

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 13, 2023

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

### PRELUDE

*Deep River*

Spiritual, arr. Wilbur Held

### INTROIT

*My Life Flows On*

Robert Lowry

Dan Huff, tenor

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing,  
it finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We gather to worship our God,  
All: **who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.**  
Leader: We gather to follow Jesus,  
All: **who encourages us to never fear, for he is near.**  
Leader: We gather to be filled with the Spirit,  
All: **who anoints us so we can go to serve our world.**

### \*HYMN NO. 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

*Foundation*

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**In truth, God of silence and seas,  
we are more adept at making waves than calming storms.  
We find it easier to push people out of the boat,  
rather than make room for those who are different from us.  
And our lives are such a whirlwind of activity,  
that we do not notice your presence  
or hear your sheer silence singing your shalom to us.**

(Prayer continues next page.)

\*All who are able, please stand.

Have mercy on us, God of patience.  
Grab hold of us to keep us from drowning in our oceans of temptations.  
Give us the words to speak of your hope to others.  
Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ,  
which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine.

Silent Reflection  
Assurance of Forgiveness

**\*THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (all sing)

Sung to *Bunessan*

*Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;  
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 14:22-33

(Pew Bible, NT page 16)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Cordelia Ramont

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE**

Psalm 85:7-13

Dan Huff, cantor

*(After the refrain has been introduced by the organist and the cantor,  
please join in singing the refrain where indicated (R).)*



Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what you are saying, Lord,  
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you. **R**

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

You, Lord, will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you,  
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet. **R**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

1 Kings 19:9-18

(Pew Bible, OT page 326)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

*"The Question"*

Mindy Douglas

*(Silent reflection)*

**\*HYMN NO. 22**

*God of the Sparrow*

*Roeder*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison) (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Esther Hethcox

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

**In sovereign love God created the world good**

**and makes everyone equally in God's image**

**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**

John Weicher

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

*Deep River*

Spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.*

*Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

*Oh, don't you want to go, to the Gospel feast;*

*That Promised Land,*

*Where all is peace?*

*Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

*\*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!***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

John Weicher

**TAIZÉ CHANT**

*Calm to the Waves (sung twice)*

*Calm Seas*

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be

still." Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice.

**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. 687**

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*St. Anne*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary in c minor*

Anon (18th century)

**SUMMER SIZZLE later today!** Everyone is invited to the Momsen-Hudson home (1339 Holden Roberts Farm Road, Hillsborough) for our all-church fellowship and potluck dinner. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share and a water bottle, along with a lawn chair.



**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.

We thank **Dan Huff** for providing music leadership for today's worship. Dan and his wife **Ann** are newer members of the church. Dan is retired from UNC-Chapel Hill where he was the head of music education from 1989-2021. He was inducted into *The Order of the Long Leaf Pine* in 2021, in recognition of his contribution to music and music education in North Carolina.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Dorothy Burns Graham**, on the anniversary of her birth, August 10, 1937, by her daughter, **Scottie Seawell**, and granddaughters, **Erin, Rachel, and Lauren Boyle**.

**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.

**Portions of today's liturgy** are from *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Thom M. Shuman* ([lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)), and *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. The *Psalm 85* response is by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL, copyright 1988. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



**Please join the Harvard family at  
a celebratory reception honoring Joe and Carlisle Harvard  
on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.**

**Sunday, August 20  
immediately following worship in Watts-Hill Hall**

**Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.  
Please, no presents; however, if you feel so inclined,  
a \$60 gift to the Iglesia Emanuel Food Pantry  
to help keep 'love in action', has been suggested.**

**Send gift to:**

**Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel  
2504 N Roxboro  
Durham NC 27704.**

## ~ Joys and Concerns ~

**Marriage Announcement:** *Sallie Taylor-Parker* (daughter of *Rob Parker and Beth Taylor*) and *Victor Lorenzo* were married in Newland, NC on July 23. *Janice Odom*, who officiated at Sallie's parents' ceremony in 1987, officiated at Sallie and Victor's ceremony.

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

- *Laura and Torrell Armstrong, Mason* and *David* on the death of Laura's father (Mason and David's grandfather). *Tom Clift* died last week in Florida.
- *Emily Wilkins* on the death of her friend Véronique's mother who died peacefully on August 7 in Bruxelles, Belgium.

**Memorial Service:** *Wes Carson*, FPC member and husband of *Carol Carson*, died August 2 at The Forest at Duke. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held for Wes on Saturday, September 2 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of FPC.

### **Concerns:**

- *Lorenzo Mbugua*, recovering from a knee injury
- *Emily Wilkins*, fell this week and broke her ankle
- *Carol Wills* is in rehab at Southpoint Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center following hip surgery (fell at home last Sunday)
- *John C. Weicher*, father of John Weicher
- *The Congregation of Greater Waltown United Holy Church of Durham* whose buildings were destroyed by fire recently.

<i>Bob Breitweiser</i>	<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Susan Cyr</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>
<i>Lee House</i>	<i>George Kafula</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>		
<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>			

### **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**

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*Sylvia Elder*, grandmother of Esther Hethcox

*Grace*, Chris James' great-niece

*Lynn Guerrant*, friend of Mindy Douglas

*Larry Hethcox*, father of Esther Hethcox

*Gabe Lamazares*, assoc. rector, St. Philip's Episcopal

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

*Paul McCombs*, friend of Walk-in Ministry

*Alan Petersburg*, brother-in-law of Jenni James

*Calvin Rogers*, friend of Steve Rimmer

*Dennis Tiede*, nephew of Mary-Jo Keenan

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

## **FIRST FRIENDS AUGUST POTLUCK**

**Saturday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m.**

**at the home of Tyler and Deborah Momsen-Hudson**

1339 Holden Roberts Farm Road, Hillsborough

Bring a favorite dish to share.

RSVP via the EVITE.

First Friends is a monthly gathering of adults for a meal, socializing, games, or sometimes service projects. Most gatherings are hosted in a participant's home or backyard, and children of all ages are welcome to join the fun. This group also enjoys an annual beach trip to the NC coast. New friends are always welcome.

Not getting the EVITES? Email [v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org) to have your name and email added to this group's list of participants.

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## **RACIAL EQUITY**

### **Task Force**

### **"Enslavement, Presbyterianism, and the Burwells"**

-- presented by Hillsborough Presbyterian Church  
and The Burwell School & Historic Site.

**Friday, August 25 at 7:15 p.m.**

**Hillsborough Presbyterian Church**

**102 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough, NC**

This will be a presentation on the historical connection between slavery and the Presbyterian Church, highlighting the role of local minister and educator, Robert Burwell. FPC's **Vernon Cooper** will be one of the speakers. We do hope many of you can attend.

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### **Boxes of fresh vegetables now delivered weekly to FPC – Order your box today!**

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, done in partnership with Sankofa Farms in Orange County is now offering summer vegetables to participating congregations. Your order of vegetables will be boxed and delivered to FPC every Thursday afternoon, through September 7, for pickup between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the church lobby, or can be delivered to Westminster Presbyterian from 6:00-7:30 p.m. If you wish to participate, go to the Sankofa Farms website, and once there, click on "Shop." Pay at checkout. The website is [www.sankofafarms.com](http://www.sankofafarms.com). For more information, contact Tom Bacon or Johanna and George Bernhardt.

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## How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



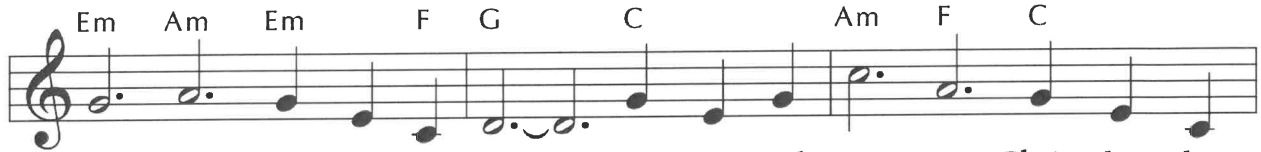
## Verse 3 only

# Christ Be Beside Me

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1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -  
2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -  
3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



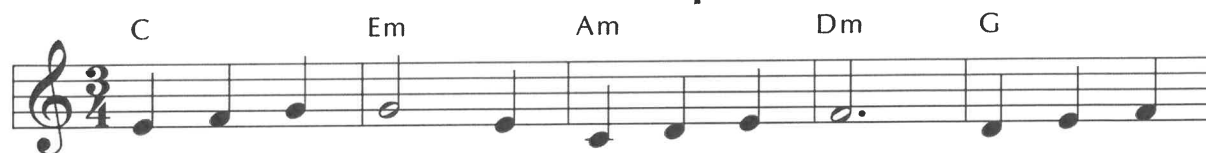
hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -  
round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my  
all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.  
sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.  
see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

## 22

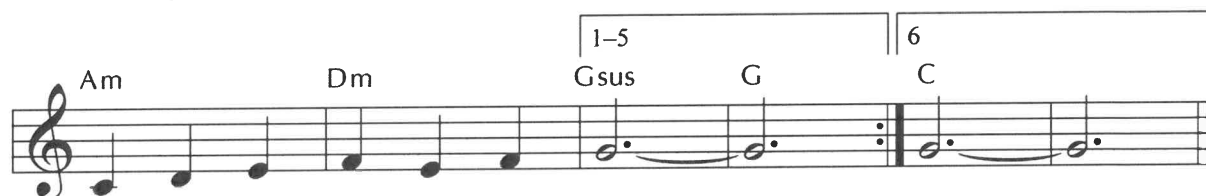
## God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

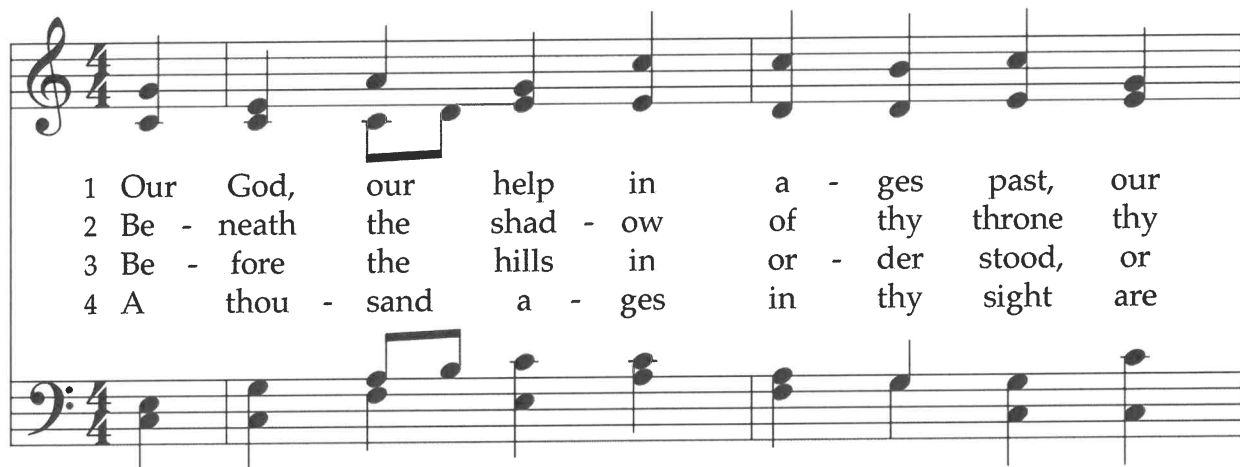


How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

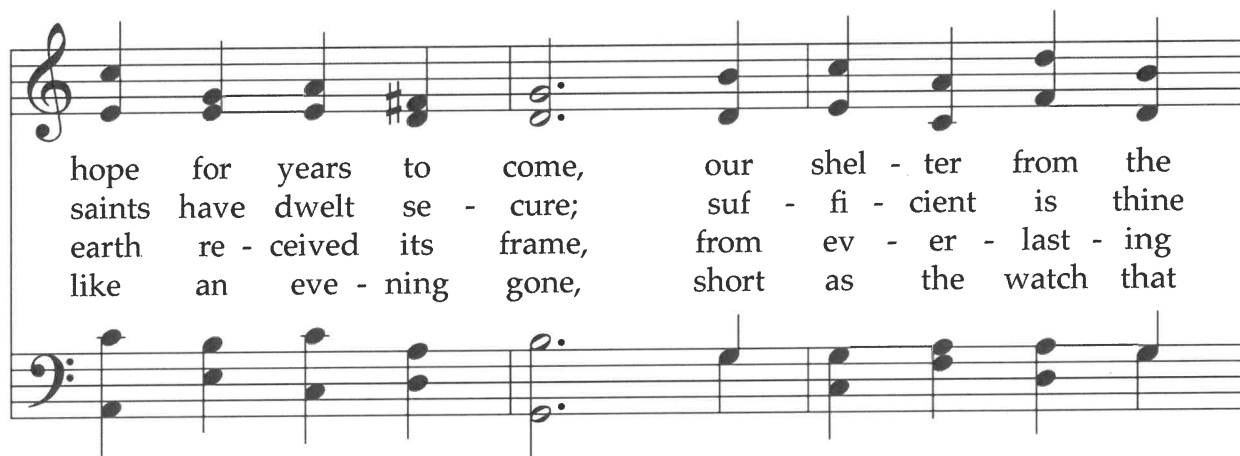
*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

# 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

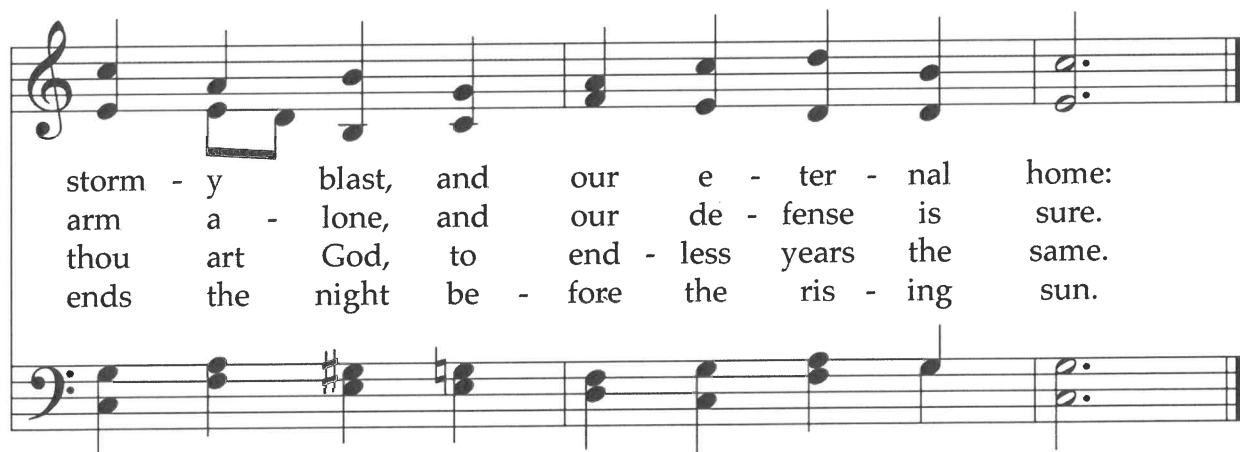
(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

## The Week at a Glance!

<b>Later Today</b>  <b>5:00-7:00 PM</b> Summer Sizzle: All-Church Fellowship & Dinner (at the home of Tyler & Deborah Momsen-Hudson – 1339 Holden Roberts Road, Hillsborough)	<b>Monday, August 14</b>  Walk-in Ministry interviews  <b>1:30 PM</b> Worship Planning  <b>6:00 PM</b> Christian Education/ Property Committees (via Zoom)  <b>6:30 PM</b> Service & Mission Committee (via Zoom)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship & the Arts Committee (Watts-Hill Hall)	<b>Tuesday, August 15</b>  <b>5:00 PM</b> Finance Committee	<b>Wednesday August 16</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> All Staff  <b>No Chancel Choir rehearsal</b>
<b>Thursday, August 17</b>  <b>9:00 AM-12 Noon</b> Walk-in Ministry interviews  <b>3:30-5:30 PM</b> Pick up CSA Vegetable boxes  <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth Excursion (Bull City Escape)	<b>Friday, August 18</b>	<b>Saturday, August 19</b>  <b>2:00 PM</b> Ordination Service for Haley Stephenson as Chaplain Fellow at the Durham VA Hospital (FPC Sanctuary)  <b>6:00 PM</b> First Friends Potluck at the home of Tyler & Deborah Momsen- Hudson	<b>Sunday, August 20</b> 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time  <b>9:45 AM</b> Summer Faith Formation Children's Class Lectionary Class  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship  <b>12:15 PM</b> Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Joe & Carlisle Harvard (Reception in Watts-Hill Hall)

### 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](mailto: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**