

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Mission – Summer Freedom School

Esther Hethcox

Jane Williams

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Edwin Childs

INTROIT

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Southern Harmony

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Esther Hethcox

Leader: We observe this day as the Lord's Day,
giving thanks to God,
who gives justice to the oppressed,

Pulpit side: who forgives us and redeems us,

Font side: and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

All: Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!

*HYMN NO. 439

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (Psalm 103)

Stuttgart

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (sung, led by the choir)

Hymn No. 431

Forgive Us, Lord

Confesión

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.

*Those who are able, please stand.

EPISTLE READING Romans 14:1-12 (Pew Bible, NT page 163)
 Leader: The Word of the Lord. Carl Rist
People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:21-35 (Pew Bible, NT page 29)
 Leader: The Word of the Lord. Mindy Douglas
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Building Beloved Community: Forgiveness” Mindy Douglas
 (Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From *The Shorter Catechism – Q. 105*) John Weicher
 Leader: What do we pray for in the fifth petition?
All: In the fifth petition, which is,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,
we pray that God, for Christ’s sake, would freely pardon all our sins;
which we are then rather encouraged to ask,
because by God’s grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

***HYMN** *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* In Babilone
There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgement given.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS
 Invitation to Give John Weicher
 Offertory Anthem *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Southern Harmony,
 arr. James Mulholland

(The text to the anthem is found in the Hymnal, No. 475.)

***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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

... 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. 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

Nettleton

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary in a minor

Anonymous (18th cent. England)

The **Church office and Walk-in Ministry volunteers** will meet
to share information following worship in the Robert Daye Meeting Room.



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, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

The *flowers* are given by **Al and Judy Arrowood**, to the glory of God and in memory of those they lost last year.

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 **Call to Worship** (Lectionary Aids for 2022-2023, Year A Volume 56.1), **The Book of Confessions**, and **Glory to God** (The Presbyterian Hymnal).

Copies of sermons are available from the table in the foyer. Please feel free to take a copy for yourself and to share copies with our homebound members and friends of the church.

These Days devotional books for October-December 2023 have arrived. Free copies are available from the tables in the narthex and foyer, while supplies last.

Birds of Brazil Slide Show

Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

David and Judy Smith have visited Brazil many times on their birding trips. In January of this year, they went to the northeast corner of that wonderful county, a region explored less often by traveling birders, and they came home with lots of good photos to share.

~ Concerns ~

Condolences:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:

- **Christy and Jim Gudaitis** on the death of Christy's mom. **Mary Myers** died September 9.
- **Heidi Biermann** on the death of her grandmother. **Jean Jasman** died this week In Idaho at the age of 95.
- **Cheri Reese** on the death of her brother-in-law. **Dr. Edward D. Schultz** died September 14 in Pennsylvania.

Added this week:

Carol Wills is now a resident of Hillcrest Convalescent Center.

Lynda Frank, mother of Leah Graves, hospitalized in Oklahoma following heart surgery.

UNC-Chapel Hill students, faculty, and staff following an armed robbery incident on the campus.

Residents of Morrocco who survived a devastating earthquake near Marrakesh.

Residents of Libya who survived massive flooding in the port of Derna.

Bob Breitweiser	Paul Cornsweet	Kerry Holbrook	Jenni James	Lee House
George Kafala	Mitzi Leshner-Thomas	Franzi Rokoske	Alfred Tisdale	

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

Robert (Bob) Clark, regular online worshipper

Ellen Doyle OSU, friend of Karolyn Mangeot

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox

Rick Leinhas, friend of David & Judy Smith

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Dennis Tiede, nephew of Mary-Jo Keenan

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sylvia Elder, grandmother of Esther Hethcox

Jasper Yeatts Gunn, child of Wilson Gunn

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

Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Learn about FPC's CARE Team Ministry

On **Sunday, October 1**, in the **Faith & Community Class**, our members who have been serving on CARE teams (Communities Acting for Refugee Empowerment) helping refugee families to settle into U.S. life, will be discussing their experiences, triumphs, failures and joys. We hope that many church members will attend both to learn about this vital ministry of FPC and to be encouraged to participate on future CARE teams. **Join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m.** For more information, contact Gordon Campbell (mgordoncampbell73@gmail.com).

Philippians in Six Sessions

Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a prison cell as a letter to a community he loved. Even though he was imprisoned, this book is full of themes of joy and community life together. We have a lot to learn from Paul about faith during times of adversity. While we will focus on the study of scripture, this group will also be a way to deepen our spiritual lives and our fellowship with each other. **The class begins next Sunday, September 24. We will meet at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday in the basement parlor located across from the Youth Room (a.k.a. the Women's Spiritual Formation room).** For more information, please contact **Susan Dunlap**, sjd4@duke.edu.

Interfaith PRIDE Worship

All are invited to *The Garden of Beautiful Beloveds*, a multi-faith Pride worship service this **Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Church, Durham.** A reception follows the service.

DURHAM PRIDE Parade

Saturday, September 23, 2023 – The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m.

FPC will walk in the parade again this year. All are welcome to join us. Wear colorful and festive clothing and comfortable shoes. FPC participants, please meet on Duke's East Campus by 10:00 a.m., at the gazebo or at FPC's parade post #104 along the stonewall.

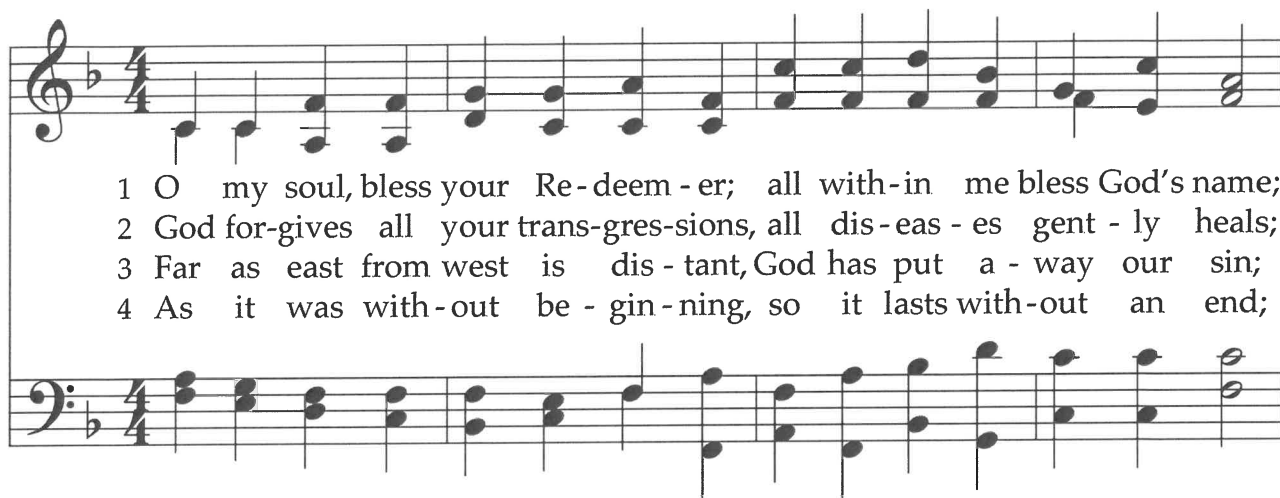


COMMUNITY-WIDE TRUNK or TREAT We need your help!

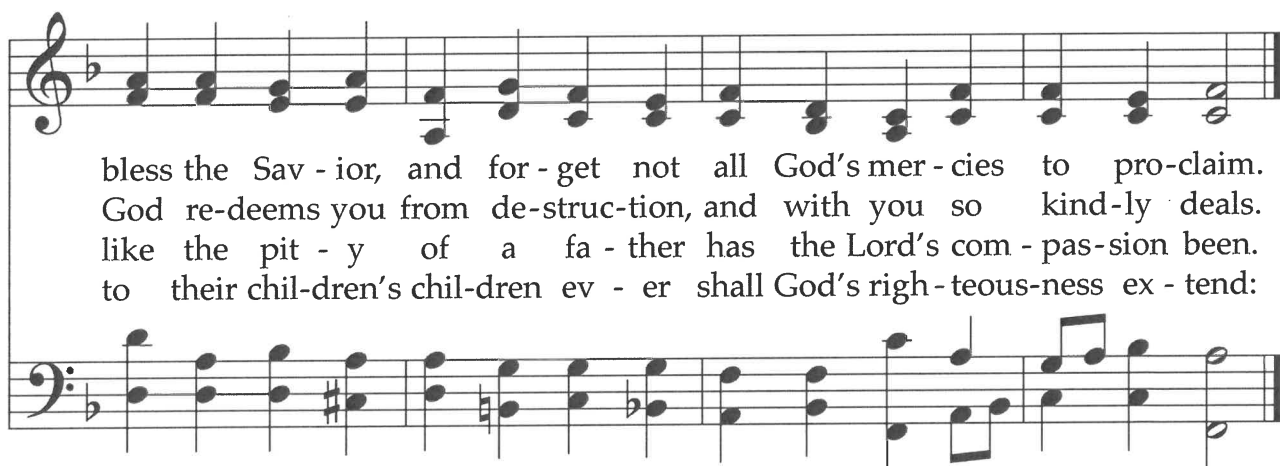
Have you ever wanted to really do it up right for Halloween, but feel like your house is just too much? Have we got a ministry for you! Last year, we had a blast with FPC's first-ever Trunk or Treat as FPC children and some kiddos from the community trick-or-treated at some tricked-out trunks in our parking lot. This year, we are hoping to invite even more of our neighbors and kids from the Day School, and we need your help! We need lots more trunks to be decorated and candy to be given out. There will also be facepainting and hotdogs (to balance out all that candy). All FPCers are invited to decorate a trunk. Contact **Stephen Berry** (stephen.d.berry@gmail.com) if you have questions and to sign up to decorate a trunk.

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer 439

(Psalm 103)



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



5 bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
6 God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:

5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
and are steadfast in God's way;
unto those who still remember
the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!

Forgive Us, Lord

Perdón, Señor

Fine Leader



1 For griev - ance and in - jus - tice:
 2 For weak - ness and trans - gres - sion:
 3 In your e - ter - nal mer - cy:
 1 Por tan - tas in - jus - ti - cias:
 2 Por to - das nues - tras fal - tas:
 3 En tu mi - se - ri - cor - dia:

Capo 3: (G) (A) (Bm)

(Bm)

(Dmaj7)

All B \flat C Dm *Fine* Dm Fmaj7

For - give us, Lord. for -
 Per - dón, Se - ñor. per -

to Beginning



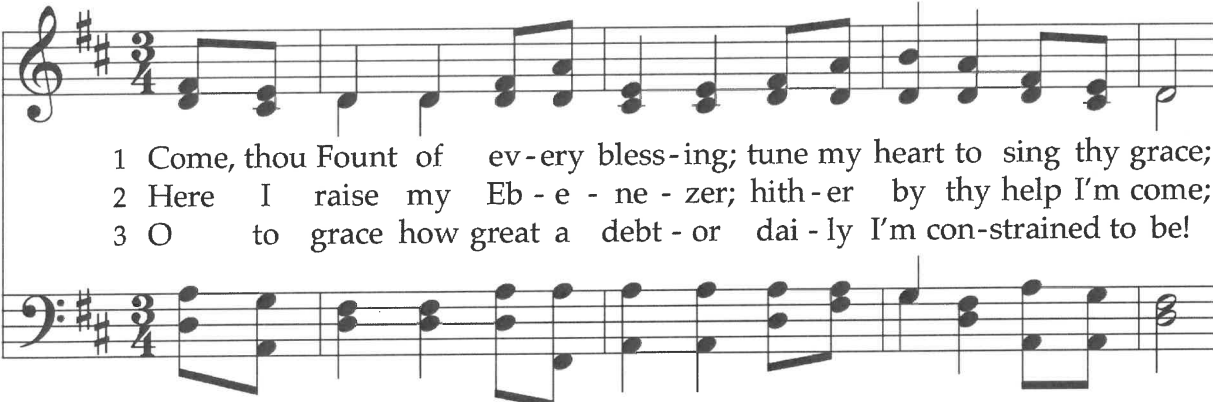
A - loof - ness and in - dif - ference:
 Re - sis - tance and re - bel - lion:
 In your sus - tain - ing grace:
 Por tan - ta in - di - fe - ren - cia:
 Por nues - tra re - bel - dí - a:
 En tu di - vi - na gra - cia:

to Beginning

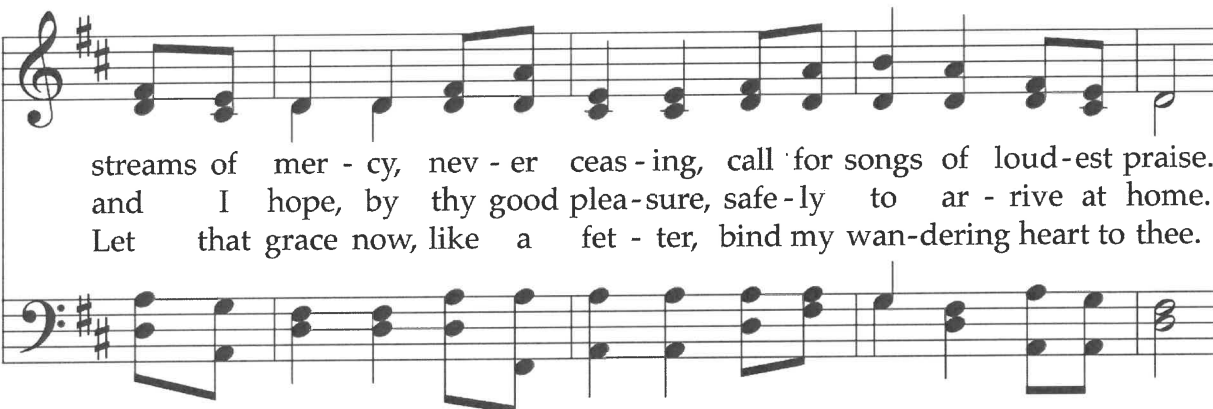
(G) (A) (Bm) (Em) (Bm) (G) (A) (Bm)
 B \flat C Dm Gm Dm B \flat C Dm

give us, Lord. for - give us, Lord.
 dón, Se - ñor. per - dón, Se - ñor.

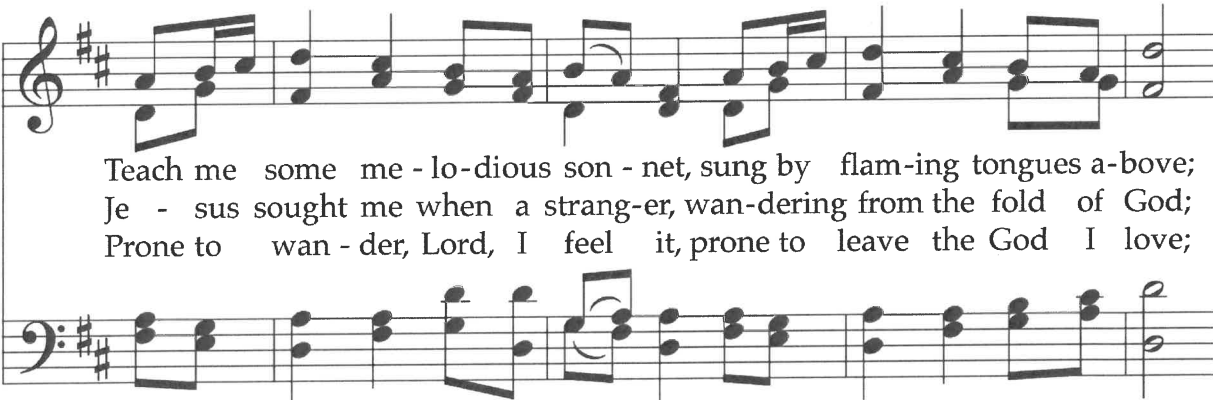
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



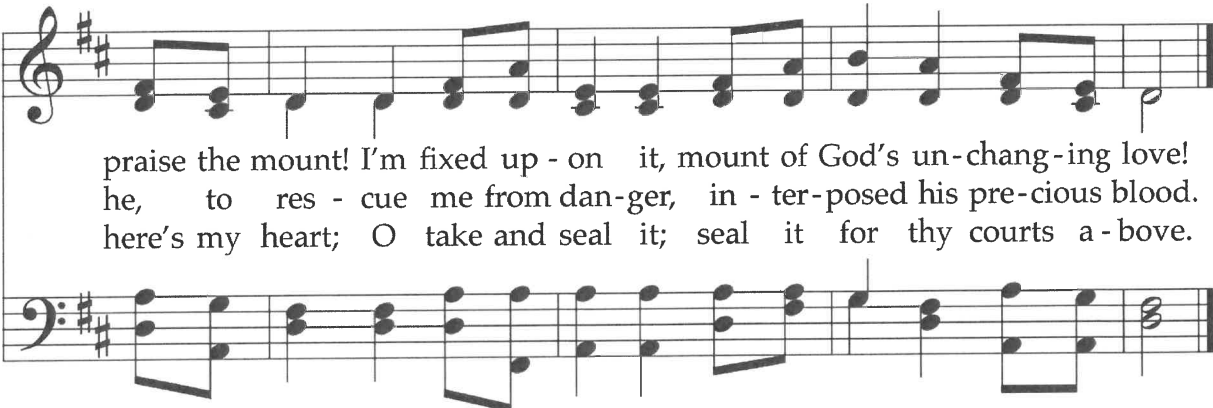
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

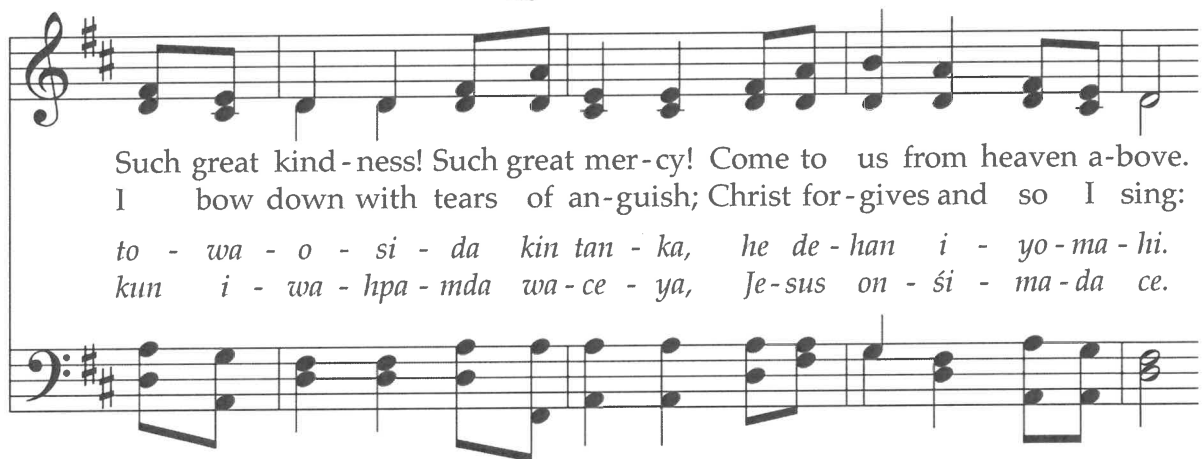
Hear the Good News of Salvation 441

Wotanin waste nahon po



1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.

1 Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:
2 Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,

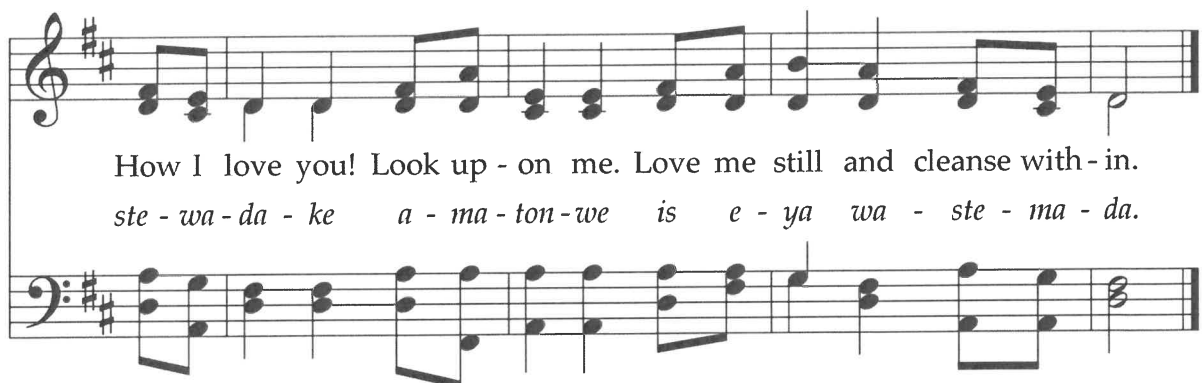


Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:

to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - ši - ma - da ce.



Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!
Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -



How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.
ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs (Meaning in the Middle) Fellowship (via Zoom – link is sent to the class by email)</p>	<p>Monday, September 18</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>4:00 PM Building Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Budget Committee</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 19</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Birds Slide Show (in Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Wednesday September 20</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>
<p>Thursday, September 21</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews</p> <p>7:00 PM Interfaith Pride Worship (at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)</p> <hr/> <p>Friday, September 22</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth CROSS Retreat (Trinity Avenue PC)</p>	<p>Saturday, September 23</p> <p>10:30 AM Durham Pride Parade (Walkers can meet on Duke's East Campus at 10:00 a.m. at the gazebo or at FPC's parade post #104 along the stonewall.)</p>	<p>Sunday, September 24 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation classes for children, youth, and adults</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship (Hunger for Change Offering received)</p> <p>12:30 PM Youth return from CROSS Retreat (Parking lot)</p> <p>3:00 PM Installation of Bruce Grady as Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of New Hope (at Trinity Avenue PC, Durham)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs (Meaning in the Middle) Fellowship (via Zoom – link is sent to the class by email)</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>

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ORGANIZED 1871