

*The people that walked in darkness . . .*



*. . . have seen a great light.*

*- Isaiah 9:1*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM NORTH CAROLINA**

**JANUARY 1, 2023**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

1st Sunday after Christmas

Epiphany

January 1, 2023

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

### PRELUDE

*The People That Walked in Darkness (from Messiah)*

G.F. Handel

Caleb Conner, Baritone; Gordon Campbell, piano

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 60:1,3)

John Weicher

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All: **The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations.**  
**All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

### \*HYMN NO. 152

*What Star Is This with Beams so Bright*

*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN (remain standing)

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**God of glory,**

**you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride  
hide the brightness of your light.**

**We turn away from the poor;  
we ignore cries for justice;  
we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,  
and baptize us once again with your Spirit,  
that, forgiven and renewed,  
we may show forth your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (sung)

*Antioch*

*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.*

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

**\*THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Vernon and Beth Neece

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Leader: Let us pray.  
All: Holy one, giver of all light,  
lift up our hearts and minds to Christ,  
the morning star that never fades.  
By the light of your Holy Spirit  
reveal to us your saving Word  
and lead us to offer our lives to you  
in service and in love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Genesis 2:7-9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 2)  
Vernon and Beth Neece

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

**EPISTLE LESSON**

Revelation 22:1-5

(Pew Bible, NT Page 260)  
Vernon and Beth Neece

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

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-18

(Pew Bible, NT Page 2)

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

**SERMON**

*"Hope and Horror"*

Wilson Gunn

**\*HYMN NO. 150**

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

*Dix*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (adapted from the *Confession of 1967, 9.19*)

John Weicher

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.  
He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world.

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

John Weicher

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Solo

*Coventry Carol*

trad. English

\*Prayer of Dedication

Esther Hethcox

## CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

John Weicher

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

John Weicher

**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. 744

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

*Festal Song*

\*BENEDICTION

Wilson Gunn

\*POSTLUDE

*The Holly and the Ivy*

trad. English, arr. Biery

*People may take poinsettias with them following worship today.*

*Feel free to share them with family or friends.*

**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. So that we may better know each other, please sign the ***Ritual of Friendship pad***, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then **return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

We welcome to the pulpit today, **Rev. Dr. G. Wilson Gunn, Jr.** Dr. Gunn grew up in Arkansas, matriculated at Davidson College (BA), Duke University (MDiv and ThM) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (PhD). He served pastorates in North Carolina and Virginia for 20 years before entering executive service in Grace Presbytery (NE Texas area). From March 2004 until retiring in October 2018, he served National Capital Presbytery as General Presbyter. Most recently Dr. Gunn has been an International Coaching Federation Certified coach, consults with Church Judicatories and he serves as the Coordinator of the Presbytery Leader Formation Program. He and his wife Pam have four children (Lisa, Daniel, Ben, and Jasper), three grandsons (Jacob, Josh, and JJ), and a granddaughter, Penelope.

Special thanks to **Caleb Conner** for providing music for today's worship.

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

**Hearing Assistance Receivers** are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to an usher. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

**Childcare:** A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. **Activity bags** are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

**Restroom locations:** 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. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

**Today's texts** were taken from *Book of Common Worship* (1995), *Feasting on the Word* (Year A, Volume 1), *Eucharistic Prayers*, and *Glory to God* (Presbyterian Hymnal).

Regular and large print copies of the *These Days* devotional book for January – March 2023 are available from the table in the church foyer. Pick up a free copy while supplies last.

---

### ~ Our Concerns ~

*We ask you to remember these beloved ones in your personal, family, and daily prayers. We also encourage you to support them with notes and cards during their time of struggle. Please also keep the pastoral staff updated on the progress of your loved ones.*

**Paul Cornsweet**  
**Chris James**  
**Franzi Rokoske**

**Susan Cyr**  
**George Kafula**  
**Carol Wills**

**Kerry Holbrook**  
**Mitzi Leshner-Thomas**

**Lee House**  
**Parker Morton**

### Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe**

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

**Liz Block**, cousin of Jane and Bill Brown

**John Carter**, brother of Conrad Carter

**Grace**, Chris James' great-niece

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss

**Bob**, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

**Pam Hanson**, mother of Laura Hanson

**Karen Shelton**, mother-in-law of Dawn Carsey Shelton

**John Wakefield**, cousin of Vernon Neece

---

### ~ New Schedule from Growing thru Grief ~

**Growing thru Grief** offers help and support to people grieving the loss of a loved one. Here is the schedule for January:

- Jan. 3 Holiday Updates and Resolutions, with Cora Harrison
- Jan. 10 Beyond Getting Over It: On the Myth of 'Grief Recovery,' with Aaron Klink
- Jan. 17 How Will I Know I'm Feeling Better? With Pastor Scott Anderson
- Jan. 24 Grief Shared is Grief Diminished, with Artie Hendricks
- Jan. 31 Frogs in Cream, with Nell Noonan

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis in Durham. Meetings are held each Tuesday, with registration starting at 4:00. First time attendees must show proof of COVID vaccination and booster(s). Masks are optional. We ask people to come at 4:00 p.m.; the program begins at 4:30 p.m., and all will end by 6:00 p.m. Please contact [admin@growingthrugrief.org](mailto:admin@growingthrugrief.org) if you have any questions.





## **SONAM presents a Winter Concert**

**Saturday, January 7, 2023**

**4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of FPC**

Come hear SONAM (Singers of New and Ancient Music) present choral pieces about light.

**Admission is free and concert is open to the public.**

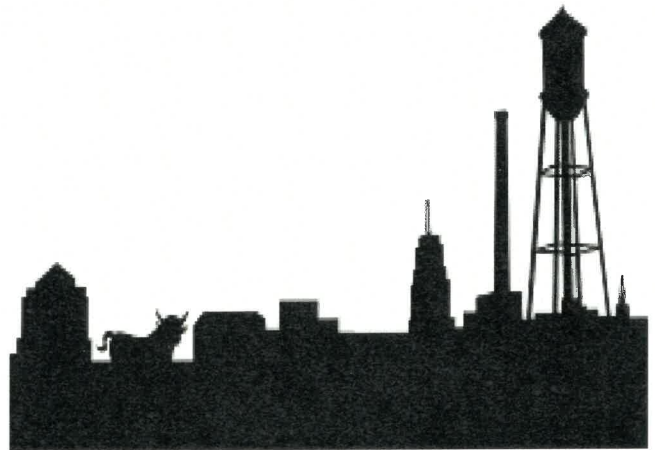
Donations will be received to benefit Families Moving Forward's work helping parents and children thrive in stable homes.

---

## **FPC Faith Formation for Adults**

### **Faith and Community Class**

“Building A Beloved Community in Downtown Durham” is the theme of a three-week series beginning Sunday, January. *Joe Harvard* will lead a conversation with those who led the transformation of Durham. *Bill Kalkhof*, former head of Downtown Durham, Inc., will be our guest on January 8th. How did the city make this incredible transformation of its downtown and what are some challenges ahead? Plan to join us at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.



**Sunday, January 8, 2023**

## **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Faith Formation Classes (all ages)**

**9:45-10:45 a.m.**

**Worship and Communion**

**11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary  
and live streamed via YouTube**



## **Slide Show: Birds of Western Brazil**

Do you want to escape the cold winter days, at least virtually? *David and Judy Smith* spent more than two weeks last July in the hot, humid Amazon of Western Brazil, and they came home with lots of photos of tropical birds and monkeys. Join them for a slide show on **Tuesday, January 17, at 7:15 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall**. (If you're interested in a Zoom option, please contact David Smith.)

---

## **FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP 2023**

The flower ministry of FPC offers a meaningful way to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. Following worship, our deacons divide the flowers and deliver smaller arrangements to members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend church, as a way of sharing with them a part of our worship service. Please reserve a Sunday by using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-flowers3>. You can also call the church office for more information and to reserve a Sunday: 919-682-5511 x 215.

---

## **SAVE THE DATE THE LEGACY SOCIETY**

FPC's Legacy Society luncheon returns in-person on **Wednesday, February 1, 2023** at Croasdaile Country Club. We look forward to gathering together again and enjoying the fellowship of one another. The Legacy Society welcomes new members. For a Legacy Society brochure or information on joining, contact **Tom Bloom** (919-682-5511 x 216 or [t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)). We hope to see you at the luncheon. Invitations will be sent to society members soon. -The Legacy Society Committee

# What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)  
D Bm A D G D A D G



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more  
2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From  
3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an  
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)  
D A D G D A



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis  
Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and  
in - ward light the Lord con - veys and  
pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)  
Bm E7 A D G D Em



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad  
lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to  
urg - es them, with ten - der might, to  
not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

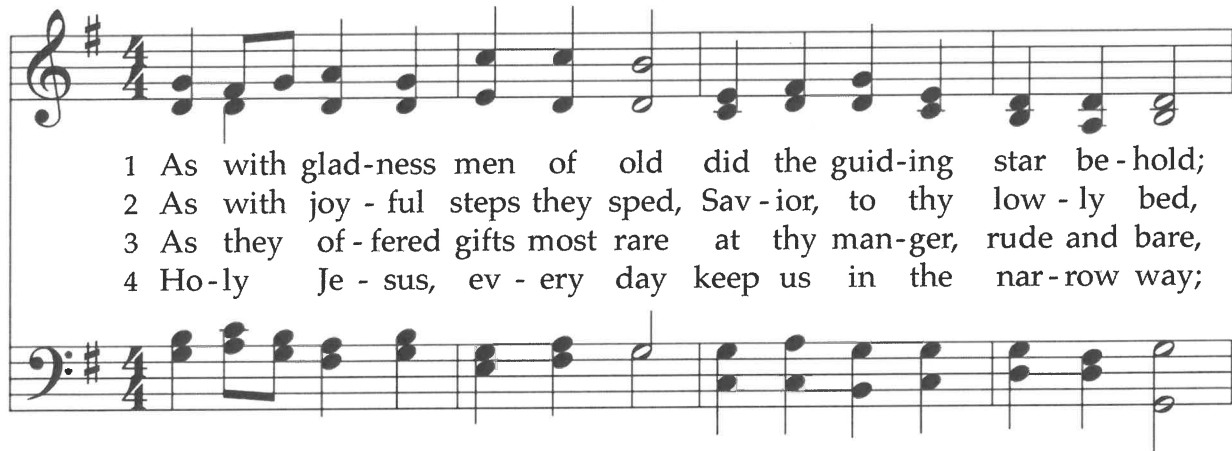
(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)  
A D A D G A D



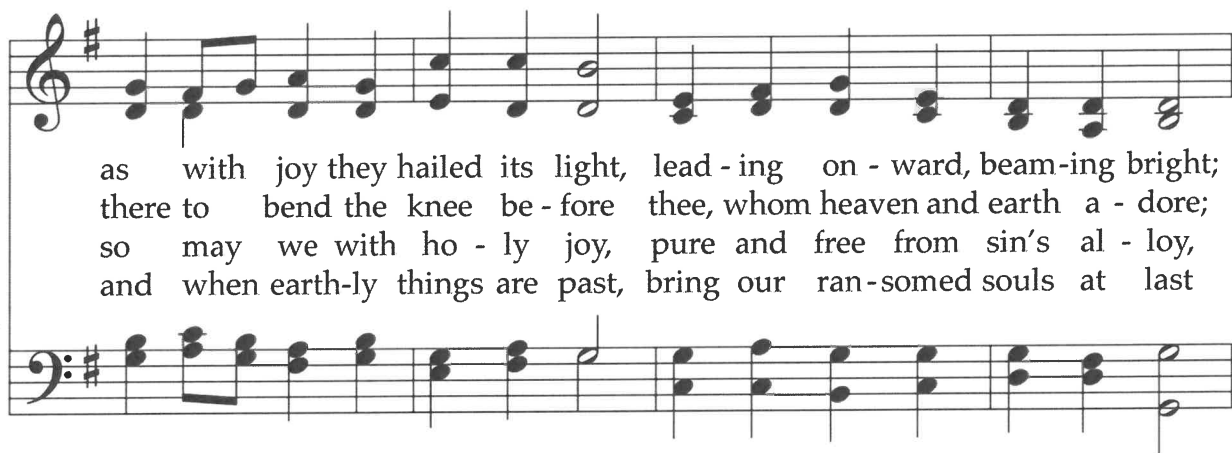
ti - dings of our God to bring.  
read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.  
seek the giv - er of light.  
guid - ance of your light to use.



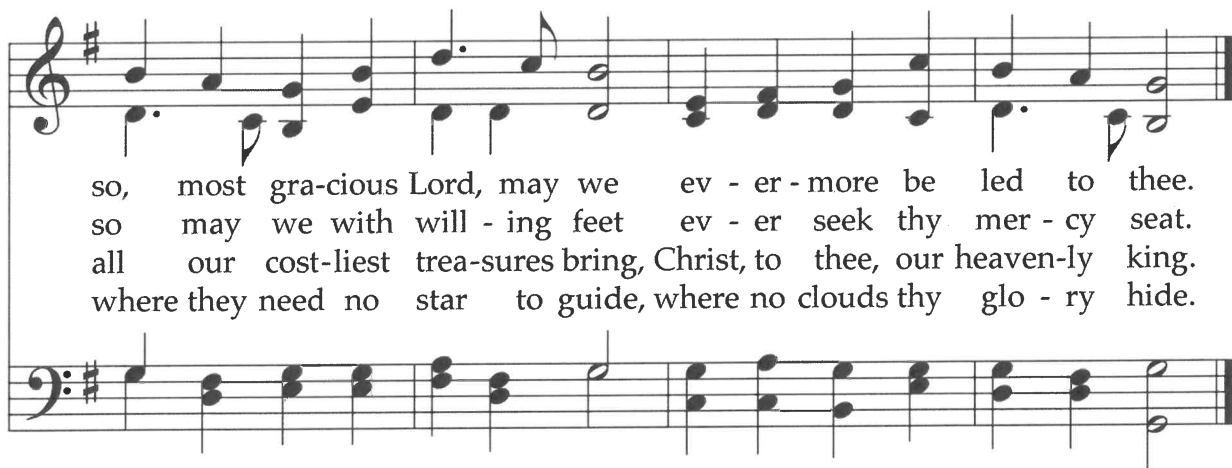
# As with Gladness Men of Old 150



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;

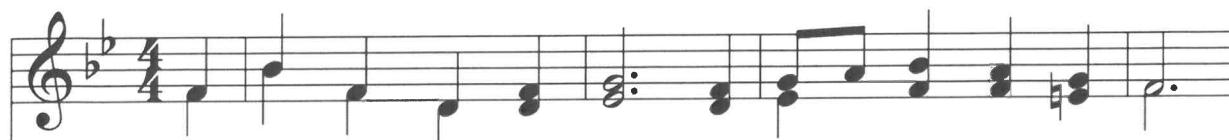


as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

# 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



- 1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
- 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
- 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
- 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.





## As We Start the New Year

### A New Year's Prayer

*Anonymous*

Dear Lord, please give us

A few friends who understand us  
and will remain our friends;

A work to do that has real value,  
without which the world would be poorer;

Minds unafraid to travel,  
even though the trail be not blazed;

Understanding hearts;

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.

## The Week at a Glance!

	<b>Monday, January 2</b>  <b>The Church Office is closed in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 3</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 4</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> All Staff  <b>No Chancel Choir</b>
<b>Thursday, January 5</b>	<b>Friday, January 6</b>  	<b>Saturday, January 7</b>  <b>4:00 PM</b> <b>SONAM Winter Concert</b> (FPC sanctuary)	<b>Sunday, January 8</b> Baptism of the Lord  <b>9:45 AM</b> Faith Formation (All classes meeting)  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship and Communion  <b>5:00-7:00 PM</b> Kickoff to Youth Sunday Worship Planning  <b>8:00 PM</b> Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (via Zoom)

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>

### 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  
*Omar Guess*, Sunday Morning Sexton  
*Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus



*Amy Bowers Heit*, Parish Associate  
*Esther Hethcox*, Pastoral Associate  
*Sybil King*, Administrative Assistant  
*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)  
*Valerie McMillian*, Parish Administrator  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor