

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM NC 27701**

**MARCH 27, 2022**



Assurance of Pardon

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

John Weicher

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Lorenzo Mbugua

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Gracious God, seeker of the lost;  
draw your children back to your loving embrace,  
restore us to our inheritance as children,  
and reconcile our hearts to you,  
that we may become ambassadors  
of your reconciling love to all the world.  
Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 32

Lorenzo Mbugua

Leader: The Word of the Lord

(Pew Bible, OT Page 506)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Macky Alston

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 78)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Look What You've Done to Me."*

Macky Alston

**ANTHEM**

*The Road Home*  
Lesley Curtis, soloist

Stephen Paulus

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered,  
Oh when will I know there's a way,  
there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
through the air there's a calling  
From far away,  
there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,  
With love in your heart as the only song;  
there is no such beauty as where you belong,  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

**We believe**

**that God wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;  
that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;  
that God calls the church to follow in this;  
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;  
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;  
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,  
helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;  
that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;  
that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need,  
which implies, among other things,  
that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice,  
so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;  
that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands,  
namely against injustice and with the wronged;  
that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged  
who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.  
Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

John Weicher

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Mitzi Leshler-Thomas

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

Prayer of Dedication (*in unison*)

**You have given all to us.**

**To you, Lord, we return it.**

**Everything is yours;**

**do with it what you will.**

**Give us only your love and your grace,  
that is enough. Amen.**

**CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Mitzi Leshler-Thomas

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Mitzi Leshler-Thomas

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

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.**

\*HYMN NO. 771

*What Is the World Like*

*New World*

\*BENEDICTION

Macky Alston

\*POSTLUDE

*Triptych for Trumpet and Organ (movement iii)*

Alfred V. Fedak

**The McPherson Lectureship continues . . .**

**4:00-4:30 p.m.** (FPC courtyard) **Social with light refreshments**

**4:30-6:00 p.m.** (FPC sanctuary) **Community Conversation:**

*“Working Towards a Racially Repaired World”*

Macky will be joined by *Vanessa Hawkins* (New Hope Presbytery Transitional Executive Presbyter) and *Alonzo Johnson* (Coordinator of the Self-Development of People for the Presbyterian Church USA) and engage First Presbyterian and the congregation of Covenant Presbyterian (Durham) in considering what it means to work towards a racially repaired world.



**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 March 20, 123 joined us for in-person worship and 30 households watched the live-streamed broadcast.

We *welcome to the pulpit* today, *Wallace McPherson Alston III*, our 2022 McPherson Lecturer. Known to all as Macky, he was a small boy when his father, Wallace Alston, served First Presbyterian Church as pastor from 1969 through 1974. Macky graduated from Columbia College in 1987 and has become well-known as a documentary filmmaker.

Throughout Lent, *members of our Confirmation Class are serving as liturgists*. This week, we welcome *Lorenzo Mbugua* to the lectern. This new feature of the confirmation experience gives our confirmands a chance to be a leader in this way and gives our congregation the chance to see who they are.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Dr. and Mrs. S. D. McPherson, Sr.* and *Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Jr.* by the family.

We thank *Kent Foss* and *Lesley Curtis* for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning.

*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.

The *Pulpit Paraments*: In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create 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. Her liturgical projects emphasize the “threads that bind” and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

The *Lenten Banner* was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of *Bess Bryant* and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from *Book of Common Worship* (1993) and *Iona Abbey Worship: The Iona Community*. Music is reprinted under OneLicense.net: A.713926.

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

*Restrooms* are in the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

*Childcare*: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship.

*Large print worship bulletins* are available from the table as you enter the sanctuary.

*Worship activity bags* are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

*Chancel Choir*: If you are interested in becoming part of the choir, please speak to Kathy Parkins after worship or email her at [k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org).

*These Days* devotional books for the spring quarter (April-June 2022) have arrived. Copies in regular print are available from the table in the church foyer while supplies last.

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### **Coordinator and Office Volunteers Needed**

As mask mandates are lifted, we would like to allow support groups (Al-ANON, Overeaters Anonymous and AA) to return meeting at the church during the week. We need morning office volunteers to be present at the church to allow these folks into the building and to answer the telephone. We are also in need of someone to coordinate this pool of volunteers. Please contact [Valerie](#) in the church office (919-682-5511) if you would like to serve a morning shift, Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or the Friday afternoon shift, 1:00-4:30 p.m. Orientation to duties is available. Serving as an office volunteer is not the same as serving in the Walk-in Ministry.

### **New Members Sunday**

On **Sundays, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**, as part of our service of worship, we'll be welcoming new members into the life and ministry of FPC. If you've been thinking about membership but wanted the comfort of 'making it official' at the same time as others, we invite you to contact pastor [Mindy Douglas](#) or associate pastor [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas](#) to learn more about membership and how to join FPC.

### **Attention: New Member, ANY Member!**

#### **Come Learn About FPC Mission and Ministries**

No matter how long you've been hanging around FPC if you're curious about the numerous mission efforts, ministry areas, faith formation opportunities and how to connect to one or all join us on **Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:45 - 10:45 in Room 205** (upstairs in the education building, end of the hallway) for an opportunity to meet key organizers and discern where you might be called to connect!

## **Flower Donation Opportunities Available**

There are open dates for worship flower donors during the next few months. To sign up, click [here](#), or on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter, or on the link on the homepage of the FPC web site.

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### **~ Our Concerns ~**

*Wes Carson* is in the ICU at Duke Hospital.

*Emily Wilson*, daughter-in-law of Chuck and Jean Wilson, home after a brief hospital stay.

*Paul Cornsweet*      *Harold Dunlap* (hospice)      *Kerry Holbrook*      *Maxie Honeycutt*  
*Jancy Johnstone*      *George Kafula*      *Mitzi Lesher-Thomas*      *Katy Loebrich*

### **Care Communities:**

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe*  
*Walter Chambliss* (Will Chambliss' dad)

### **Family and Friends of the Congregation:**

*Gerald Arrowood*, brother of Al Arrowood

*Bob Barton*, father of Cheryl Barton Henry and father-in-law of Andy Henry

*Greer & Jenn Brown*, friends of Logan Tice

*John Carter*, brother of Conrad Carter

*Nicky Clegg*, granddaughter of Jeanne Hervey

*Mimi Cummings*, mother of Drew Cummings

*Grace*, Chris James' great-niece

*Richard Hill & family*, friends of Kathy Parkins

*Roger Kalthoff*, husband of Jane Williams

*David Jackson* and *Cameron Jackson*, friends of Linda and Conrad Carter

*Vivian Mast*, friend of Josh Walters

*Rosalind Mbugua*, sister of Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett

*Aaron Pritchard*, friend of Kathy Parkins

*Shawn Purcell*, friend of Jane Brown

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

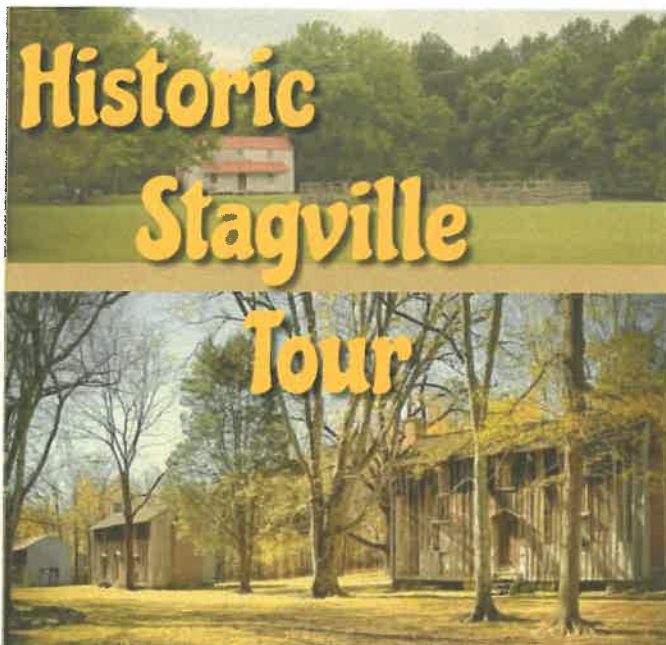
*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

*Jean Vollrath*, friend of Jean Cary

*John Wakefield*, cousin of Vernon Neece

*Deb Walsh*, friend of Celia Dickerson

*Janice Faye West*, mother of Randy Lang Howard



## **FPC to tour Historic Stagville**

On **Saturday, April 2**, First Presbyterian Church will be touring **Historic Stagville** in two different groups - one at **10:00 a.m.** and the second at **2:00 p.m.** This tour will be led by *Vera Cecelski*, Historic Stagville's site manager. Vera grew up at FPC and is the daughter of *Laura Hanson* and *David Cecelski*. The tour lasts **75 minutes** and involves **walking on uneven ground** as well as a short drive from one location to another (about a mile away). Each tour is **limited to 30 people**. **Sign up now** (call 919-682-5511) and invite friends and family to join you! [Sign up Link](#)



## **Save the Date!!**

It is time for another **Day of Service** as we gather together to bag tons of rice and beans for the **Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel.**

**Saturday, April 23**

**9:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

**2504 N Roxboro Street (parking lot)**

This is a family friendly event, and a great opportunity to chat with old and new friends, while helping stock the shelves of our food pantry. You will also be invited to bring some food donations with you. Fun and fellowship

are guaranteed! More details and an opportunity to sign up coming soon. Questions? Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#).





**~ Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10 ~**

**\*\*9:15-10:15 a.m. – Adult Faith Formation classes (\*\*Note change in start time.)**

**9:45 a.m. Egg hunt for younger children and hot cross buns for all!**

**10:15 a.m. Palm Parade around downtown Durham**

**11:00 a.m. Worship using Scriptures and songs about Christ's passion.**

**~ Stations of the Cross Art Display ~**

**Throughout Holy Week, April 11-April 15**

First Presbyterian will have designated times to come and pray at the church at the Stations of the Cross-art display as depicted by artist Mary Button. As you pray at these stations, you travel across the world twice over in images. Surrounding each station is a border which depicts the movement of Jesus toward the cross.

**~ Maundy Thursday, April 14 ~**

**6:00 p.m. Joint Worship - Covenant Presbyterian Church sanctuary**

First Presbyterian Church will worship with (at) Covenant Presbyterian Church (2620 Weaver Street, Durham). The service will include Holy Communion to commemorate Jesus' last supper. FPC's **John Weicher** is preaching.

**~ Good Friday, April 15 ~**

**7:00 p.m. The Tenebrae in the FPC sanctuary**

An ancient service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus, death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

**~ Easter Sunday, April 17 ~**

**9:45 a.m. Outdoor Easter morning re-enactment**

**10:30 a.m. Fellowship time with light refreshments**

**11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be received on Easter Sunday to provide relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters and war.

## About the McPherson Lectureship

The McPherson Lectureship is dedicated to enriching the faith and life of First Presbyterian Church and the Durham community. Inaugurated in the year 1999, the Lectureship is made possible through an endowment given by the McPherson family in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Sr. and Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Jr.

Former lecturers have been:

- *John Kuykendall* (1999)
- *J. Barrie Shepherd* (2001)
- *Beverly Gaventa* (2002)
- *Tom Long* (2003)
- *Joanna Adams* (2004)
- *Charles Kimball* (2005)
- *Nicholas Wolterstorff* (2006)
- *Joseph L. Roberts, Jr.* (2007)
- *Richard A. Lischer* (2008)
- *Stephen A. Hayner* (2009)
- *Barbara Brown Taylor* (2010)
- *Leighton Ford* (2011)
- *Martha Moore-Keish* (2012)
- *Samuel L. Adams* (2013)
- *Emilie M. Townes* (2014)
- *Ron Cole-Turner* (2015)
- *Douglas F. Ottati* (2016),
- *Miroslav Volf* (2017)
- *Starsky D. Wilson* (2018)
- *Mary Louise Brindle* (2019)
- *Macky Alston* (2021, 2022).

The invited lecturers for 2020 were husband-wife team *Catherine Barsotti* and *Robert K. Johnston*. The uncertainty of how the newly announced global pandemic would affect our community led to the postponement, then cancellation of the 2020 lectureship which would have been on the topic of theology and film.

*Soli Deo Gloria*





## 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.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00 and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

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!**

# 774 There Is Now a New Creation



- 1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
- 2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
- 3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
- 4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
- 5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.  
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.  
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.  
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.  
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



# What Is the World Like

771



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;  
Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
this is a new world where God's will is done.

## This Week at a Glance!

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Later Today . . .</b></p> <p><b>4:00-6:00 PM</b><br/>Community Conversation<br/>with Macky Alston and<br/>Guests</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b><br/>MnM Fellowship<br/>Zoom ID: 87574376074</p> | <p><b>Monday, March 28</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b><br/>McPherson Clergy<br/>Breakfast<br/>(Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p><b>1:00 PM</b><br/>Worship Planning</p> <p><b>2:00 PM</b><br/>All Staff Meeting</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b><br/>Diaconate</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b><br/>Session Meeting</p> | <p><b>Tuesday, March 29</b></p> <p><b>6:15 PM</b><br/>Lenten Book Study:<br/><i>Witness at the Cross</i><br/><a href="#">Zoom</a></p>  | <p><b>Wednesday, March 30</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b><br/>Lenten Book Study:<br/><i>Witness at the Cross</i><br/><a href="#">Zoom</a></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b><br/>Chancel Choir</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday, March 31</b></p>   | <p><b>Friday, April 1</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Saturday, April 2</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Group 1<br/><b>2:00 PM</b> Group 2<br/>FPC Historic<br/>tour to Stagville<br/>(Led by Vera Cecelski)</p>  | <p><b>Sunday, April 3</b><br/><b>5th Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p><b>9:45-10:45 AM</b><br/>Come Learn About<br/>FPC Mission and Ministries<br/>(Room 205 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl, Education Bldg.)</p> <p><b>9:45-10:45 AM</b> (In-person and via Zoom)<br/>Faith Formation for Adults and Youth</p> <p><b>9:45-10:30 AM</b> (in-person and via Zoom)<br/>Faith Formation for children<br/>(Classes will meet outside on playground)</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship<br/>(In-person and live online)</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> MnM Fellowship<br/>Zoom ID: 87574376074</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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

Scan for bi-weekly newsletter