FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Durham, North Carolina

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

For those joining worship via live stream, please prepare your bread and cup before worship begins so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual, arr. Chelsea Chen

*INTROIT

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Unser Herrscher

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

*OPENING SENTENCES

John Weicher

Leader:

Let your light shine!

People:

We are the salt of the earth.

Leader:

Let your light shine!

People:

We are the light of the world.

Leader:

Let your light shine!

People:

Praise the Lord for the gifts that God has given us!

Leader:

Let your light shine!

*HYMN No. 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of grace, you have made us salt, that we might bring out the best in the world.

You created us to bear your light into the places of sorrow, hatred, and division.

Too often, though, we hoard the salt and light for ourselves, neglecting the needs of the world.

Forgive us, Lord, and give us courage and wisdom

to share the gifts you have given us for the healing of the world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*PASSING THE PEACE

Esther Hethcox

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Bob and Sheila Breitweiser

Leader: **People:**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader:

Let us pray.

Those who are able, please stand

All: Faithful God,

You have appointed us your witnesses, to be light that shines in the world.

Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,

but tell everyone your love,

revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:1-9a (Pew Bible, OT Page 688)

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

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:13-20 (Pew Bible, NT Page 4)

Leader: The Word of the Lord Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Living as Salt and Light" Mindy Douglas

*HYMN No. 529 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Union Seminary

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From The Confession of Belhar) Esther Hethcox

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;

that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,

that the church is witness both by word and by deed

to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;

that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death,

and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,

that God's life-giving Word and Spirit

will enable the church to live in a new obedience

which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give Esther Hethcox Offertory Anthem Hear My Prayer Moses Hogan

Oh Lord, please hear my prayer in the morning when I rise.

It's your servant bound for glory, oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

Oh Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms.

It's your servant bound for glory, oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done and you come to take me home,

Just to know that I am bound for glory and to hear you say, "Well done."

Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

*Doxology with Alleluias

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; alleluia; alleluia; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. alleluia!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mindy Douglas

The Lord be with you. Leader: And also with you. People: Lift up your hearts. Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. People:

Leader: Let us gives thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. People: Leader:

When you came proclaiming creation,

God of wonder. you brought forth what no eye had seen: snowflakes drifting in a meadow, hawks floating lazily in the sky.

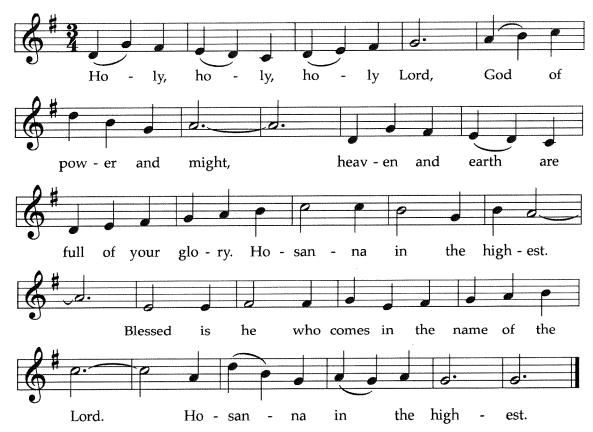
You whispered what no ear had heard: whale songs in the deeps, a coyote caroling the moon.

You established what no heart believed: justice for the most vulnerable, healing for the broken.

Day by day, you called us to your side, but when evening fell, we slipped into sin's enticing shadows, dashing your dreams for us.

You sent the prophets to us, relying on the Spirit to give them the right words, but we did not notice as we practiced hubris.

So you asked Jesus to come, dashing the hopes of the wicked. So with those who do not fear the good news which he brought, we lift our voices in glad shouts of joy:



Leader:

He came proclaiming your salvation,

God of Holiness,

your child of salt and light.

For those in the shadows of mourning,

he brought light.

For those whose lives have crumbled around them,

he rebuilds their hopes.

For those who are separated by the chasms of fears,

he stretches a bridge

so they can meet each other in harmony.

For all who face death's uncertainty,

he went into that unknown,

coming forth to reassure us

that its power had been broken.

As we seek to seem him in our midst,

as we try to hear your Word of life,

we trust in that faith which is mysterious:

All (sung):



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader:

Here at the table of grace, the Holy Spirit proclaims life, transforming these simple gifts and the people gathered in this place. As we taste the hope in the broken bread, we would go to break the bonds of injustice, and free the oppressed. As we are filled with the cup, we would be light to the world, opening our pantry to the hungry, wrapping a naked child in our love. And when God's time is fulfilled and we are gathered together with our siblings in the kingdom of heaven, we will not keep anything bottled up,

> but will shout our praises to you, God in Community, Holy in One.

All (sung):

Hymn No. 574



THE LORD'S PRAYER (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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas and John Weicher

*THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(The bread is gluten free. The elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Communion servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive the bread and cup.)

Anthem (sung by choir)

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual, arr. Hobson

Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

John Weicher

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us

your Son who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life.

So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*HYMN No. 350

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Keep Your Lamps

*BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*Postlude Marching to Zion

Robert Lowry



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 and in loving memory of *Dewey Lawson* by his family.

The anthem today, "Hear My Prayer" was written by the brilliant African American composer, Moses Hogan. Born and raised in New Orleans, he was accepted to Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and received a full scholarship. He is known not only as a composer and arranger, but as the founder of the famed "Moses Hogan Chorale," renowned for its musical excellence.

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.

Portions of today's worship texts are taken from Call to Worship, Book of Common Worship (1995) and Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Added this week: Joe Harvard, recovering from foot surgery.

Parker Morton, receiving palliative care following heart surgery. **Sheri Watson**, mother of Kathy Conner, has entered hospice care.

Paul Cornsweet George Kafula Susan Cyr Mitzi Lesher-Thomas Kerry Holbrook Franzi Rokoske Lee House Andy Widmark

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

Blaine Ballantyne, friend of Jane Brown
Michelle Goette Greenberg, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore
Pam Hanson, mother of Laura Hanson
Moore
Bob Lucas, friend of the congregation
Grace, Chris James' great-niece
Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore
John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

NOTICE OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, February 12**. At this meeting, the Associate Pastor Search Committee will present their candidate, Esther Hethcox, for the Designated Associate Pastor position. This position will be for two years. Esther will be ordained to the Designated Associate pastor role and will then be eligible to apply for the future permanent Associate Pastor position.

The Session has also called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, February 19** to elect officers (Class of 2026) and at-large members to the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee.

WINTER POP-UP ACTIVITIES

FPC's Fellowship Committee has scheduled three POP-UP activities for February:

- February 11 Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield will lead a hike at Brumley North in Hillsborough.
- February 18 Brent Curtis will lead a tour at Duke's Nasher Museum (\$5 admission fee).
- February 25 Ellie Meade will lead a tour of the woodlands (estate) of Montrose Gardens in Hillsborough.

To join us, sign up using this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea4ad2da46-fellowship#/. Activities are kid-friendly but may not be appropriate for the incredibly young.

For more information contact Jancy Johnstone: 919-824-6489 or <u>JancyJohnstone@gmail.com</u>.

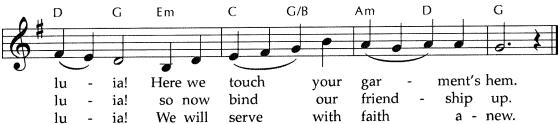
377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light





Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529





350 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning trimmed and burn 1 Keep your lamps ing; keep your faith makes us hap it's our 2 It's our py; climb - ing Ja - cob's lad der; are 3 We are we round goes high - er, high er; ev - ery 4 Ev ery lamps trimmed and burn ing; keep your lamps faith hap it's faith makes us py; our climb - ing Ja - cob's lad climb - ing der; we are round goes round goes high - er, high er; ev ery trimmed and time is draw - ing nigh. burn ing, for the draw - ing nigh. the time is hap for makes us ру, draw - ing nigh. for the time is cob's lad der, draw - ing nigh. high er, for the time is high er, Refrain grow wea - ry; broth-ers, don't grow wea - ry; Sis-ters, don't



This Week at a Glance!			
After Worship:	Monday, February 6	Tuesday, February 7	Wednesday, February 8
5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship	1:30 PM Worship Planning	6:15 PM (via Zoom) Book Study: This Here Flesh	11:00 AM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>This Here Flesh</i>
			1:00 PM Program Staff
			7:00 PM Chancel Choir
Thursday, February 9	Friday, February 10	Saturday, February 11	Sunday, Saturday, 12 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
			9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation Classes for all ages
			11:00 AM Congregational Meeting Worship led by our Youth
			8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship

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 Lesher-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*.