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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

AUGUST 27, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Two settings of "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

Love Is the Welcome

Drew Cummings, baritone

Scottish traditional
(Iona Community)

*Love is the welcome that comes from the heart
and opens the door to the stranger,
which makes its house a resting place for all,
for the sake of the Babe in the manger.*

Chorus: *Red is the blood of my love the crucified,
clear is the light of his glory,
pure is the heart of the Christ who died for me,
my love is fairer than any.*

*Love is the journey whose reason is faith,
though its step may be faint and hesitating,
but though the march is long and the courage be not strong
in its end its fulfillment is waiting. (Chorus)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 46)

John Weicher

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

Leader: though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

*HYMN NO. 53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

Noel

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Heidi Biermann

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Forgiving God,

we confess that we let the weight of life overpower us.

**You call us to flourish in the face of oppressive powers,
but we shudder and make ourselves small.**

(Confession continues next page.)

*Those who are able, please stand.

**You call us to stand up to the things that threaten life and peace,
but we retreat in our distress and cowardice.
In your mercy,
forgive our fear that prevents us from following your call.
Grant us the courage to trust you above all else.
Equip us to present our whole selves to you,
seeking your good and acceptable and perfect will.**

Silent Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

People: we would now be lost to sin.

Leader: But it is the Lord who is on our side.

People: And so, we are forgiven.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

***THE PEACE**

Heidi Biermann

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 124

(Pew Bible, OT page 572)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:8-20

(Pew Bible, OT page 49)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Midwifing Hope"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***HYMN** (See page 6)

There Is a Line of Women

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (Blessing of backpacks)

Lenore Champion

Leader: God, we thank you for each student that is standing before us today with their backpacks. We have watched them grow and mature and learn more about you in the past. We pray for and bless them as they begin a new school year. May their faith and lives reflect the fruit of the Spirit as they learn, have fun, meet new friends, and experience all this new year brings. Amen.

Church Staff: May you *love* in a way that reflects Jesus in all you do, finding *joy* in learning and growing in school in your faith, and in your relationships with others. Even during difficult days, may you demonstrate the *peace* that comes from Jesus.

Family: As the school year begins, may you discover *patience* for yourself and others. When facing harsh words or actions, may you respond with *kindness*. May you act out of the true *generosity* of the heart and reflect the fruits of the Spirit as you interact with others.

Congregation: In all you do, may you show *faithfulness* to what you have learned at home and church. May your words and actions show *gentleness* toward yourself and others. Each day, may you discover *self-control* as you make choices that will help you grow at school, at home, and in your faith.

Leader: We bless you today.

Congregation: We promise to pray for you as you start a new school year.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Heidi Biermann

Offertory Solo

Wayfaring Stranger

American Folk Melody,
arr. Howard Helvey

*I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, I'm traveling through this world below;
there is no sickness, toil, nor danger, in that bright world to which I go.
I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home.*

*I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my pathway's rough and steep;
but golden fields lie out before me, where weary eyes no more shall weep.
I'm going there to see my mother, she said she'd meet me when I come;
I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home.*

*I'll soon be free from every trial, this form will rest beneath the sod;
I'll drop the cross of self-denial, and enter in my home with God.
I'm going there to see my Savior, who shed for me his precious blood;
I'm just a-going over Jordan, I'm just a-going over home.*

(The **Hunger for Change Offering** will be received following the solo.)

*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

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.

NEW MEMBERS SERVICE OF WELCOME

Mindy Douglas, Leah Graves, John Weicher

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

Sung Response

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

*HYMN NO. 175

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

J.S. Bach

Immediately following worship, all Faith Formation teachers for the upcoming year are invited to Watts-Hill Hall for lunch, connections, and planning.



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 given by ***Nancy and Riley Parker*** to the glory of God and in memory of Nancy's parents, ***Ted and Jerry Tyren***, who were devoted members of this church all their lives.

Thanks to Drew Cummings for his leadership of the music today. Drew is a long-time member of the choir and is the County Manager of Granville County. Drew also enjoys woodworking and biking.

New members were received into membership earlier today by the Session and will be welcomed and introduced during worship:

- **Mary Dunn** (goes by **Mimi**) lives in Durham. She is originally from Charleston, WV and was baptized into the Presbyterian Church. Mimi is a student at UNC School of Social Work. She enjoys playing tennis, cooking, baking, hiking with her dog Schuyler, reading, and writing. Mimi joins FPC by letter of transfer.
- **Matthew Eggleston** lives in Durham. He works in administration in the Economics Department at Duke University. Matthew was born in Pennsylvania and spent time in the UK growing up. He enjoys linguistics, calligraphy, mediaeval studies, costuming, and living history. Matthew joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith (baptized at Christ Community Church, Downingtown, PA).
- **Walker Winslow Stephenson** and his wife, **Haley Winslow Stephenson**, live in Durham. Haley is an ordained minister in the PC(USA) and currently serves as a Chaplain Fellow with the Durham VA Medical Center. Walker grew up in Greenville, NC where he was affiliated with the United Methodist Church. He is a program coordinator with UNC Global Affairs. His interests are photography and international communication. Walker joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

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 *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion (Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2)*.

Today's bulletin cover was submitted by **Mason Armstrong**. The midwives had to have courage to defend the sons against the intimidating pharaoh. It is a great show of bravery and inspiring to read.

**FPC's
Late
Summer
Reading:**

Faith & Community
kicks off on Sept. 17
with two weeks about
Pauli Murray,
Durham's patron saint.


You're encouraged to
read *Proud Shoes* as an
introduction.

First Presbyterian Church - Love in the Heart of Durham

Pauli Murray

PROUD SHOES

THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY



BY THE AUTHOR OF
SONG IN A WEARY THROAT

...a moving book, nothing is
more evocative... more than this struggle...
—New York Times

Save the Date!
FAITH FORMATION Fall Kickoff
Sunday, September 10
9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

Looking for some late-summer reading? Pick up *Proud Shoes*, by Pauli Murray!

The Faith & Community class returns on **Sunday, September 17** with two weeks of discussion about this unofficial patron saint of Durham. This book is a great introduction/refresher. Join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m.

There Is a Line of Women

John L. Bell

Johann Steurlein
WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

1 There is a line of wo - men, ex - tend - ing back to Eve,
2 So sing a song of Sa - rah, to laugh - ter she gave birth;
3 There is a line of wo - men who took on power - ful men,
4 So sing a song of Shiph - rah with Pu - ah at her hand,

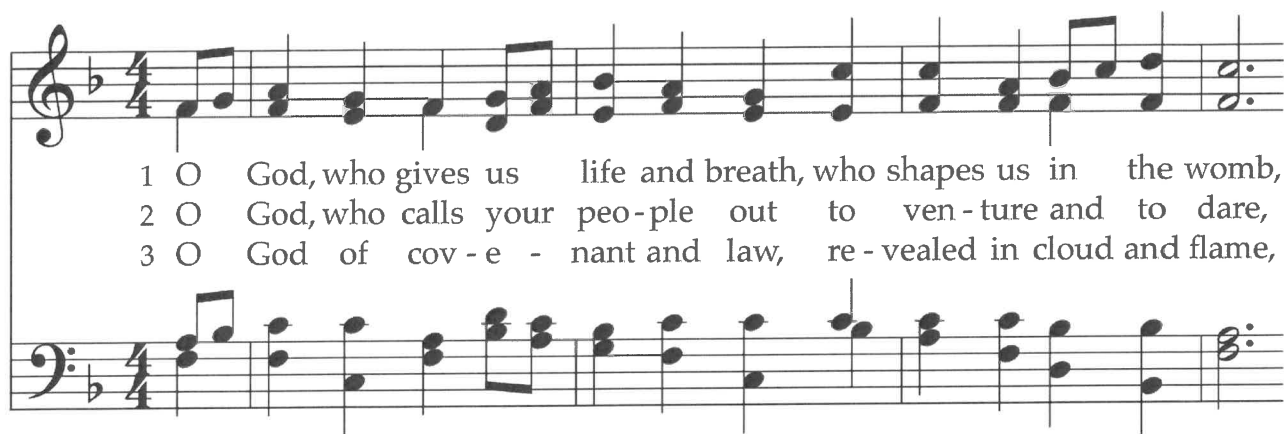
whose role in shap - ing hist - ory God on - ly could con - ceive.
and sing a song of Ta - mar who stood for wo - men's worth;
de - fy - ing laws and scru - ples to let life live a - gain.
en - gaged to kill male chil - dren, they foiled the king's com - mand.

And though, through end - less a - ges, their wit - ness was re - pressed,
and sing a song of Han - nah who bar - gained with her Lord;
And though, des - pite their tri - umph, their sto - ries stayed un - told,
And sing a song of Ra - hab who shel - tered spies and lied;

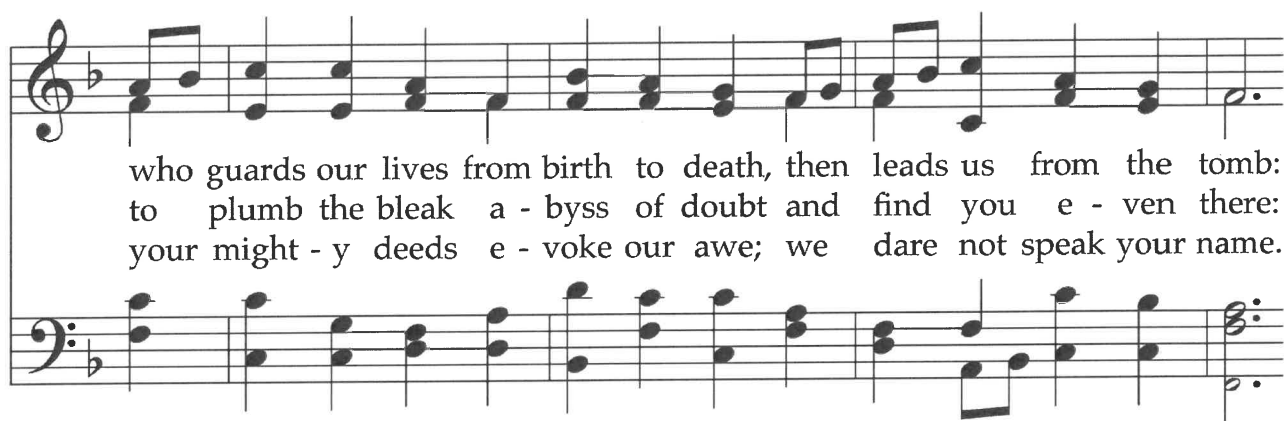
God val - ued and en - cour - aged them through whom the world was blessed.
and sing a song of Ma - ry who bore and bred God's Word.
God kept their num - ber grow - ing cre - a - tive, strong, and bold.
and sing a song of Es - ther, pre - vent - ing gen - o - cide.

5 There is a line of women who stood by Jesus' side,
who housed him while he ministered and held him when he died.
And though they claimed he'd risen, their news was deemed suspect
till Jesus stood among them, his womanly elect.

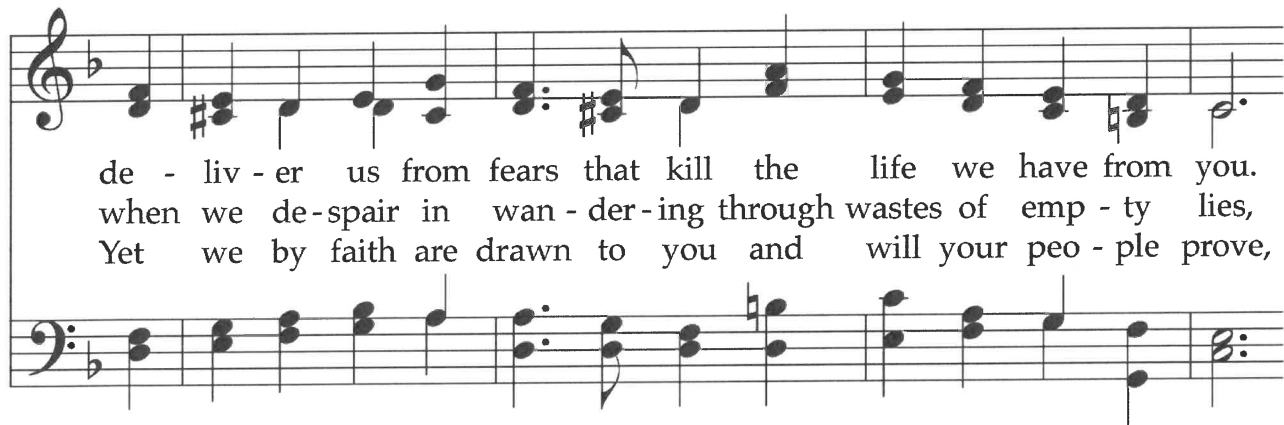
6 So sing a song of Anna who saw Christ's infant face;
and sing a song of Martha who gave him food and space;
and sing of all the Marys who heeded his requests,
and now at heaven's banquet are Jesus' fondest guests.



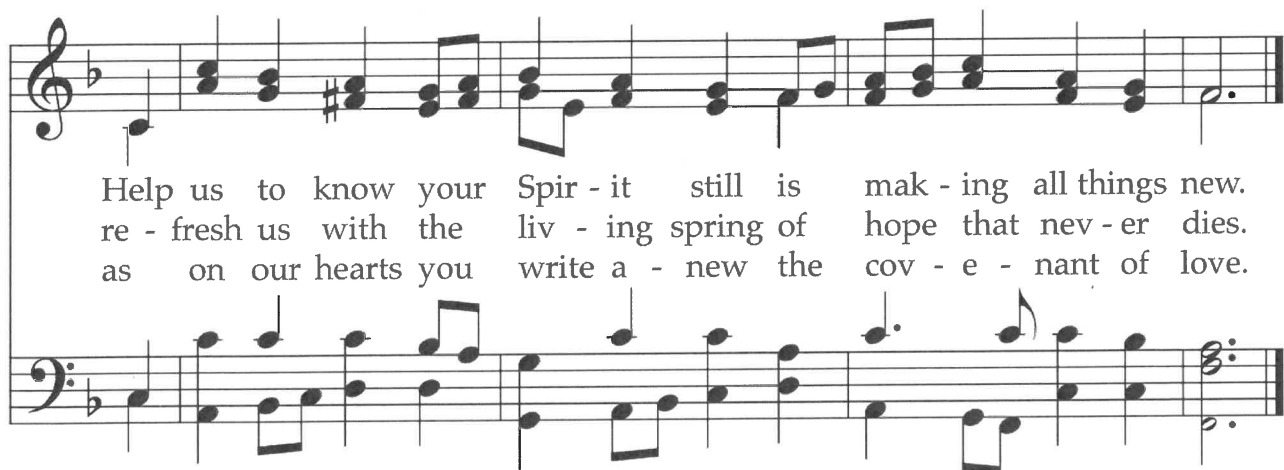
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its righ - teous - ness,
seek, and you shall find;
but by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

The first system of the musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note 'al', followed by a half rest, then a half note 'le', followed by a half rest, then a half note 'lu', followed by a half rest, and finally a half note 'ia,'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand that includes eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line starts with a half note 'al', followed by a half rest, then a half note 'le', followed by a half rest, then a half note 'lu', followed by a half rest, and finally a half note 'ia!'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and a melody in the right hand that includes eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today 12:15 – 2:00 PM Faith Formation Teachers Lunch, Connections and Planning (Watts-Hill Hall)	Monday, August 28 First Day for Durham Public Schools 9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews 1:30 PM Worship Planning 6:00 PM Diaconate 7:00 PM Session	Tuesday, August 29	Wednesday August 30 1:00 PM All Staff No Chancel Choir rehearsal (Chancel Choir rehearsals begin September 6.)
Thursday, August 31 9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews 3:30-5:30 PM Pick up CSA vegetable boxes	Friday, September 1	Saturday, September 2 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Wes Carson (sanctuary) followed by reception (Watts-Hill Hall)	Sunday, September 3 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 AM Lectionary Class No Children's Faith Formation Class 11:00 AM Worship

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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