

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE (*FPC Wind Quintet*)

Gaudete

Medieval carol, arr. by David Smith

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 148)

John Weicher

Leader: Let us praise the name of the Lord!

People: **God commanded, and we were created.**

Leader: Leaders and followers, old and young, all people everywhere as with the angels,

People: **let us come and praise the exalted name of the Lord.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

***HYMN NO. 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**How patient you are with us, Loving Creator,
and how hard we find it to put up with the foolishness of others.**

**In humility, you became one of us,
and we keep wanting everything to be about us.**

**You model a life of meekness in service to others,
and we are convinced life is all about power and success.**

**All creation sings of your kindness,
while we hurl angry words at those we say we care about the most.**

**Yet, rather than becoming frustrated with us, Joy of Christmas,
you continue to forgive us.**

**Clothe us with your love, we pray,
so we might be more compassionate towards others.**

**Touch us with your grace,
so we might become more gentle people.**

**Fill us with that peace which longs to reside in our hearts,
even as we seek to continue our journey with the Child of Bethlehem,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **By the breath of your Spirit, inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and a fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

*Those who are able, please stand.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 148

Michael Honeycutt
(Pew Bible, OT Page 582)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

INTERLUDE (FPC Wind Quintet)

Joy to the World

arr. by David Bussick

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

John Weicher
(Pew Bible, NT Page 59)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Next Year"

John Weicher

***HYMN NO. 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

Apostles' Creed

John Weicher

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

John Weicher

Invitation to the Offering
(The *Hunger for Change Offering* is received today.)

Prayer of Dedication

**You bless us with an abundance of gifts, God of this holy season,
not as a reward for doing good,
but as a means to reach out with healing to the broken,
to clothe those who shiver in winter,
and to bless others with the hope which has been ours.
As we offer our gifts to you, we do so in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

(in unison) **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.**

***HYMN NO. 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

***BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

***POSTLUDE**

Sussex Carol

Noel Rawsthorne



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 19, 150 joined us for in-person worship and 58 households watched the live-streamed broadcast.

Music notes: Today's **Prelude** is an arrangement of the Christmas carol *Gaudete*, which was first published (with Latin lyrics) in 1581 in *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of Finnish and Swedish sacred songs. The lyrics are "Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!" The **Interlude** is based on the familiar melody of *Joy to the World* (#134 in the hymnal), which is traditionally attributed to George Frederick Handel, mingled with several fragments from that other piece of Handel's, *Messiah*. We are grateful to the **First Presbyterian Wind Quintet** (*Christyn Klinck, Li-Chen Chin, Sheya Wehrman, Brent Curtis, and David Smith*) for their musical contribution to today's service.

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 on Sunday mornings.

Portions of **today's worship texts** were reprinted from *Call to Worship (Lectionary Aids for 2021-2022, Year C)*, *Feasting on the Word (Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1)* and *Lectionary Liturgies blog*.

Worship bags and activity bulletins are available in the foyer for children. Books are on the pews in the narthex for young children to read and enjoy should they need a break from the service.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary or you may request one from John Fricks. 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.

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.

The Church Office will be closed December 27-28 in observance of the Christmas holiday,
and Monday, January 3 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 29, 30, and 31,
church staff will be on call and working from home unless needed at the office.

The next church newsletter will be issued on December 29, 2021.

The deadline for submitting news articles is today.

Free copies of the **These Days** devotional book for January-March 2022 are now available from
the church foyer/narthex. Pick up a copy today. Contact the church office to have a copy mailed to

~ Our Concerns ~

Added this week:

Shawantha Purcell, friend of Jane Brown, facing a series of amputations

Home:

Paul Cornsweet

Harold Dunlap

Mark Higgins

Kerry Holbrook

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Let us pray for the families in Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, and Mississippi who suffered
loss of life and home damage and destruction during recent tornados.

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:

Gerald Arrowood, brother of Al Arrowood

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 Leshner, father of Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

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

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

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

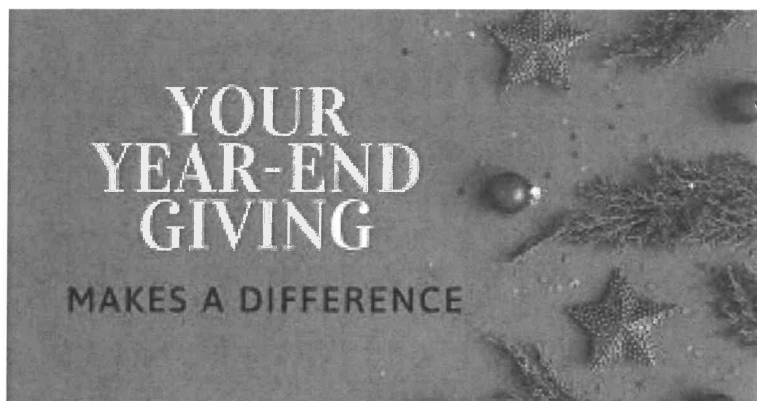
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Toni Vandekemp, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece



Timely payment of 2021 pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2021. **Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021; or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2021, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2021 taxes.** If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this

may be done through the parish's website (www.firstpres-durham.org) at any time. **To be deductible on your 2021 taxes, please initiate the gift by Wednesday, December 29. On-line contributions scheduled for December 31 will not reach us in time.** If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify Tom Bloom, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) **as soon as possible.** Members aged 70 ½ + who own an IRA may be able to make a tax-excludable gift directly to First Presbyterian and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2021.

THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

Hunger has become more prevalent, particularly since the recession. First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Kitchen at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect food for the members at Iglesia Emanuel Presbyterian Fellowship, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Our youth sponsor the annual Souper Bowl of Caring to raise money for hunger-related missions. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Hunger Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

- 50% - International Hunger Relief Programs
- 40% - Local Hunger Programs
- 10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries and Iglesia Emanuel have been frequent recipients. FPC's Walk-in Ministry received a grant to help stock blessing bags in 2018.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!



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 that former pastors and associates will return 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

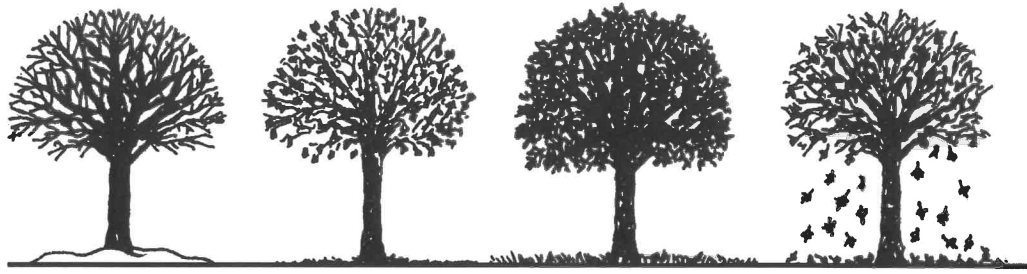
The 150th Anniversary service will take place on Sunday, February 13.

Other special presentations are planned. On Sunday, February 20, the youth will lead worship. Nora Tisdale will preach on Sunday, March 20, and Macky Alston will return on Sunday, March 27 as our 2022 McPherson Lecturer.

All are welcome to join us in-person in the sanctuary.

Worship will also be live streamed.

(Click WORSHIP from the church's website opening page to watch worship live.)



As We Start the New Year

Dear Lord,

Please give me

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value,

without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
with the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

Amen.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



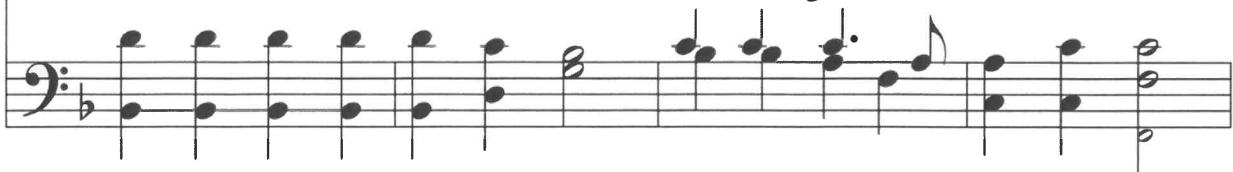
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



A musical score for the hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing." The score is written for two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!




ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

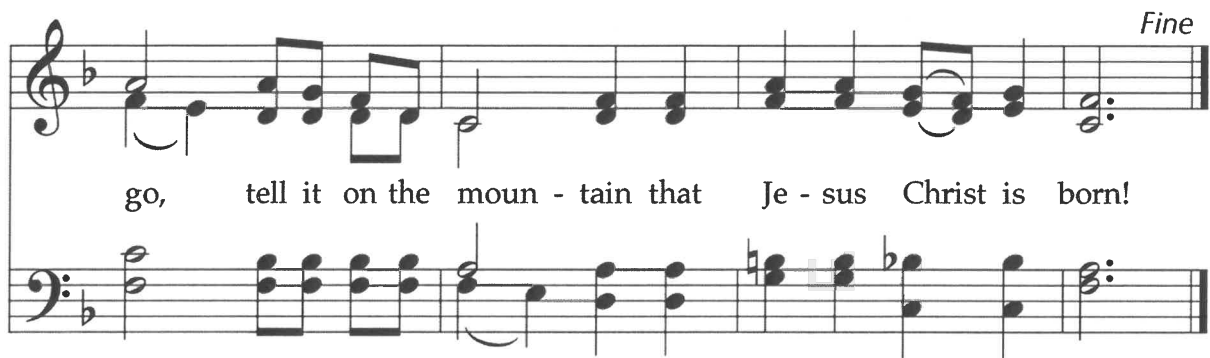


136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

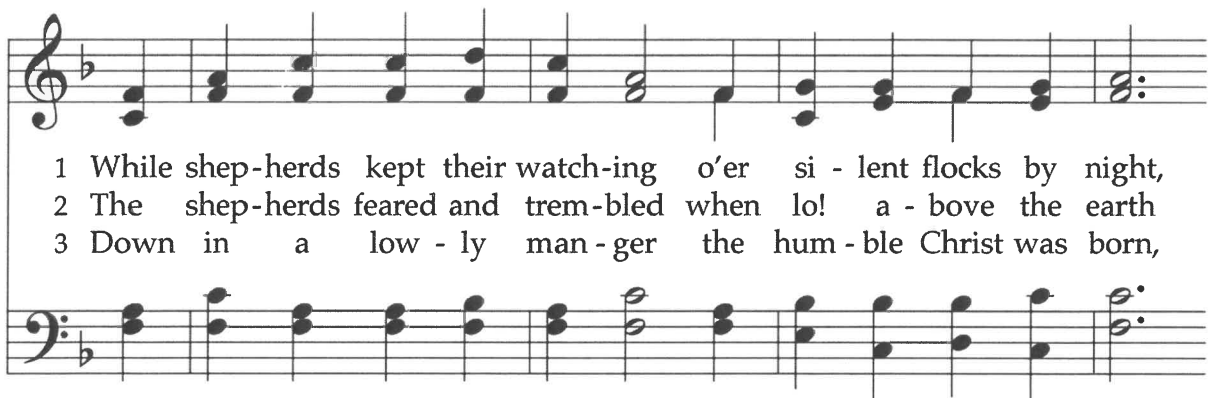
Refrain 



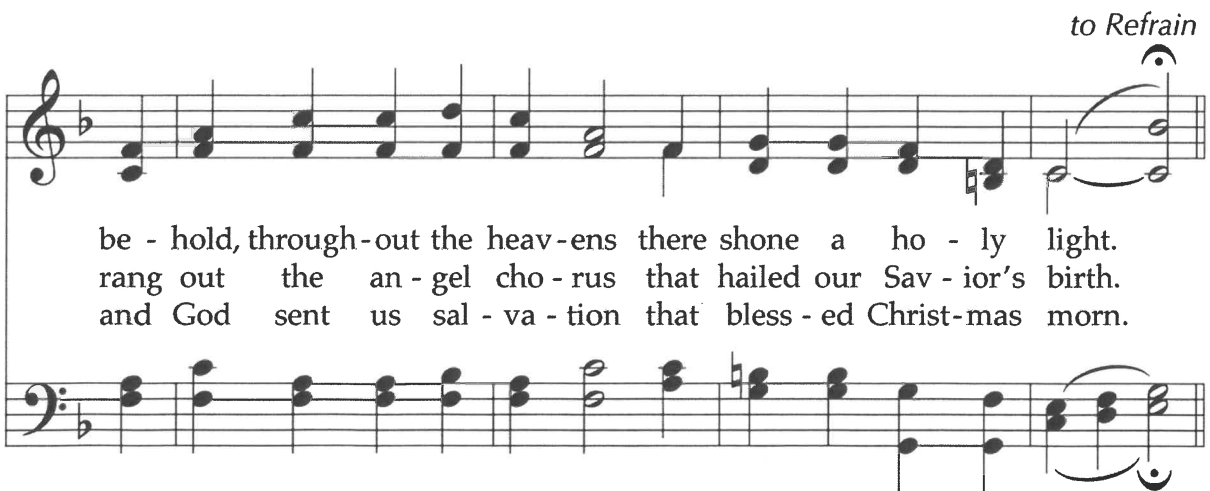
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!




1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

This Week at a Glance!

After Worship: No Youth Groups No MnMs Fellowship	Monday, December 27 Church Office is closed	Tuesday, December 28 Church Office is closed	Wednesday, December 29 Church staff on call / working from home Newsletter today No choir rehearsal
Thursday, December 30 Church staff on call / working from home	Friday, December 31 Church staff on call / working from home Happy 150th Birthday to FPC	Saturday, January 1 	Sunday, January 2 9:45-10:45 AM Lectionary Class Journeys Class Other Faith Formation classes for adults, children, and youth are not meeting again until January 9 at 9:45 AM. 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM First Friends Urban Hike at Brumley Nature Preserve (Rain date: January 9)

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

CHURCH STAFF



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:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511 ORGANIZED 1871