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RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM NORTH CAROLINA**

JANUARY 15, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Durham, North Carolina

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Race Relations Sunday

January 15, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Mission – Building Committee Report

Mindy Douglas

Tyler Momsen-Hudson

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual, arr. Robert Powell

*OPENING SENTENCES (from Isaiah 62)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: I will no longer keep silent;
for the sake of my family,
the beloved people of God,
I will not rest.

People: **Your justice will shine like the dawn;
all people will see your vindication.**

Leader: You will no longer be forsaken;
you will no longer be desolate.

People: **The Lord delights in you
and God will rejoice in your redemption.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

*HYMN NO. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord our God,
you have made each person in your own image
— your holy handiwork,
crowned with beauty.**

Yet we have denied your image in others.

We have allowed our prejudice to obscure our vision of our neighbors.

We have been complicit in oppressive systems that mistreat the many and favor the few.

We have remained silent and safe while many have suffered so much.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Set us free from the sin of structural racism,

strengthen us to dismantle dividing walls,

and help us to build a home of hope for all;

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Those who are able, please stand.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

John Weicher

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Annie Gentithes

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Living God,**

**you sent Jesus into this world
to break down the dividing walls of hostility
and establish justice and peace among us
through the reconciling work of the cross.**

Establish a new humanity in Christ.

**Make us no longer strangers and aliens,
but citizens with all your faithful people
and members of your holy household,
growing together as your dwelling place;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

1 John 4:17-21

The Message Bible (adapted)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Annie Gentithes

People: **Thanks be to God!**

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:34-43

(Pew Bible, NT Page 128)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Divine Impartiality

Mindy Douglas

***HYMN NO. 345**

In an Age of Twisted Values

Church United

(First verse sung as solo; verses 2-4, sung by all)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

John Weicher

Leader: What does our faith demand?

Lectern side: Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. It is also a lie about God, for it falsely claims that God favors parts of creation over the entirety of creation. Because of our Biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, we must stand against, speak against and work against racism. Anti-racist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pulpit side: Though we create hierarchies that do not recognize nor celebrate the beauty of the diversity of God's creation; though we embrace human boundaries that divide and separate us, distorting God's intention for humanity, God gives us the gift of unity. We must work to realize the fullness of this gift.

All: We will not passively accept unjust systems for the sake of a false peace; we will take on the hard work of dismantling, stone by stone, the systems of oppression that divide and subjugate our siblings. We will build, living stone by living stone, societies marked by justice and love. God calls us to reconciliation. We must repair that which we've broken.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

*Capital Campaign Dedication Litany

Amy Wilson

Leader: It stands in scripture:
See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone, chosen, and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.

**People: For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one that has been laid;
that foundation is Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**People: O God, Creator of the universe,
when the morning stars sang together
and the heavens shouted for joy,
you laid the foundation of the earth,
the cornerstone of your eternal love.
As we plan for our future together in this place,
let there stand a solid faith
celebrated by your worship and praise,
and shared in the world;
a witness to your love
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn No. 301

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Esther Hethcox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Esther Hethcox

**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. 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Christ Be Our Light

*BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Spiritual, arr. A.D. Miller



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.

Today's *flowers* are given to the glory of God by **Lanny and Sam Pratt** in loving memory of **Ella Fountain and Lanier Pratt**, and in thanksgiving for the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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.

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.

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.

The **Chancel Choir** is taking a brief pause due to the rise in COVID cases. We hope to resume rehearsals soon. -Kathy Parkins

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Dismantling-Structural-Racism-Sunday-2023.pdf>; *30 Days with the Confession of Belhar* devotion and prayer by Rev. Robina Marie Winbush, and the 2016 PC(USA) General Assembly policy "Facing Racism."

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to **Sam Henry** (son of **Cherrie and Andy Henry** and brother of **Abi Warmack**) and **Izzy St. Onge** who were married January 6th in Asheville, NC.

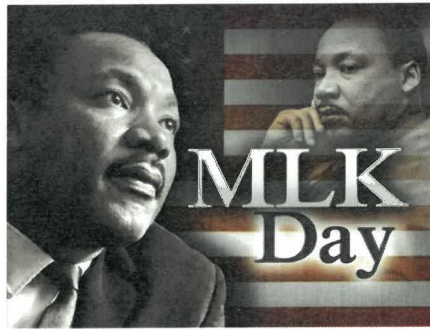
Paul Cornsweet	Susan Cyr	Kerry Holbrook	Lee House
George Kafula	Mitzi Leshner-Thomas	Parker Morton	Franzi Rokoske
Carol Wills			

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	Bob , friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore
Pam Hanson , mother of Laura Hanson	Grace , Chris James' great-niece
Karen Shelton , mother-in-law of Dawn Carsey Shelton	Jim Vacca , father of Jamie Chambliss
John Wakefield , cousin of Vernon Neece	



The church office will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Annual MLK Unity March and Commemorative Worship

The Greater Durham 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Celebration Rally and March will be held Monday, January 16, 2023. The march begins at **11:00 a.m.** from the North Carolina Mutual Towers Building (411 West Chapel Hill Street, downtown Durham). Assemble time is 10:30 a.m. March will end at the corner of Roxboro and Main Streets. The Commemorative Worship Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 305 East Main Street, Durham at **12 noon**. It will begin with the Durham Children's Choir performance and elected officials welcoming our citizens in "Dr. King's Dream of A Beloved Community for All. For more information contact Dr. Warren Herndon at 919-599-1056 or drherndon8@gmail.com. FPC is also a collection site for new and gently used children's books for Book Harvest's MLK Dreamfest Book Drive.



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.)

FPC Hosting Community Blood Drive

Thursday, February 2, 2023

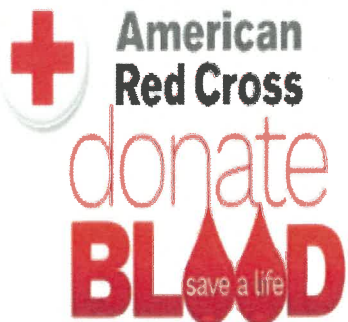
1:00-6:00 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall

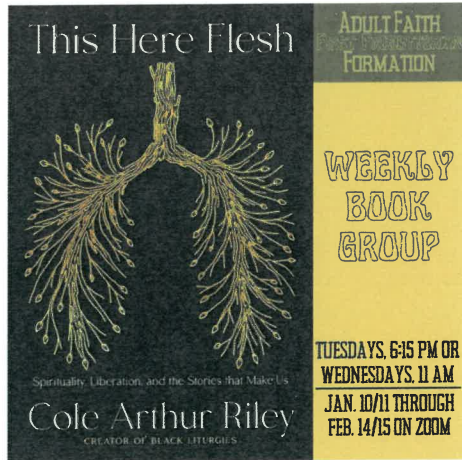
Primary contact/organizer: *Julie Whiddon*

Julie's email: foxylady2642@yahoo.com

Julie's phone number: 919-730-6673

Sign up online to donate blood at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) using code: *firstpres* or contact Julie Whiddon. For more information on donating blood, pick up a brochure from the table in the church foyer.





WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

Led by Mindy Douglas

Discussion Schedule

January 17/18 – chapters 3-4

January 24/25 – chapters 5-7

January 31/February 1 – chapters 8-9


February 7/8 – chapters 10-12

February 14/15 – chapters 13-15

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82972133680?pwd=cktmdUNZdXRSZ09NUkxhZkIDTlkzQT09>

DURHAM CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION INVITES YOU!




2023 DCIA ANNUAL BANQUET

Thursday, January 26, 5:45-8pm PM
HOLY INFANT CATHOLIC CHURCH
5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC

"Resilience and Re-imagining"

Keynote Speaker: *Imam Abdul Waheed*




The Duke Center for Muslim Life, Osher Life Long Learning Institute instructor, recipient of the 1996 MLK, Jr. Keeper of the Dream Award, long-time community leader.

\$20 per plate OR host a table for \$100

RSVP by January 22 [here](#), or 919-688-2036

Pay at Banquet, or with [Paypal](#)

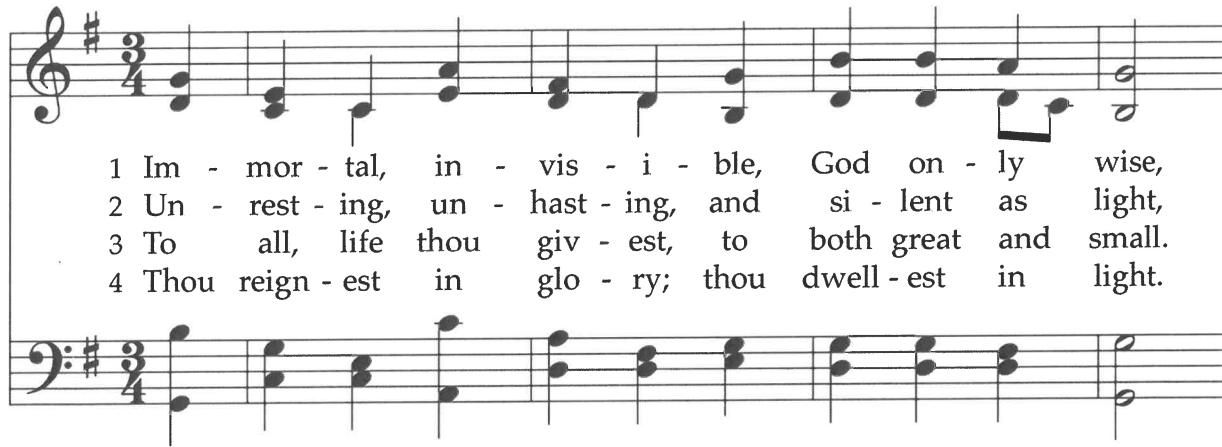


masks are optional, but please do not come if you are sick.

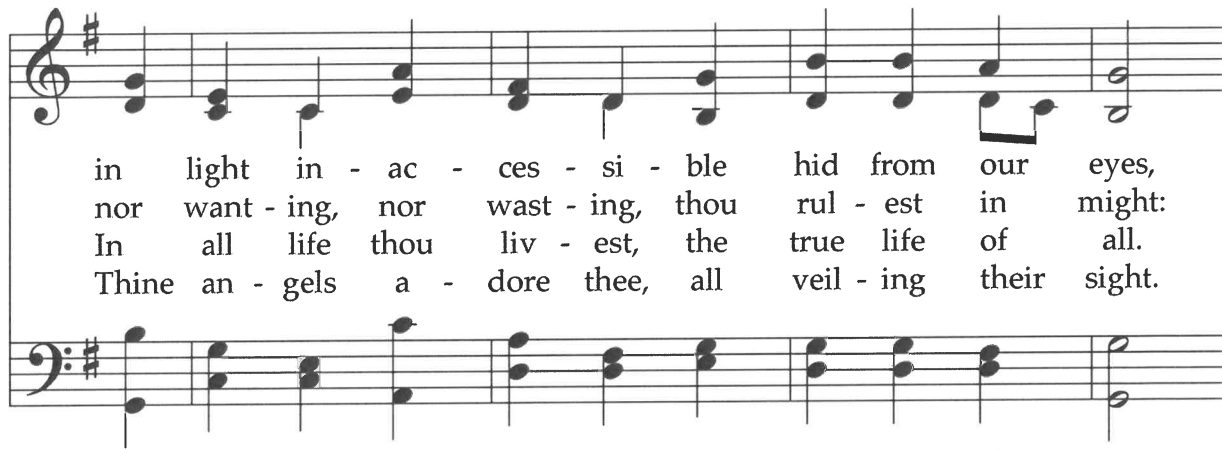
“...behind every human face is the face of God.”

ALSO – CROP walk updates, honoring Rebecca Harvard, Imam Abdul Waheed, and Rev. Joe Harvard & 2023 Haywood Holderness Distinguished Community Service Awards!

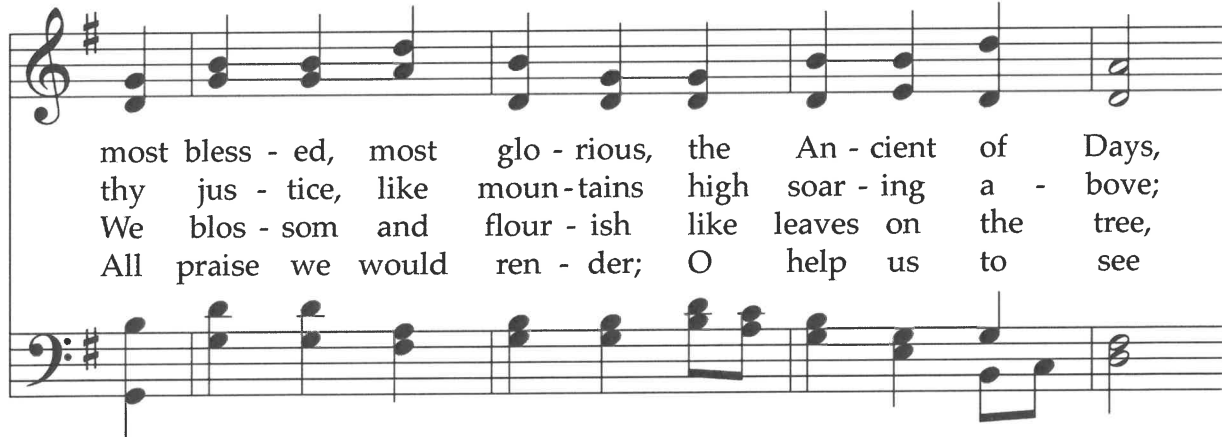
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



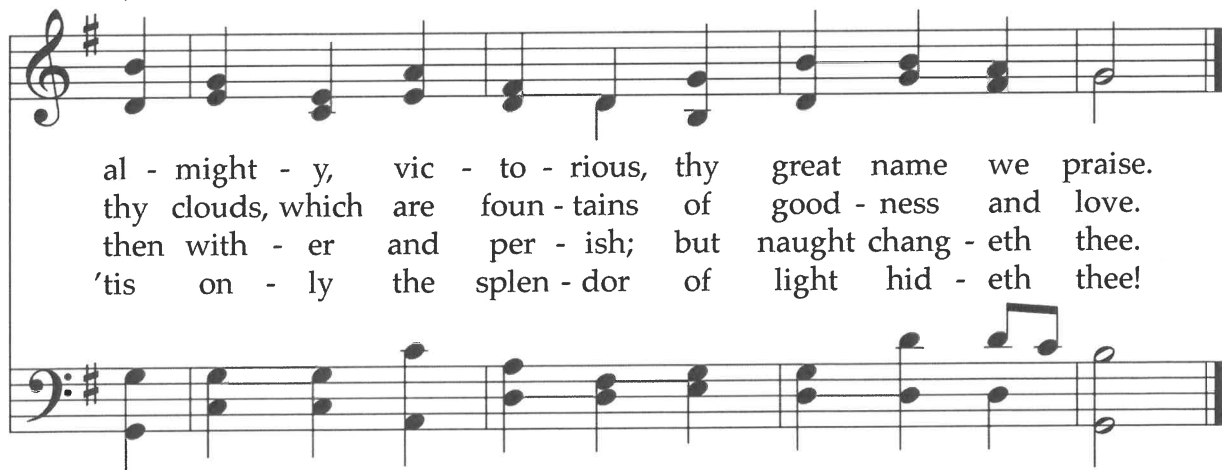
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.



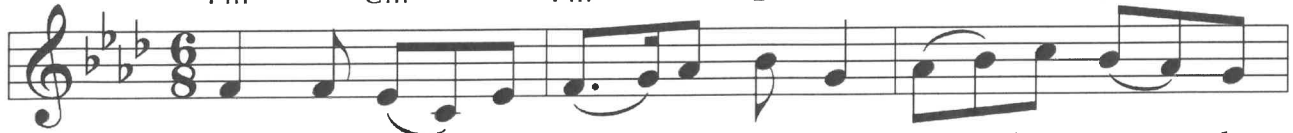
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



al - mighty - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

In an Age of Twisted Values 345

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G) (D)
 Fm Cm Fm E^b A^b E^b



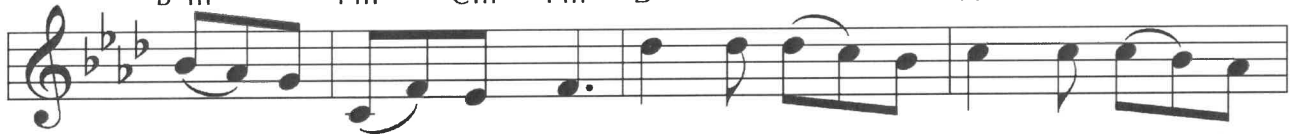
1 In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the
 2 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u -
 3 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are
 4 We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly

(Em) (A) (B7) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G)
 Fm B^b C7 Fm Cm Fm E^b A^b



truth we need. In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have
 dice and fear. Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we
 full of strife, when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they
 to o - bey. Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us

(Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (C) (G)
 B^bm Fm Cm Fm D^b A^b



jus - ti - fied our greed. By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions
 hold re - sent - ments dear. For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed
 lose their way in life, when we fail to give the a - ged
 truth to light our way. In the pow - er of your Spir - it

(D) (Am) (Em) (B7) (Em) (Bm)
 E^b B^bm Fm C7 Fm Cm



we have robbed the poor and weak. Hear our cry and
 by the walls of class and race, hear our cry and
 all the care we know they need, hear our cry and
 come to cleanse us, make us new; hear our cry and

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em)
 Fm E^b A^b B^bm Fm Cm Fm



heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
 heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.
 heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
 heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

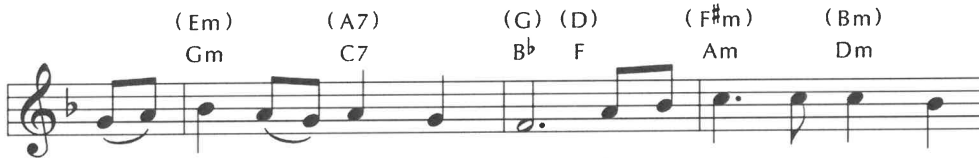
Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

This Week at a Glance!

<p>After Worship:</p> <p>4:00-7:00 PM Youth Groups Night of Service</p> <p>8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, January 16</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">The FPC office is closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM MLK Unity March followed by Commemorative Worship at FPC at 12 noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00 PM Building Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, January 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:15 PM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>This Here Flesh</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:15 PM Birds of Brazil Slide Presentation at FPC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, January 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>This Here Flesh</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM All Staff Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Chancel Choir</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, January 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM Nominating Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, January 20</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, January 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 AM - 4:00 PM FPC Officers' Retreat at Trinity Avenue PC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, January 22 <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Worship John Weicher, Preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:00-4:00 PM High School Youth Group Hike w/Trinity Ave PC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00-7:00 PM Middle School Youth Group w/Trinity Ave PC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</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
Omar Guess, Sr., 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

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