

Pride Sunday

**First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina**

June 25, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pride Sunday

June 25, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken
Andrew Whiteman, guitar

Gaelic melody

INTROIT

Sing Praise to the Lord!

Laudate Dominum

*Sing praise to the Lord! Praise God in the height; rejoice in his word, you angels of light;
O heavens, adore him by whom you were made, and worship before him in brightness arrayed.*

*Sing praise to the Lord! Thanksgiving and song to him be outpoured all ages along;
For love in creation, for heaven restored, for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kerry Holbrook

One: Since the beginning of time, God has called us to covenant life.

All: **In the first glimmers of the cosmos,
God knew each of us by name,
God loved each of us.**

One: God has made a covenant with us,
promising to love us fully as we are,
for we are made in the image of God.

All: **All God asks is that we bear witness to this love
through worship and actions.**

One: God has called us into this space, this moment right now.

All: **A moment of time to be fully as we are, fully with God.
Come, let us worship God!**

*HYMN (see insert)

O God Beyond All Praising

Thaxted

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O Holy God, you have shown us your transforming power—
the incarnational mystery of a body made new and different,
the resurrection glory of new life and existence,
the ascension of a lonely life to an abundant one.**

Yet we have failed to fully grasp the transformational power of your love.

When you have called for our boldness, we have chosen comfort.

When you have invited us to new ways, we have fallen back to old habits.

When you have called us to create bridges, we have deepened chasms of division.

When you have called us to love radically, we have chosen neutrality.

**All who are able, please stand.*

Forgive us, O God, for how we have failed you and failed the beloved of your kingdom.
 In your mercy, renew us and make us whole;
 craft us ever-more into the likeness of Christ
 and inspire our days to be adventures in trust and devotion to you.
 In your saving goodness, Lord, hear our prayer...

Silent Reflection

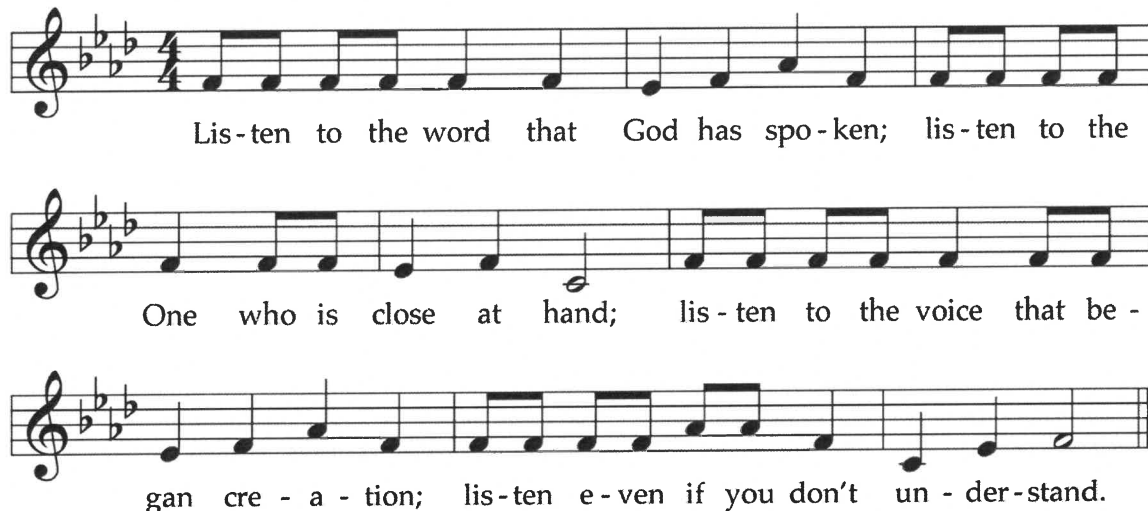
Assurance of Forgiveness

***THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*All, sung twice*)

Listen



Lis-ten to the word that God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the
 One who is close at hand; lis-ten to the voice that be -
 gan cre - a - tion; lis-ten e-ven if you don't un - der-stand.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 6:1b-11

(Pew Bible, NT page 156)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:24-39

(Pew Bible, NT page 10)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Amy Bowers Heit

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Amy Bowers Heit

(*Silent reflection*)

***HYMN NO. 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

They'll Know We Are Christians

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith

Esther Hethcox

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

(*Affirmation continues next page.*)

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
 Jesus was crucified,
 suffering the depths of human pain
 and giving his life for the sins of the world.
 God raised this Jesus from the dead,
 vindicating his sinless life,
 breaking the power of sin and evil,
 delivering us from death to life eternal.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Amy Sanchez

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Robert Lowry, arr. Burkhardt

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
 I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
 It sounds an echo in my soul; how can I keep from singing?*

*What if my joys and comforts die, I know that truth is living.
 What though the darkness 'round me close? Still truth its light is giving.
 No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
 Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it.
 And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
 The peace from Love makes fresh my heart, a song of hope is springing.
 All things are mine since truth I've found; how can I keep from singing?*

(The Hunger for Change Offering is received following the anthem.)

**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!***

LITANY OF LOVE (*see insert*)

Malarie Schexnider, Lexy Rile, Cris Rivera

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

**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. 301**

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

***BENEDICTION**

Amy Bowers Heit

***POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in a minor

J.S. Bach

Later Today . . .

The **Thriving Congregations Committee** will hold a listening session following worship from 12:15-1:15 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. You are welcome to attend even if you did not sign up.

The public is invited to the **Transformation-Durham Rally** supporting trans youth at 1:00 p.m. in the FPC Parking lot.



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 we welcome **Amy Bowers Heit** to the pulpit. Amy joined the FPC pastoral staff about a year ago. She assists with pastoral care duties. Amy grew up in Raleigh and has lived in Durham for over 10 years now. She is a graduate of Princeton Seminary. She and husband Jamey are parents to daughters, Isla and Annie. For the last few years, Amy has worked as a Chaplain CPE Resident at both UNC Rex Hospital in Raleigh and the Durham VA, providing spiritual care and support to patients, families, and hospital staff. We are grateful to have Amy on staff!

Special thanks to **Andrew Whiteman** for providing guitar accompaniment in today's service.

The **flowers** are given by **Robert and Floalice Reaves** to the glory of God and in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary which was June 20th.

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 the audio/video console at the rear of the sanctuary. 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 liturgy were written by **Esther Hethcox** specifically for Pride Sunday.

The bulletin cover was retrieved June 22, 2023 from https://www.freepik.com/premium-ai-image/stained-glass-window-with-cross-word-jesus-it_40492404.htm (a free download).

These Days devotional books for July-September 2023 have arrived. Pick up a free copy in the foyer or narthex while supplies last.

Our Joys and Concerns

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following:

- **Laura Hanson and David, Vera, and Guy Cecelski** on the death of Laura's mother. **Pam Hanson** passed away on June 17.
- **Claiborne and John Clark** on the death of their father and beloved FPC member, **Arthur Clark**. Arthur passed away on June 22 at the age of 100.

Concerns:

- **Phil Boyle**, husband of **Scottie Seawell** and father of **Erin, Rachel, and Lauren Boyle**, is in hospice care at the Bryan Hospice Home in Pittsboro.
- **Chuck Wilson** is recovering from hand surgery.
- **Dennis Tiede**, nephew of Mary-Jo Keenan, has been diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

Bob Breitweiser
Cathy Guajardo
George Kafula
Alfred Tisdale

Wes Carson
Kerry Holbrook
Bet Lawson
Carol Wills

Paul Cornsweet
Jenni James
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Susan Cyr
Lee House
Franzi Rokoske

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

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

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Jane Austin, friend of the congregation
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Grace, Chris James' great-niece
Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore
Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Michelle Cantrell, niece of Conrad Carter
Father of Andres, friend of the congregation
Marilyn Hedgpeth, retired FPC Associate Pastor
Clem O'Brien, father-in-law of Mindy Douglas
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Sharing Worship Flowers Following Worship

Visiting someone after worship? Please take them a bouquet, courtesy of the FPC Diaconate! About 10 minutes after worship--after you're done shaking the preacher's hand!--please head to the kitchen to pick up a beautiful bouquet of flowers arranged by a Deacon. Please tell the Deacon who arranged the flowers the recipient's name. Thank you for spreading the beauty of God's creation--these flowers bring joy to those unable to attend worship, recovering from illnesses, grieving, celebrating or simply in need of the reminder they are loved by their church and God. Please email Brianna Bennett (briannahonea@gmail.com) or Esther Hethcox (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org) with any questions. Thank you!

Help retire medical debt in North Carolina

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 this link with anyone who wants to support this campaign: <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/campaign/building-beloved-community/>.

Looking for a place to volunteer?

- **Church Office First floor weekday receptionists needed:**

Contact Sarah Wright (swright1951@gmail.com or 919-218-7890)

Sign up to serve: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4aaca28aafac61-first/1438266#/>

- **Communion servers needed:**

Contact Mary Ann Compton (maryannmac@bellsouth.net or 919-363-8822)

Sign up to serve: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea4ad2da46-communion2#/>

- **Ushers needed:** We are in need of ushers on Sunday mornings, especially on the second Sunday of the month. Please contact Esther Hethcox (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org) if you would like to serve. Training is available if you have not ushered before at FPC.

- **Media techs needed:** The audio and video consoles at the back of the sanctuary are operated by volunteers, and we need more. If you're not afraid of technology and are interested, please speak to one of the operators on any Sunday before or after worship or send an email to: mediatech@firstpres-durham.org. Middle and high school youth are particularly welcome.

The Hunger for Change Offering

You may use the small brown envelopes in the back of the pew for this offering.

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 Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger relief 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 are frequent recipients. FPC received a grant to purchase food supplies for our Walk-in Ministry.

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 giving!

O God Beyond All Praising

(Thaxted)



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Litany for Love

One: When God created the heavens and the earth, God called it all *good*.

All: Every one of us is good and beautiful in the eyes of God.

One: God created us in the image of Godself.

**All: We are God's beautiful creation,
whom God called into existence and community.**

One: As creatures made in the image of God,
we are created with worth and for dignity.

**All: Together we are the fullness of God's love in the world,
a love that is expansive and diverse.**

One: We are a community of individual experiences,
we show how God loves *all*.

**All: All gender identities and expressions;
all ways of being family;
all ways of being fully human.**

One: We are made better as a community when we embrace our queer siblings,
affirming their worth and loving their all.

All: We are God's covenant people, called to love.

One: We are also called to protect
any person who is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.

All: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.

One: Until we are all free, none of us is free.

**All: May we be co-creators in God's kingdom,
working to affirm, honor and value all God creates and calls good.**

One: May we be shepherds of healing,
welcoming the hurt and wounded into our flock.

**All: May we be hosts of reconciliation
by setting a wide, open table for all to gather around.**

One: May we be gardeners of freedom, sowing seeds of hope,
so all life may be abundant.

**All: We are God's people, all that we are, all that we ever will be.
Let us bask in this love.
Let us work in this love. Amen.**

We Are One in the Spirit 300

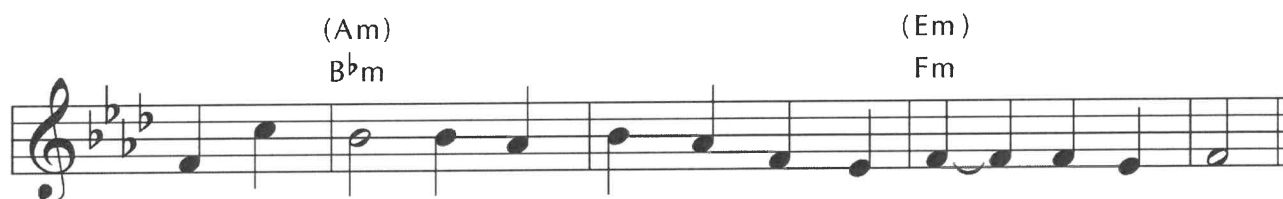
They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Let Us Build a House

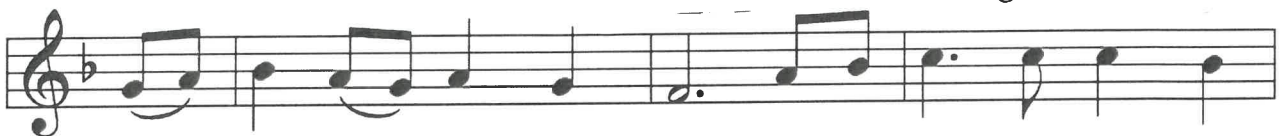
All Are Welcome



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.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>1:00 PM Trans-Youth Support Rally (FPC Parking lot)</p> <p>8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (Meet via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, June 26</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 27</p> <p>11:30 AM DayTimers' Luncheon (Bennett Pointe Grill)</p> <p><i>Newsletter today</i></p>	<p>Wednesday June 28</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff</p> <p>The Chancel Choir is on summer break.</p>
<p>Thursday, June 29</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews</p>	<p>Friday, June 30</p>	<p>Saturday, July 1</p>	<p>Sunday, July 2 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:45 AM Summer Faith Formation class for children Faith & Community and Lectionary classes</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</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: <http://firstpres-durham.org>

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