: Amen.
All: God of grace and peace,
as you have shared your life with us
through the child in the manger and this simple meal together,
let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world,
through Jesus, bread of heaven. Amen.

LIGHTING OF CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

John Weicher

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
*(In passing the light, please hold your lighted candle upright
while the recipient of your light tips his or her unlit candle.)*

HYMN (see back cover)

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

(Remain seated during this hymn. Keep your candle lit through the singing of the final hymn.)

*BLESSING AND CLOSING

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Arise and shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
All: Alleluia!
Leader: Go now and bear witness to the light of Christ.
All: Amen.

*HYMN (see back cover)

Joy to the World

Antioch

POSTLUDE

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Noel Rawsthorne

(As you leave the sanctuary, please drop used candles in the large metal cans in the narthex and foyer.)

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

Special thanks to **Ruby Gentithes** (violin), **Charlotte Maxwell** (violin), and **Ben Maxwell** (cello) for playing music during worship this evening.

The **poinsettias** are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from **Arthur Clark**.

Special thanks to **Alice Raney**, **Brent Curtis**, and **Graham Curtis** for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

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

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by *George Danser* and given to the church by him and his wife, *Jean Cary*.

Advent paraments: FPC commissioned internationally known fiber-artist *Laurie Wohl* to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. We are grateful that the bequest of *Anne 'St. Clair' Williams* made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

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.

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.

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 still required: The congregation will continue to be masked when inside 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.

The **offering** will go to **Durham's Welcome Baby**, a family resource center for residents of Durham that are expecting and/or have children under 5 years old. In addition to parenting classes and workshops, they offer peer phone support, discussion groups, a free clothing program, and car seats to families in need.

Portions of **today's worship texts** were reprinted from *Call to Worship 2021-2022 Year C* and *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion*.

The **bulletin cover**, "*Journey to Bethlehem*" is by Rita Ford, Nashville, TN, 2007. Used with permission. Source: <https://www.ebsqart.com/Artist/Rita-C-Ford/1798/Art-Portfolio/Journey-to-Bethlehem/467736/>.



Organized on New Year's Eve 1871, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon of Christian faith and hope where "cross the crowded ways of life" in downtown Durham for 150 years. We are pleased and excited to announce the return of former pastors to the pulpit in January 2022 as our 150th Church Anniversary celebration continues Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

January 2 – Marilyn Hedgpeth

January 9 – Joseph Harvard

January 16 – Cherrie Henry

January 23 – Sam Miglarese


January 30 – Lori Pistor

All are welcome to join us in-person in the sanctuary. Services will also be live streamed.


(Click **WORSHIP** from the church's website homepage.)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

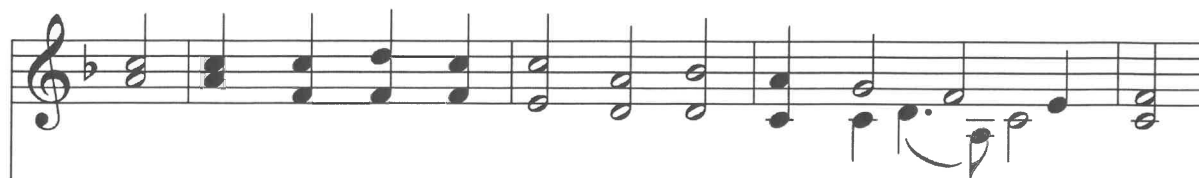


born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129



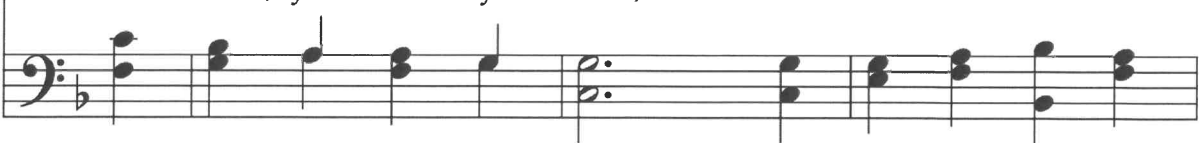
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.



On Christmas Night All Christians Sing 112

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (A7) (D)
F B^b F C7 F



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

(G) (A) (D) (G)
B^b C F B^b



news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all
deem - er made us glad; then why should we on
health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -
an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

(D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F



Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,
earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,
fore his grace, then life and health come in its place;
we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

(A) (Em) (D) (A)
C Gm F C



news of great joy, news of great mirth,
when from our sin he set us free,
heav - en and earth with joy may sing,
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

(D) (G) (A) (G) (D)
F B^b C B^b F



news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
all for to see the new - born King.
peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

Silent Night, Holy Night!

122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,



Silent Night, Holy Night

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove;
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

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



Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
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