



A Service of Lessons and Carols

*First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Gesu Bambino (for piano and violin)
Taylor Eppinger, violin

Pietro A. Yon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness:
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all:

People **Come, save us all, O Lord our God.**

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*HYMN NO. 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

THE BIDDING PRAYER *(please be seated)*

Mindy Douglas

Beloved in Christ, during this Advent season it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

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.

*Those who are able, please stand.

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Giffin Momsen-Hudson

Leader: As we light our fourth Advent candle

Sophie Wilkins

People: we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Love.

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ, the Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come!

You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

I Wonder As I Wander (for voice and violin)

John Jacob Niles

Cathy Snell, soloist; Taylor Eppinger, violin

FIRST LESSON

Adam and Eve disobey God. (Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19)

Torrell Armstrong

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him, who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah tells of coming of the Messiah. (Isaiah 9:2-7)

John Weicher

ANTHEM

Jesus Comes

Sally Ann Morris

Gordon Campbell, piano

In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth. Sheep and cattle grace the site.

As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind,

Nature's hope awakes again; Jesus comes.

For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth. Humble shepherds start the news.

For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn,

For the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.

In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth; radiant star to light our way.

Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will,

To a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.

THIRD LESSON
***HYMN NO. 373**

A little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:1-9)
O Day of Peace

Alex Sanchez
Jerusalem

FOURTH LESSON *A great king will be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2-5a)*
HYMN NO. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Mindy Douglas
St. Louis

ANTHEM

The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem

Prospect, arr. A.D. Miller

*The hills are bare at Bethlehem, no future for the world they show;
Yet here new life begins to grow, from earth's old dust, a greenwood stem.*
*The stars are cold at Bethlehem, no warmth for those beneath the sky;
Yet here the radiant angels fly, and joy burns new, a fiery gem.*
*The heart is tired at Bethlehem. No human dream unbroken stands;
Yet here God comes to mortal hands, and hope renewed cries out: Amen.*

FIFTH LESSON
***HYMN NO. 145**

An angel appears to Mary. (Luke 1:26-38)
What Child Is This

Jennie Alwood
Greensleeves

SIXTH LESSON
SOLO

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem. (Luke 2:1-7)
Mary Had a Baby
Lesley Curtis, soloist

Giffin Momsen-Hudson
Spiritual, arr. Jacqueline Hairston

SEVENTH LESSON
ANTHEM

The shepherds go unto the manger. (Luke 2:8-20)
All Praise to Thee

Mindy Douglas
Elaine Hagenberg

*All praise to Thee, eternal God
Who clothed in garb of flesh and blood
Dost take a manger for Thy throne
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone Alleluia*
*Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light
To make us in the realms divine
Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine Alleluia*
*A little child, Thou art are our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
That we may rise, to heaven from earth Alleluia*

CLOSING PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of Grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will.
Prepare our hearts for his coming again, so that wars and violence shall end,
and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Noel Rawsthorne

A Reminder to Worshippers: Thank you for leaving the sanctuary presentable for our guests who will attend Lesley Curtis' voice recital at 3:00 p.m. today. As you exit your pew, please kindly recycle your bulletin and pick up any inserts, children's drawings, personal trash, etc. and take these with you. Returning hymnals and Bibles to the pew racks is also very helpful.



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 December 12, **139**

joined us for in-person worship and **36** households watched the live-streamed broadcast.

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**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and wood from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: FPC commissioned **Laurie Wohl** to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber-artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. The text on the Advent parament hanging from the pulpit, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: "*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*" The text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: "*The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne 'St. Clair' Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

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

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from *Call to Worship 2021-2022 Year C* and *Book of Common Worship 2018*.

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.

Large print worship bulletins along with **children's worship / activity bulletins** are available in 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 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.

Worship Flowers for 2022: The signup chart and instructions for donors are now available online. Use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-flowers2> to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2022.

~ Our Concerns ~

Condolences: We offer our condolences to *Betsy Erwin* and her family upon the death of her husband *Bobby*. Bobby was a dear friend of *Mindy Douglas*.

Concerns:

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Gerald Arrowood, brother of Al Arrowood

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

Toni Vandekemp, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

Harold Dunlap Mark Higgins Paul Cornsweet Kerry Holbrook

Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, and Mississippi, which were swept with a devastating and deadly tornado last week. Let us pray for the victims and families who suffered from loss of life and victims still unaccounted for. Also to the members of the FPC, Mayfield that was completely destroyed.

Care Communities:

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: ***Arthur Clark***

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: ***Phillip Herndon***

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: ***Julian Boswell, Jim Wolfe; Walter Chambliss***, father of Will Chambliss

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Mimi Cummings, mother of Drew Cummings

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

Jim Lesher, father of Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

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

Richard Smith, husband of Laura Casteel's co-worker

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Two Part-time Positions Open at FPC

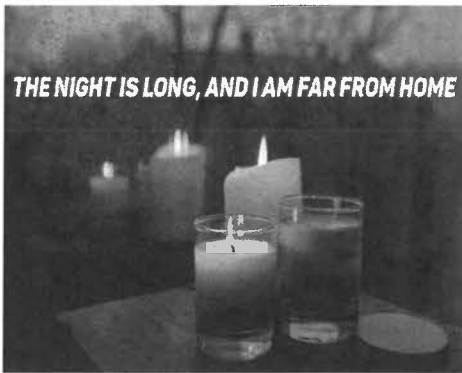
Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

FPC is looking for a part-time, non-exempt **Audio-Visual Technical Director of Worship Production**. The position is 10 hours a week, including Sunday mornings. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past or current employers) to this email address: AVTechnical@firstpres-durham.org.

FPC is also looking for a **custodian for Sunday mornings** (building and grounds preparation, security, and event set-up and clean-up). The position hours are Sunday mornings from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with some flexibility required. A criminal background check will be conducted. A full job description is available 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 this email address: sunday-sexton@firstpres-durham.org.

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL VIGIL FOR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.



On Tuesday, December 21, local ministers and others will lead an outdoor memorial prayer vigil at the downtown Durham Farmers Market Pavilion (501 Foster St.) for homeless neighbors who died this year. We remember by name those who passed away, light candles, pray and sing. Duke Chapel Dean Luke Powery will lead our songs. Vaccinated and masked participants welcome in person -- unvaccinated or health-vulnerable persons welcome to attend on <https://www.facebook.com/events/1024448478102260/>.



Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)

The story of the birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in a pageant video, and in word and song, and the service concludes with the Lord's Supper and candle lighting. An offering will be received to support Welcome Baby of Durham.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,





the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



373

O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of hate
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e - mies



fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease, till by God's
 shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord; the hope of



grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.
 peace shall be ful - filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



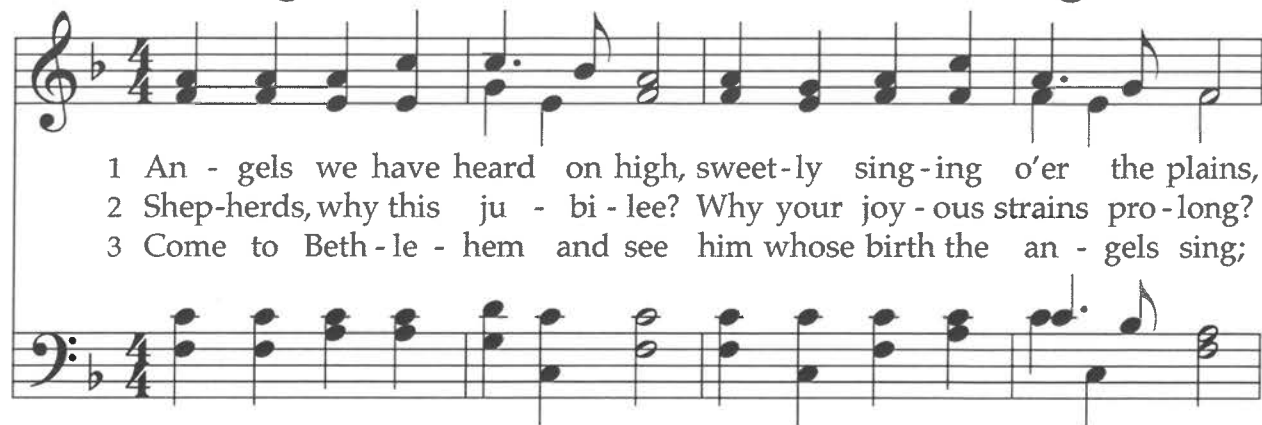
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



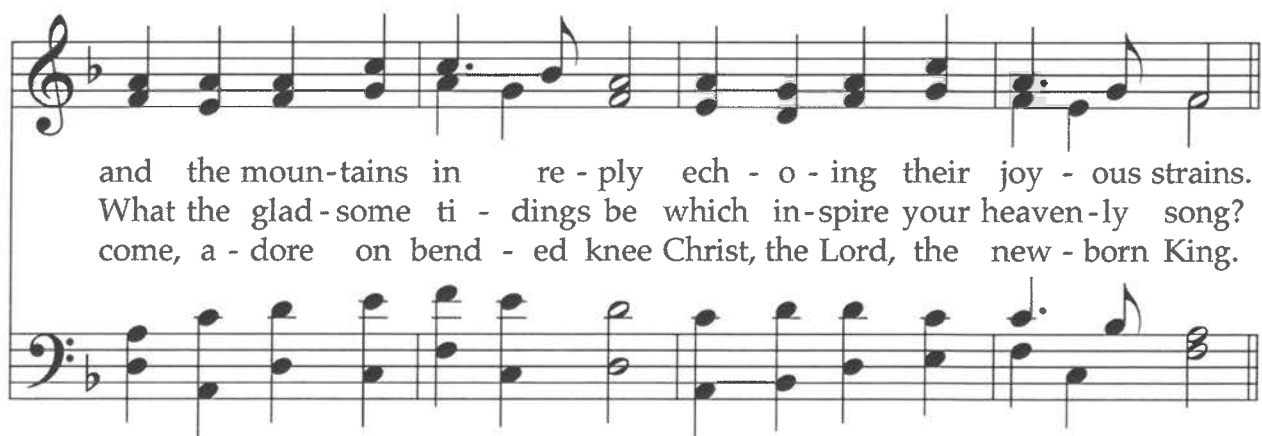
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

This musical score is written for a vocal part and a basso continuo. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half rest, followed by a melodic phrase for 'ri - a' consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. The phrase 'in ex - cel - sis' is set to a series of chords, and 'De - o!' is set to a final chord with a half note. The basso continuo line (bass clef) provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, including a melodic line for 'ri - a' and a final cadence for 'De - o!'.



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 as our 150th Church Anniversary celebration continues on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in January 2022.

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 worship will take place in the sanctuary.

The worship service will also be live-streamed via FPC's YouTube channel.

Just click on WORSHIP on the homepage of the church's website.

<https://firstpres-durham.org>

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today After Worship</p> <p>12:15 – 1:15 PM Youth Group (meet at FPC)</p> <p>3:00 - 4:00 PM Lesley Curtis Recital</p> <p>4:00 – 6:00 PM Caroling and Sweet/Savory Swap</p> <p>8:00 – 9:30 PM Meaning in the Middle (**See below) Zoom ID: 87574376074</p>	<p>Monday, December 20</p> <p>11:30 AM Youth Alum Lunch (meet at FPC)</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM Program Staff</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 21</p> <p>7:30 PM Candlelight Memorial Vigil for our homeless neighbors at the Durham Farmers Market Pavilion</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 22</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Thursday, December 23</p>	<p>Friday, December 24</p> <p>4:15 PM Choir rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 PM</p> 	<p>Saturday, December 25</p> <p><i>Christmas Day Nativity of Jesus</i></p> 	<p>Sunday, December 26</p> <p>No Classes</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>No Youth Group</p>

**** Meaning in the Middle (M'nMs)**, formerly known as Scratch, is a Sunday evening online faith formation discussion community of FPC. We meet to share the ups and downs of our lives and discuss a (very) short reading about faith. We talk about how to find God and meaning in the middle of wherever we are: as Christians, as professionals, as friends and family, as parents, as middle-of-life adults (whatever that circumstance might look like for you). We also gather for monthly picnics or potlucks and have an annual retreat for planning and fellowship. New folks are always welcome.

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

305 EAST MAIN STREET

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701
 ORGANIZED 1871

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