



First Presbyterian Church

Durham, North Carolina

May 14, 2023

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

7th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Organ Voluntary on "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

Dale Wood

INTROIT

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Regent Square

*Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

*Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66:16-20)**

Amy Heit

Leader: Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

People: **I cried out with my mouth,
and God's praise was on my tongue.**

Leader: If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

People: **but in truth God has heard us
and attended to the voice of our prayers.**

Leader: Blessed be God, who has not rejected our prayers,
nor withheld steadfast love from us.

All: **Let us worship God.**

***HYMN NO. 54**

Make a Joyful Noise to God!

Dix

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Amy Heit

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Great God of the universe,
who like a father promises us a wondrous inheritance,
and like a mother loves us unconditionally—
we come before you acknowledging your holy majesty,
demonstrating to us in your creation,
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Those who are able, please stand.

(Prayer of Confession continues, in unison.)

**In him we have seen your glory,
and have come to know
the depth, breadth, and height of your love.
Such love summons us to respond in love;
yet, we confess, we have not loved you with our whole hearts,
nor have we forgiven others as you have forgiven us.
By your Holy Spirit, soften the hardness of our hearts,
and empower us to glorify you
with heartfelt worship and humble service,
for the sake of Jesus,
who loved us and gave himself for us.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Amy Heit

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annie and Ruby Gentithes

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Loving God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
help us to choose life in you,
that we may keep the commands of Jesus,
follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit,
and witness to the hope that is within us,
sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 14:15-21

(Pew Bible, NT Page 109)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Annie and Ruby Gentithes

People: Thanks be to God.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 17:22-31

(Pew Bible, NT Page 137)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A God-Shaped Hole"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

HYMN NO. 686

God of Our Life

Sandon

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith

John Weicher

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

(Affirmation continues next page.)

In sovereign love God created the world good
 and makes everyone equally in God's image,
 every human being, of every race and people,
 to live as one community.
 But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
 Ignoring God's commandments,
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
 accept lies as truth,
 exploit neighbor and nature,
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
 We deserve God's condemnation.
 Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
 In everlasting love,
 the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
 to bless all families of the earth.
 Hearing their cry,
 God delivered the children of Israel
 from the house of bondage.
 Loving us still,
 God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND TEACHER APPRECIATION

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Dan Forrest

Gordon Campbell, Phyllis Supple, pianists

I know that my redeemer lives, Glory, hallelujah!

What comfort this sweet sentence gives, Glory, hallelujah!

Shout on, press on, we're gaining ground, Glory, hallelujah!

The dead's alive, and the lost is found, Glory, hallelujah! (Refrain)

He lives to bless me with his love; Glory, hallelujah!

He lives to plead my cause above; Glory, hallelujah! (Refrain)

He lives to crush the friends of hell; Glory, hallelujah!

He lives and doth within me dwell; Glory, hallelujah! (Refrain)

**Doxology with Alleluias*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

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!

BLESSING OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
Presentation of Scarves and Laying on of Hands

John Weicher and Mindy Douglas

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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. 63**

The Lord is God

Azmon

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Fugue in C ("Fanfare Fugue")

J.S. Bach



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.

Special thanks to **Gordon Campbell** and **Phyllis Supple** for sharing their musical gifts with us today.

The **flowers** are given today by **Caroline Davis Rourk** to the glory of God and in memory of **Margaret Smith Davis, Malcolm Henderson Rourk III, Jane Davis Rourk, Malcolm Henderson Rourk Jr., William Javan Davis**, and her beloved **Christopher Michael Whitworth**, USMC.

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. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of 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.

Media volunteers: The audio and video streaming consoles at the back of the sanctuary are operated by volunteers, and we need more. The equipment may look intimidating, but training and mentoring is provided. If you're not afraid of technology and are interested, please speak to one of the operators on any Sunday. Middle school and high school youth are particularly welcome.

Portions of today's worship texts are taken from **Book of Common Worship** (1995), **Call to Worship** (Year A, 2001-2002), and **Feasting on the Word** (Year A, Volume 1).

Our Joys and Concerns

Concerns: *Bob Breitweiser* is recovering from surgery

Stephen Berry
Kerry Holbrook
Franzi Rokoske

Wes Carson
Lee House
Carol Wills

Paul Cornsweet
George Kafula

Susan Cyr
Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

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*

The Forest at Duke Health & Wellness Center: *Joe & Carlisle Harvard*

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Jane Austin, friend of the congregation

Sylvia Elder, grandmother of Esther Hethcox

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Alfred Tisdale, husband of Nora Tisdale

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Father of Andres, friend of the congregation

Pam Hanson, mother of Laura Hanson

Clem O'Brien, father-in-law of Mindy Douglas

Pam Tabb, friend of Mindy Douglas

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Help retire medical debt in North Carolina

In 2022, the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC voted to set aside \$50,000 from our capital campaign to help eliminate debt for our neighbors in NC who have been saddled with overwhelming medical bills. Our first of three campaigns raised \$26,000 and paid off \$5 million in medical debt in NC in Durham and other counties in NC. On May 1, 2023, we launched a second campaign which targets the counties with the greatest number of people of color in their boundaries (including Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, and Mecklenburg). Please share the link below with anyone who wants to eliminate medical debt for our eligible neighbors in NC.

Link to give: <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/building-beloved-community/>

Small Group Dinners Are Coming

In response to our recent fellowship survey, FPC is forming dinner small groups. Dinner small groups are intergenerational, and all are welcome. The groups will meet six times a year, approximately, and we are hoping participants will commit to the group for one year. This will be a time for fun and fellowship. We will gather in homes or at church for potlucks or at restaurants.

Please sign up (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4ca5ab2dab9-first2#/>) for the times that you are interested in gathering and indicate the number of people. Groups will be formed and notified in the next few weeks. **Sign up by May 28th.** If you are willing to serve as a group coordinator for scheduling, please indicate in the comments. Please feel free to reach out to Deborah Momsen-Hudson: dmomsenhudson@gmail.com for more information.

Day of Remembrance for Durham Public Schools

On **Monday, May 15, at 10:00 a.m.**, the children of Durham Public Schools (DPS) have asked **all people in Durham** to hold a moment of silence as part of a Day of Remembrance for the youth killed in our city in 2023, especially last month. Please know that FPC's staff working at the church at that time will observe this moment of silence. Durham city and county leaders will also join with DPS leaders in a vigil at the CCB Plaza (by the bull). **Speakers will begin at 5:30 p.m.** The public is invited.



The final Membership class in this current series for new members, inquirers, and anyone wanting to learn more about First Presbyterian Church will be held **May 21 at 9:45 a.m. in Room 205 of the CE building.** The topic of worship will be discussed.

Faith Formation Calendar for May – August

May 21 – End of Faith Formation classes for Spring 2023 program year

May 28 – No Faith Formation classes for children, youth, or Faith & Community.
Other adult classes TBA.

June 4 - August 20 – Faith Formation class for children, meeting as a one-room schoolhouse.

June 4 - July 30 – Faith & Community class and Lectionary class meet.
Other adult classes TBA.

It's graduation season!



We will acknowledge Class of 2023 graduates next month. Is someone in your family graduating in the Class of 2023? Email their name and degree, major, and school to Valerie in the church office: v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org by May 28. Thank you.

CSA Project begins again May 18

First Presbyterian, through the Creation Care Committee, is once again participating in a community supported agriculture (CSA) project. As we did last year, we are partnering with Sankofa Farms in Orange County, Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, CityWell Church, and RAFI-USA's Farm and Faith Partnership. This is a great way to have a steady supply of fresh healthy vegetables each week grown sustainably by a farmer of color.

HOW IT WORKS:

The boxes of vegetables will be delivered to First Pres every Thursday afternoon, **beginning May 18**, and be available for pickup between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the church foyer. This cycle will run for six weeks, from **May 18-June 22**. The cost is **\$35 per week for a full share** and **\$25 for a half share**. For the **full six weeks it is \$210 for a full share** and **\$150 for a half share**.

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE:

Go now to the Sankofa Farms website, and once there, click on “**Shop**”. Pay at checkout. The website is www.sankofafarms.com.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, feel free to contact Tom Bacon, George or Johanna Bernhardt, Cris Rivera, or Larry Brockman.

SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS WITH THE THRIVING CONGREGATIONS COMMITTEE

Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-sign>

First off, there is no ‘ask’. You will not be asked to do or volunteer for anything beyond attending this session. This campaign is only interested in collecting your perspective and insight. If you are not able to make any of the available dates, please email Janefrancesbrown@gmail.com to let her know. We are going to be scheduling more sessions in the Fall and want to gauge interest.

We will take notes at each session and analyze contributions to hear from many voices to:

- reflect on our current work and priorities
- discern any needed information
- inform our next long-range plan.

It is important that our leaders, staff and planners hear from our beloved community as they consider our next steps. We will send a short list of questions for reflection for anyone who signs up and we will also review them at the listening session. Don't let not being able to do "homework" keep you from signing up.

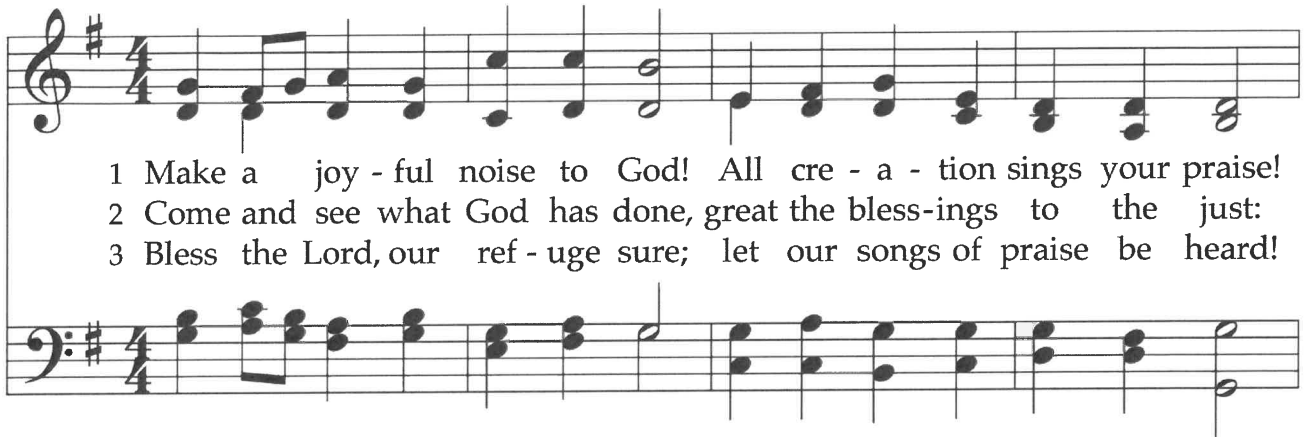
You should voice anything you think is vital to take First Presbyterian into God's work for us, your insights, what you see, and are called to in your heart.

NOTE: We do want to avoid using this time to bring up complaints, list what other churches are doing, all potential options for ministry or random suggestions. If you have ideas, concerns or complaints please do arrange an appointment with a person associated with that area. After the session we can help you identify the right person.

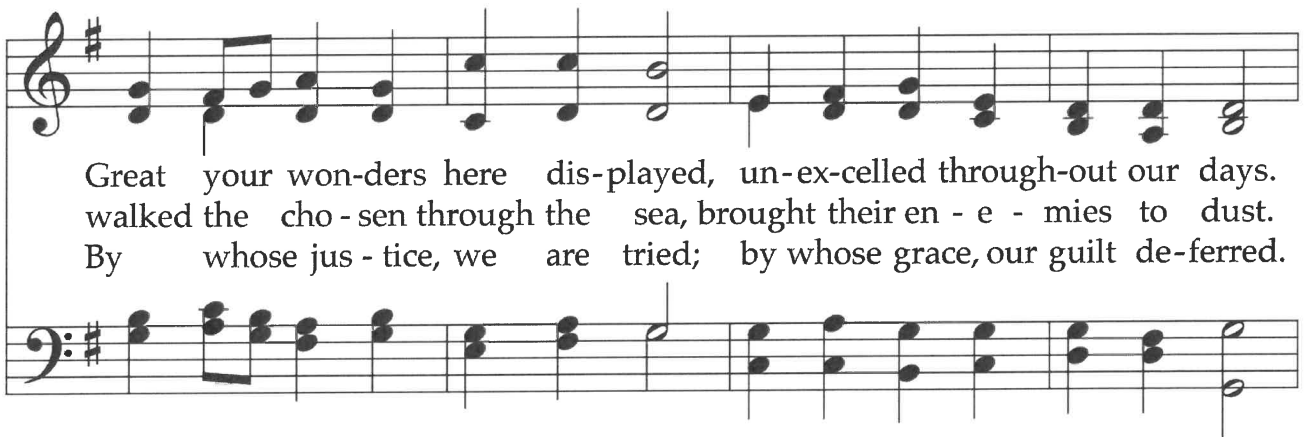
Make a Joyful Noise to God!

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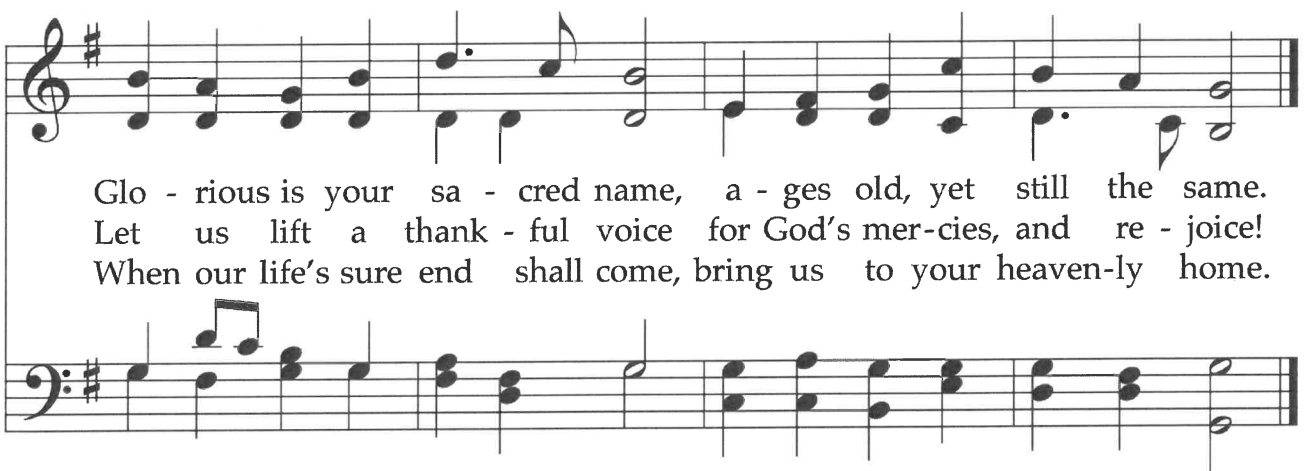
(Psalm 66)



1 Make a joy - ful noise to God! All cre - a - tion sings your praise!
2 Come and see what God has done, great the bless - ings to the just:
3 Bless the Lord, our ref - uge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!



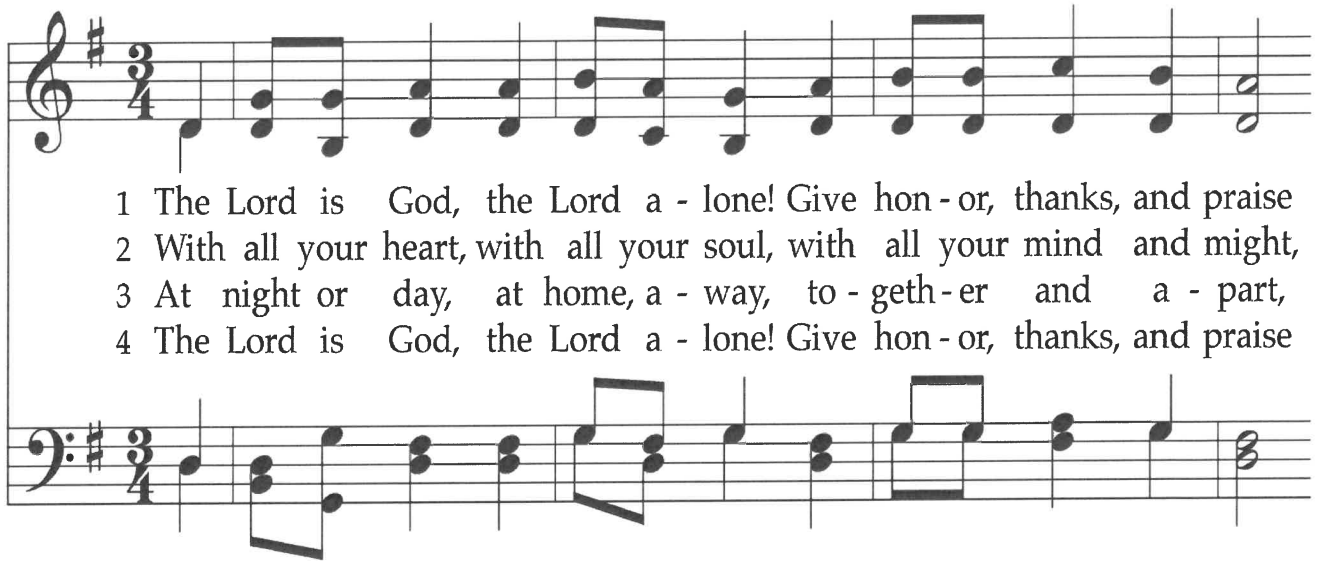
Great your won - ders here dis - played, un - ex - celled through - out our days.
walked the cho - sen through the sea, brought their en - e - mies to dust.
By whose jus - tice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt de - ferred.



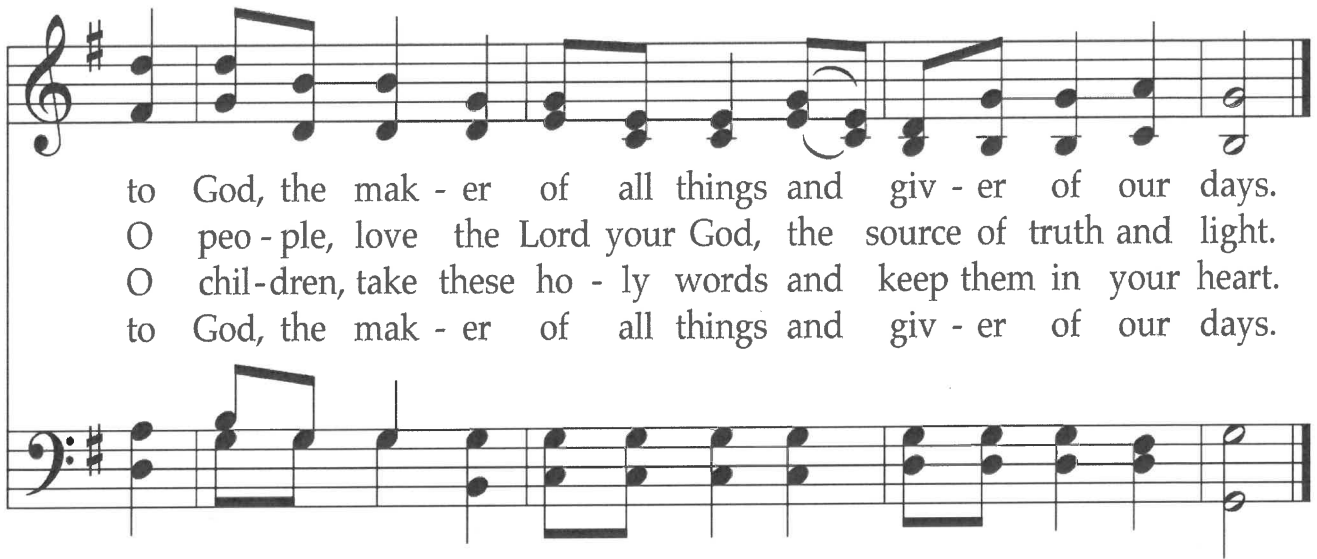
Glo - rious is your sa - cred name, a - ges old, yet still the same.
Let us lift a thank - ful voice for God's mer - cies, and re - joice!
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heaven - ly home.

The Lord Is God

63



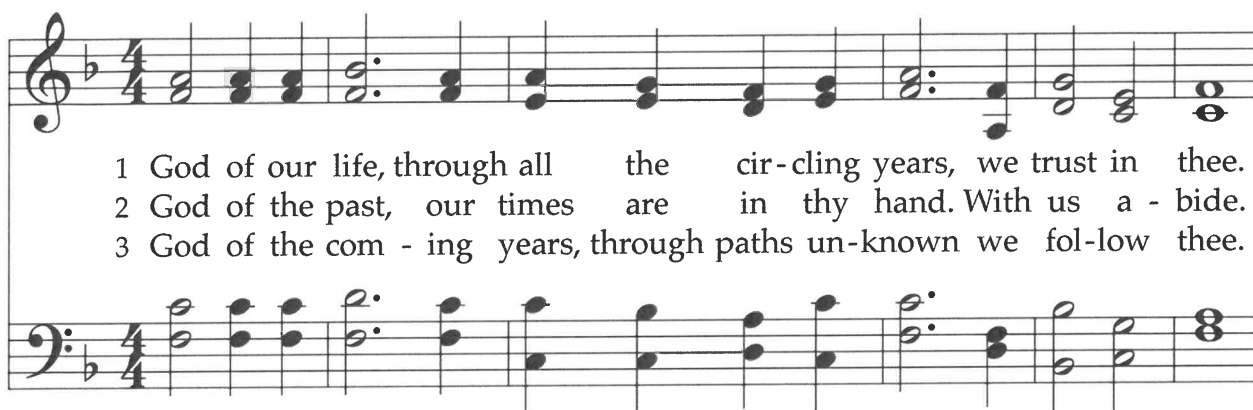
1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise



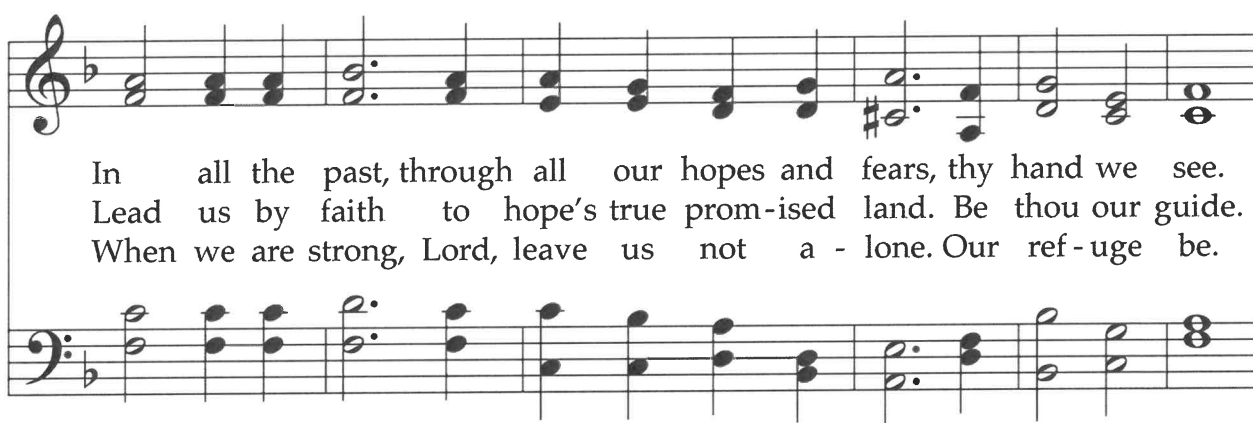
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.

God of Our Life

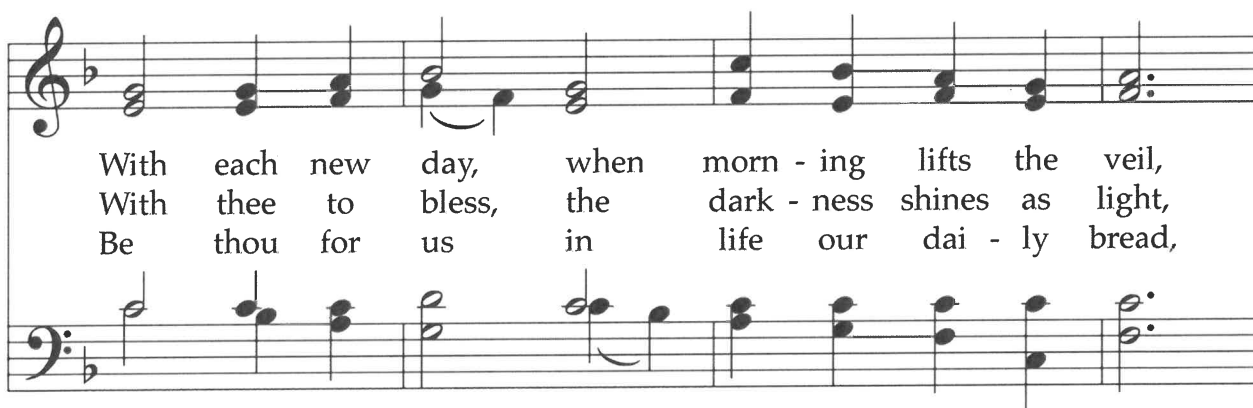
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1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,



we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today . . .</p> <p>12:30 PM Thriving Congregations Team (at Jane Brown's home)</p> <p>8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM Fellowship</p>	<p>Monday, May 15</p> <p>9:00 AM – 12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</p> <p>10:00 AM Day of Remembrance Moment of Silence</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>5:30 PM Vigil for youth affected by gun violence (Downtown at the Bull)</p> <p>7:00 PM Session examines new officers for ordination (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 16</p> <p>6:15 PM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>Way of Love</i></p> <p><i>Newsletter today</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, May 17</p> <p>11:00 AM (via Zoom) Book Study: <i>Way of Love</i></p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, May 18</p> <p>9:00 AM – 12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</p> <p><i>Ascension of the Lord</i></p>	<p>Friday, May 19</p>	<p>Saturday, May 20</p> <p>6:00 PM First Friends Potluck at the home of Mac & Wendy McCorkle</p>	<p>Sunday, May 21 7th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation Classes Membership Class (Room 205 in the CE building)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship with Ordination and Installation of Officers</p> <p>8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnMs 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, Designated Associate Pastor
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