



**First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina**

August 20, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Esther Hethcox

PRELUDE

In the Singing

Carlton Young

INTROIT

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

Cathy Snell, soloist

Salley Gardens
(Irish folk tune)

*Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise, each shining light!
Sing, planets in your orbits; sing, stars all burning bright!
Sing praise, you winds and tempests, you driving rain and snow!
Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!*

*Sing praises, all you creatures in whom God takes delight:
you whales that roam the oceans, you eagles in your flight!
Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides, you cattle in the stall!
Though wordless, sing your praises to God who made you all!*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Here we can come together, people searching for healing and hope:

People: here we are met by the One who would bless us with abundant life.

Leader: Here we are called to gather as the family of God:

People: here we may find those who are strangers, yet are our beloved siblings.

Leader: Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

**People: here we are welcomed and embraced by the One
whose arms are open to all.**

***HYMN NO. 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Lauda Anima

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**We admit, Providing God,
that we have difficulties living as your children.**

**We could live in unity,
but our words fracture relationships with family and friends.**

**We have been shown the way to your kingdom,
but turn into naive guides when asked for directions by others.**

**When we could offer others the precious oil of peace,
we hand them the vinegar of despair and rejection.**

*All who are able, please stand.

**Have mercy on us, Healing Heart, have mercy on us.
When you call to us, may we listen with open ears,
understand with embracing hearts,
and share your grace with others,
even as we have been graced by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Silent Reflection
Assurance of Forgiveness

***THE PEACE**

Mindy Douglas

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.*

PSALTER READING

Psalm 67

(Pew Bible, OT page 529)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jennie Alwood

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:21-28

(Pew Bible, NT page 17)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Choose Your Own Adventure"

John Weicher

(*Silent reflection*)

***HYMN NO. 731**

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Repton

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison)

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Mindy Douglas

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.

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

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Solo

Like Noah's Weary Dove

Wayne L. Wold

*Like Noah's weary dove, that soared the earth around,
but not a resting place above the cheerless waters found;
O cease, my wandering soul, on restless wings to roam;
all the wide world, to either pole, has not for thee a home.*

*Behold the ark of God, behold the open door;
hasten to gain that dear abode, and rove, my soul no more.
There, safe thou shall abide, there, sweet shall be thy rest,
and every longing satisfied, with full salvation blest.*

**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

Esther Hethcox

HYMN NO. 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the third system.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

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.**

LITANY OF FAREWELL FOR COURTNEY TRUTNA PALEY

Mindy Douglas, John Weicher

Leader: We send you forth as a disciple of Jesus Christ and as an ambassador of friendship, spreading the good news of God's love in your new surroundings. Go in the spirit of Christ. Be steadfast in your devotion to him.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Know that your ministry with us has served the cause of Christ in this community. Well done, good and faithful servant!

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: May your commitment to Christ grow as you enter another community and another congregation.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Remember that even though we will be separated in space, our shared faith in Jesus Christ will keep us connected.

People: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

All: **Gracious God, a wandering Aramean is our ancestor
and you have been with us every step of the way on the long journey of faith.
Go now with Courtney, we pray.
Keep her faithful to you, in prayer, worship, service,
and in the new relationships she will make.
Give her traveling mercies and a new community of faith
through which she may continue to serve you.
May our friendship with her continue, and may we ever be one in Christ. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Ar Hyd Y Nos

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

***POSTLUDE**

Fugue in C

Vincent Lubeck

Immediately following worship please join the Harvard family in Watts-Hill Hall at a celebratory reception honoring Carlisle and Joe Harvard on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.



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.

The *flowers* are being given by *Rebecca and Banks Harvard* to the glory of God and in celebration of their parents, *Carlisle and Joe Harvard*, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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 taken from *Lectionary Liturgies*.

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Ordination Service: The Presbytery of New Hope held an ordination service for *Haley Winslow Stephenson* at FPC yesterday, August 19. Haley will serve as a Chaplain Fellow at the Durham VA Medical Center.

Concerns:

Peggy Hammond, recovering from the COVID virus
The citizens of Maui who have been displaced by wildfires.

<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 Lesher-Thomas</i>
<i>Lorenzo Mbugua</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>	<i>Emily Wilkins</i>

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*
Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*
Hillcrest Convalescent: *Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Jim Wolfe*
Southpoint Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center: *Carol Wills*

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
John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to victims of Maui Wildfires

Multiple fires continue to burn in Hawaii on the islands of Maui and Hawaii (The Big Island). While there are no PC(USA) congregations on those islands, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in touch with a pastor on O'ahu and the Presbytery of the Pacific to discuss ways PDA can support those impacted by the devastating fires. An initial response grant has been disbursed to address emergency needs, and PDA will be present through the long-term recovery phase. You can give to FPC (memo Maui Wildfires). We will send our funds to PDA at the end of September. To help now, you can give via phone by calling 1-800-872-3283. To send a check directly to PDA, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line (DR000165 - Maui) and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Fresh vegetables available through September 7 ORDER IN ADVANCE FOR PICK UP ON THURSDAYS

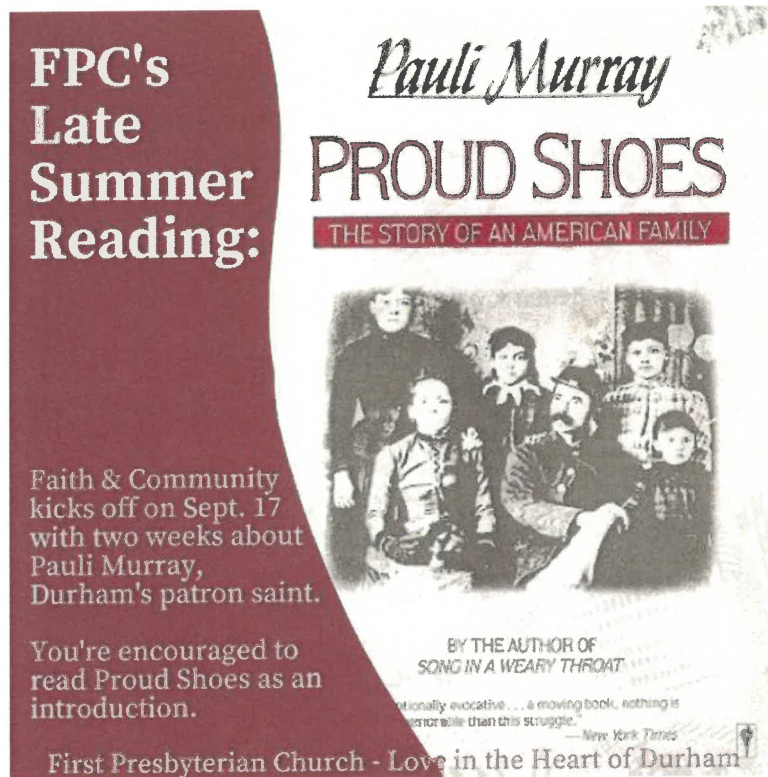
The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, done in partnership with Sankofa Farms in Orange County, is now selling tomatoes, squash, peppers, and much more during this vegetable cycle. The boxes of vegetables are delivered to FPC every Thursday afternoon for pickup between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. in the church lobby, or at Westminster Pres from 6:00-7:30. This cycle will run for six weeks, through September 7. 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 to the Sankofa Farms website, and once there, click on "Shop." The website is www.sankofafarms.com. For more information feel free to contact *Tom Bacon* or *Johanna and George Bernhardt*.



Save the Date!

Fall Kickoff
Sunday, September 10
9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

Details forthcoming.
Stay tuned.



Looking for some late-summer reading? Pick up *Proud Shoes*, by Pauli Murray! The Faith & Community class starts back up on September 17 with two weeks of discussion about this unofficial patron saint of Durham. This book is a great introduction/refresher. And let's be honest - you were uninspired by your current books, anyway. Join us in-person in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m. on September 17 and September 24.



“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** (an elder at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church) will be one of the speakers. We do hope many of you can attend.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D)

E^b

(A)

B^b

(Bm)

Cm

(G)

A^b

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D)

E^b

(A)

B^b

(D)

E^b

(G)

A^b

(Em)

Fm

(A)

B^b(F[#]m)

Gm



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm)

Cm

(G)

A^b

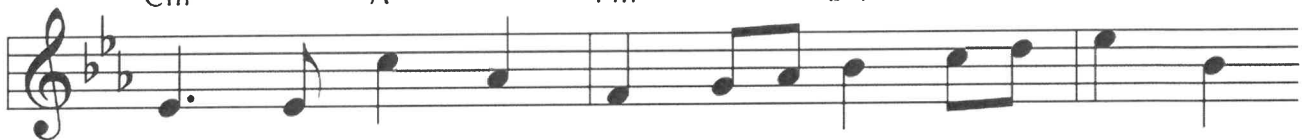
(Em)

Fm

(A7)

B^b7

(D)

E^b

while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7)

B^b7

(B)

C

(Em)

Fm

(G) (A7)

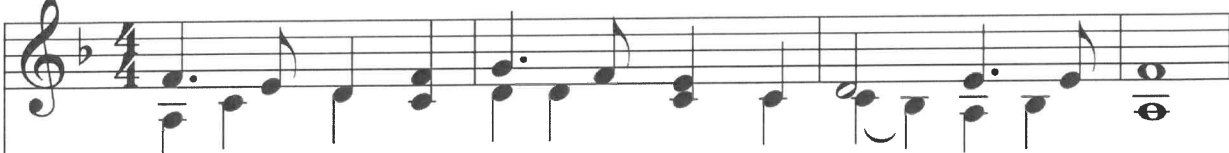
A^b B^b7

(D)


E^b

ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.


Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



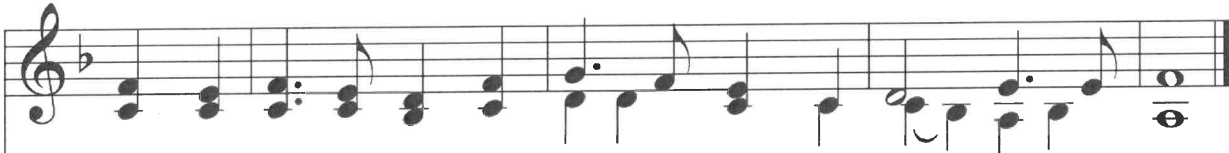
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today 12:15 PM Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Joe & Carlisle Harvard (Reception in Watts-Hill Hall)	Monday, August 21 9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews 1:30 PM Worship Planning	Tuesday, August 22	Wednesday August 23 1:00 PM Program Staff No Chancel Choir rehearsal
Thursday, August 24 9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews 3:30-5:30 PM Pick up CSA vegetable boxes	Friday, August 25 7:15 PM "Enslavement, Presbyterianism, and the Burwells" (at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church at 102 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough)	Saturday, August 26	Sunday, August 27 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 AM Summer Faith Formation Children's Class Lectionary Class 11:00 AM Worship During worship we will bless backpacks & briefcases.

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>

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ORGANIZED 1871