

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Ave Maria (sung in Latin)
Tamsin Simmill, mezzo-soprano

Bach/Gounod

*CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 105)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship!

All: **We are called to tell of God's wonderful works
and bring glory to God's holy name.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done—
the miracles performed,
the mercies spoken,
the love embodied.

All: **Let us sing praises to God and seek God's presence in this hour.
Come, let us worship God!**

*HYMN NO. 385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Old Hundredth

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Holy One,

**in the ages you have shown us the mystery of your ways—
a burning bush,
dirt made holy,
a shining face.**

We confess how we have forgotten your mystery—

**how we see things as simple,
when they are nuanced and complex;
how we assume we know someone,
when their story is deeper than our shallow knowledge;
how we declare the worthiness of our deeds,
when they fall short of your abundant love.**

Hear us,

forgive us,

guide us, O Lord,

**so our discipleship may be as wild and mysterious
as your work in our lives and world.**

*Those who are able, please stand.

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.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12:9-21

(Pew Bible, NT page 162)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Josh Walters

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

(Pew Bible, OT page 50)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Dirt Made Holy"

Esther Hethcox

(Silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 484**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

Rustington

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR GRACE ALEXANDRIA BAKER

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Words of Scripture

Introduction

Elder: On behalf of the Session, I present Grace Alexandria Baker to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Questions to the Parents:

Pastor: Lara and Art, do you desire that your child be baptized?
Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
Do you renounce evil and affirm your reliance on God's grace?
Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith
and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents: We do.

Questions to the Children:

Pastor: Do you promise to be a friend to Grace?
If she gets lost, will you help her find the way?
If she falls down, will you help pick her up?
Will you share with her the stories of Jesus?

Children: Yes.

Question to the Congregation:

Elder: Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Grace by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

Congregation: We do.

*Profession 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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Anointing

Introduction

Presentation of Baptismal Quilt

Elizabeth Klinck

Hymn No. 486 (*verses 1, 3*) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

Kingdom

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

***Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God, we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.***

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Heidi Biermann

Offertory Anthem

O for the Wings of a Dove!

Felix Mendelssohn

(from "Hear My Prayer," Psalm 55:6-7)

O for the wings of a dove! Far away would I rove.

In the wilderness build me a nest and remain there forever at rest.

*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

Heidi Biermann

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Heidi Biermann

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. 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am (Schutte)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Esther Hethcox

***POSTLUDE**

Voluntary in C

Anon. (18th cent.)



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 to the glory of God and in memory of **Diana M. Huggin** by her son **Christopher Hyland**.

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for **Grace Alexandria Baker**, the nine-month-old daughter of **Lara Duffney** and **Art Baker**.

We welcome Heidi Biermann as our liturgist this Sunday. Heidi is a Doctor of Theology (ThD) candidate in New Testament at Duke Divinity School. She holds an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, a BA in Political Science from Whitworth University, and an AA from Spokane Falls Community College. We are grateful to Heidi for sharing her many gifts of ministry with us as she awaits a call to ordained ministry.

We thank Tamsin Simmill for providing our solos today. Tamsin spent her childhood in England and studied French and Italian at Oxford University. She began her career singing traditional Anglican church repertoire and sang for many groups in England and in Europe. She moved to the United States in 1999 and is a familiar soloist on many local concert platforms.

The Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact **Kathy Parkins** at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.

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 written by **Esther Hethcox**.

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.

~ Concerns ~

Condolences to the family of **Lynn Guerrant**, friend of **Mindy Douglas** who died September 1.

David Y. Kong, FPC member, husband of **Ellen Kong**, and father of **David F. Kong** and **Stephanie Kong**, died on August 29. A private graveside service is planned. Arrangements by Clements Funeral Service of Durham.

New concerns:

- **Faculty, staff, and student body of UNC-Chapel** following the deadly campus shooting this week.
- **Mary Myers**, mother of Christy Gudaitis
- **Bob Parkins**, husband of Kathy Parkins, recovering at home after a visit to Duke Medical Center ER.
- **Robert Sciretta**, brother of Marcia Lorimer, hospitalized from a devastating heart attack.
- **Robert (Bob) Clark**, regular online worshipper, recovering from hip surgery at a hospital in Plymouth, NC.
- **Spencer Reeves**, regular online worshipper, recovering from surgery.

Bob Breitweiser	Paul Cornsweet	Kerry Holbrook	Jenni James	Lee House
George Kafula	Mitzi Lesher-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**

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

Jasper Yeatts Gunn, child of Wilson Gunn

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

Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Dennis Tiede, nephew of Mary-Jo Keenan

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Ellen Doyle OSU, friend of Carolyn Mangeot

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox

Rick Leinhas, friend of David and Judy Smith

Paul McCombs, friend of Walk-in Ministry

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) helping victims of Maui Wildfires

Please continue to pray for those affected by these wildfires. An initial response grant has been disbursed to address emergency needs, and PDA will be present through the long-term recovery phase. You can donate money 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 on the memo line (DR000165 - Maui) and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

KICK-OFF Concert!

Saturday, September 9, 4:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church,
305 East Main Street, Durham

Choral Music about Home and Shelter

Allan Friedman, Director
Jane Lynch & Mary Hamilton, Accompanists



Free-Will Donation
All proceeds go to support
First Presbyterian's Walk-In Ministry

Save the Date! FAITH FORMATION Fall Kickoff

Sunday, September 10

All classes will gather
in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m.

Enjoy light refreshments!
Learn about fall classes!
Check out your classrooms!
Meet your teachers!

New Bible Study: 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. If you are interested, please let **Susan Dunlap** know, sjd4@duke.edu. Susan will consult with all who are interested to determine the best time and frequency for these gatherings.

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!

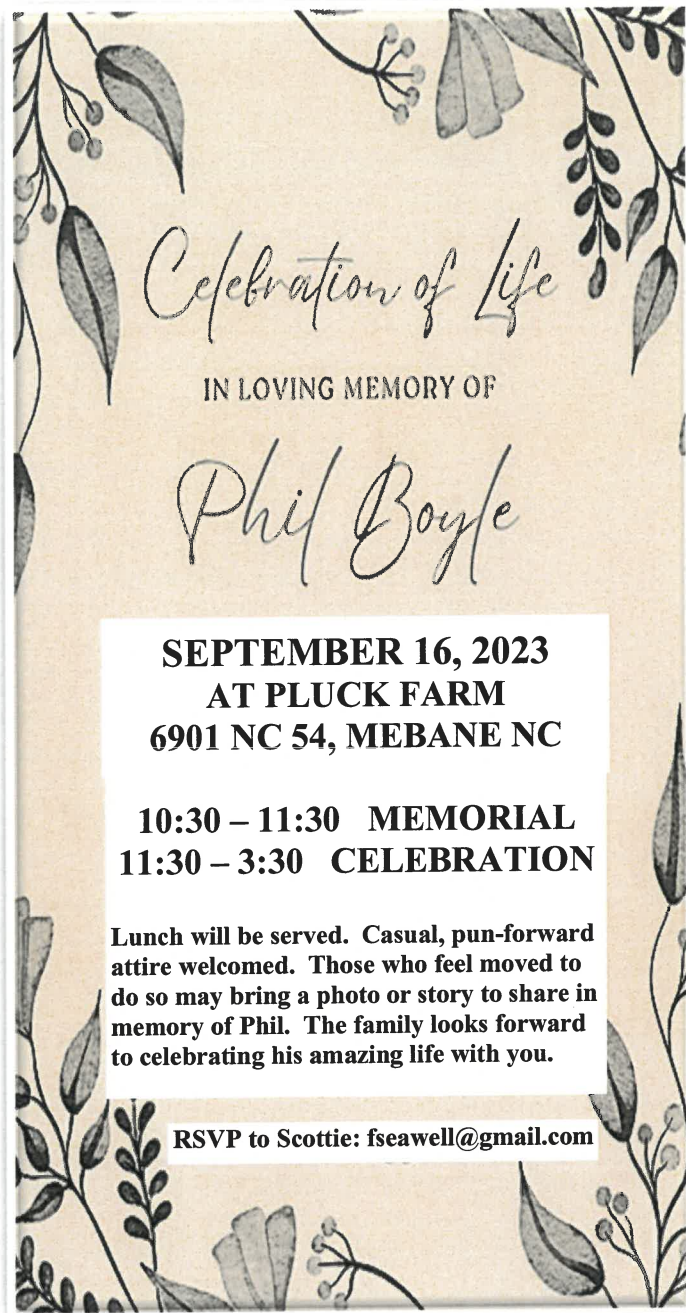
Pauli Murray PROUD SHOES THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY



BY THE AUTHOR OF
SONG IN A WEARY THROAT

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

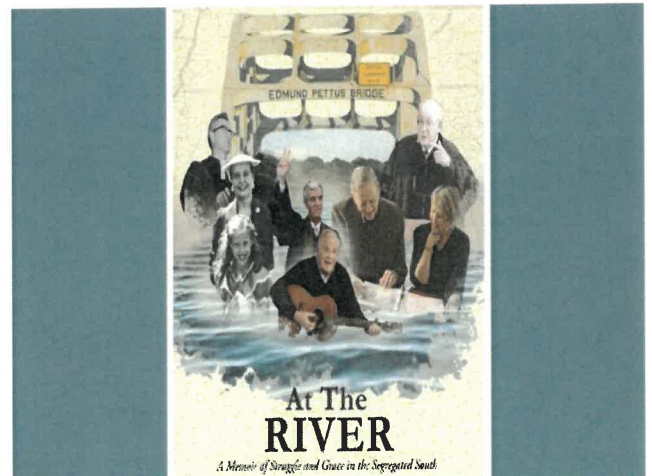
Looking for some late-summer reading? Pick up *Proud Shoes*, by Pauli Murray!
The Faith & Community class returns to Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 17 for two weeks of discussion about this unofficial patron saint of Durham. This book is a great introduction/refresher.



**DURHAM PRIDE
Parade & Festival
Saturday, September 23, 2023**



**FPC will walk in the parade.
Save the Date! Details forthcoming!**



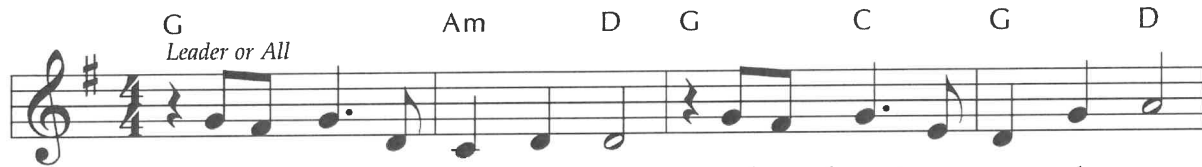
DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Carolyn Crowder (friend of **Macky Alston**) has made a documentary called **At The River** about white Christian pastors who broke ranks and stood for Civil Rights, following Black leadership across the South. The film is a powerful witness to white people. As we are called today to act for racial justice in support of Black leadership, we can learn from and be inspired by those who came before who did so when the cost was often much higher than it is today. **There will be a screening of this film in Raleigh on Sunday afternoon, September 24 at 4:30 at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Reserve a seat by contacting White Memorial.**

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I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

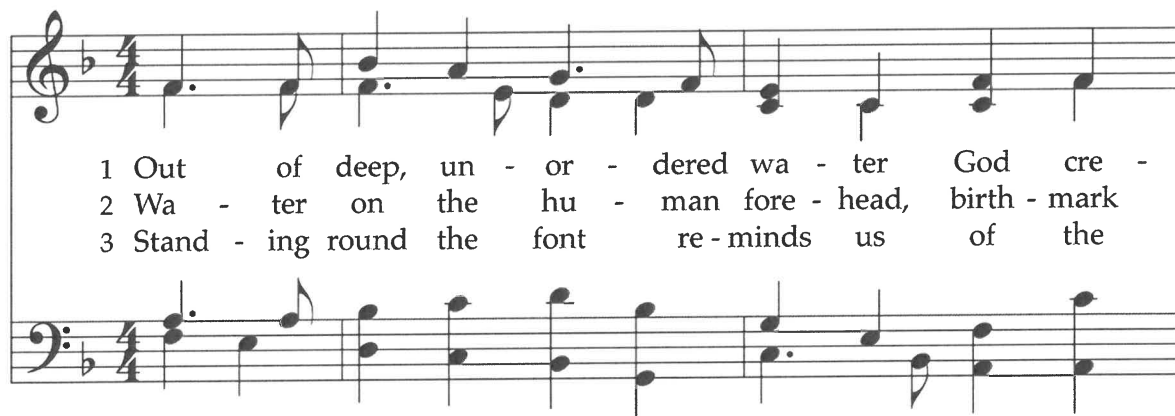
(Psalm 100)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

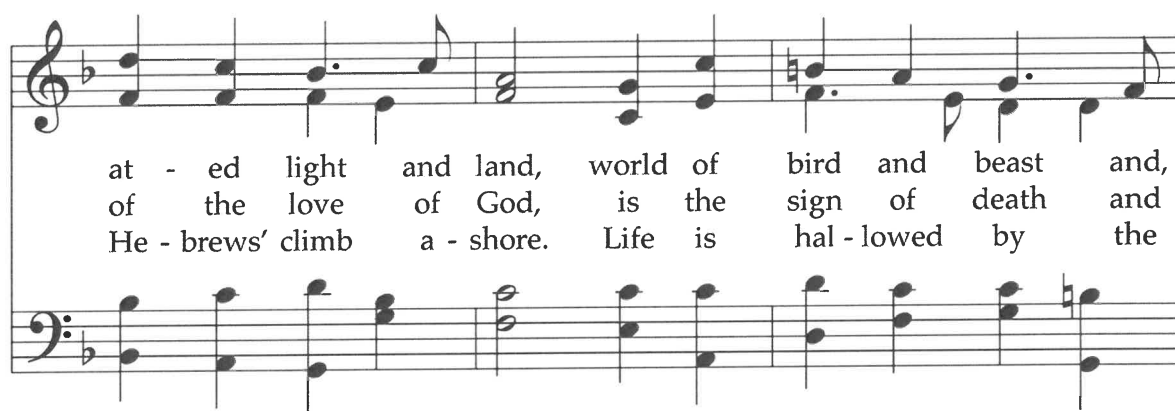
Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

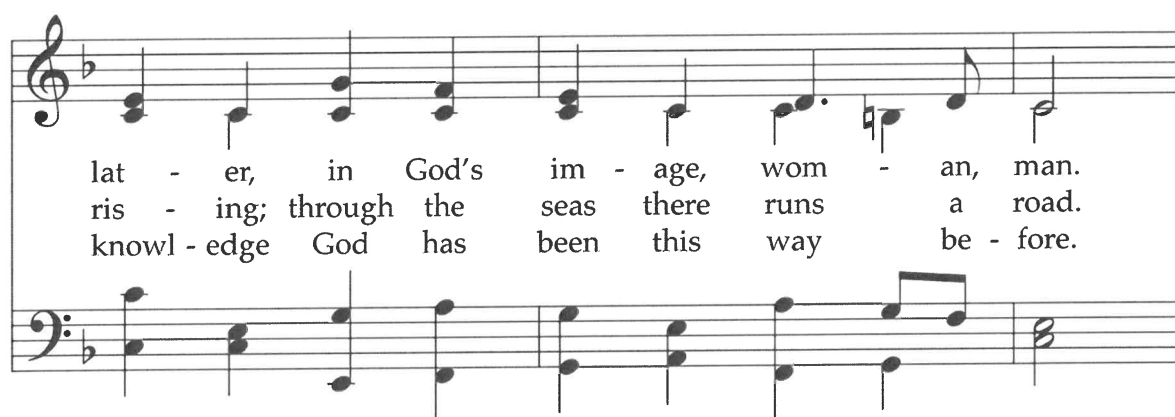
484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water



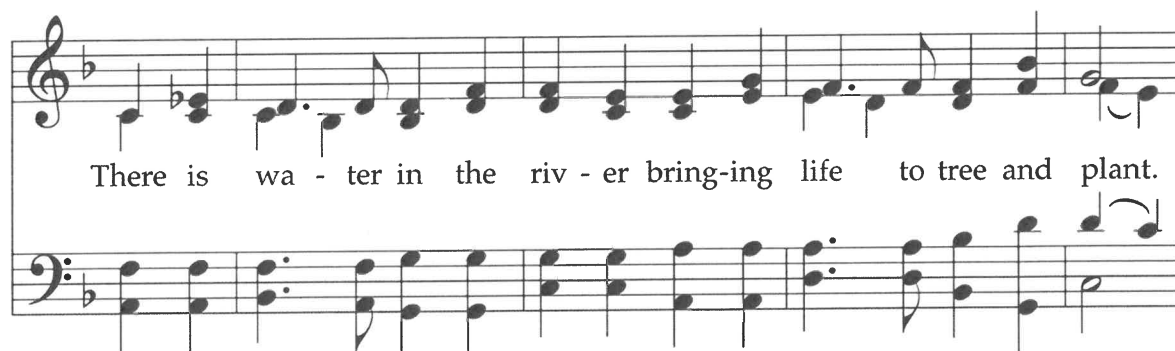
1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -
 2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore - head, birth - mark
 3 Stand - ing round the font re - minds us of the



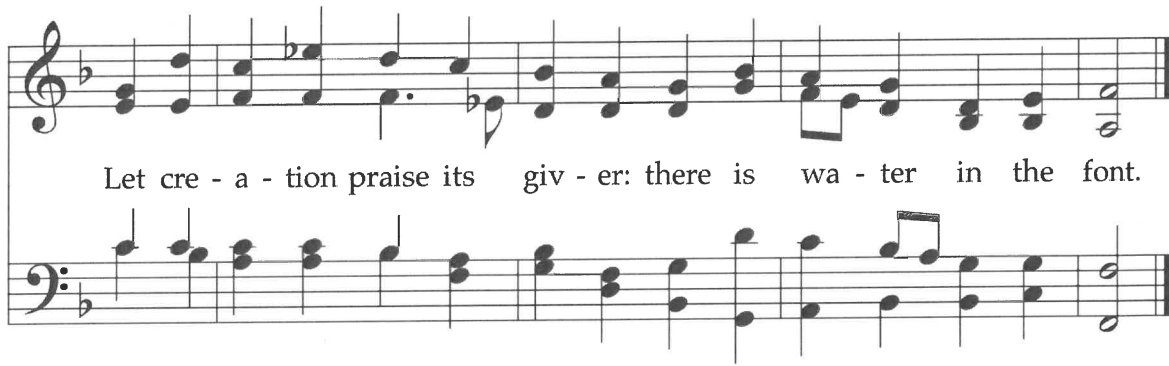
at - ed light and land, world of bird and beast and,
 of the love of God, is the sign of death and
 He - brews' climb a - shore. Life is hal - lowed by the



lat - er, in God's im - age, wom - an, man.
 ris - ing; through the seas there runs a road.
 knowl - edge God has been this way be - fore.

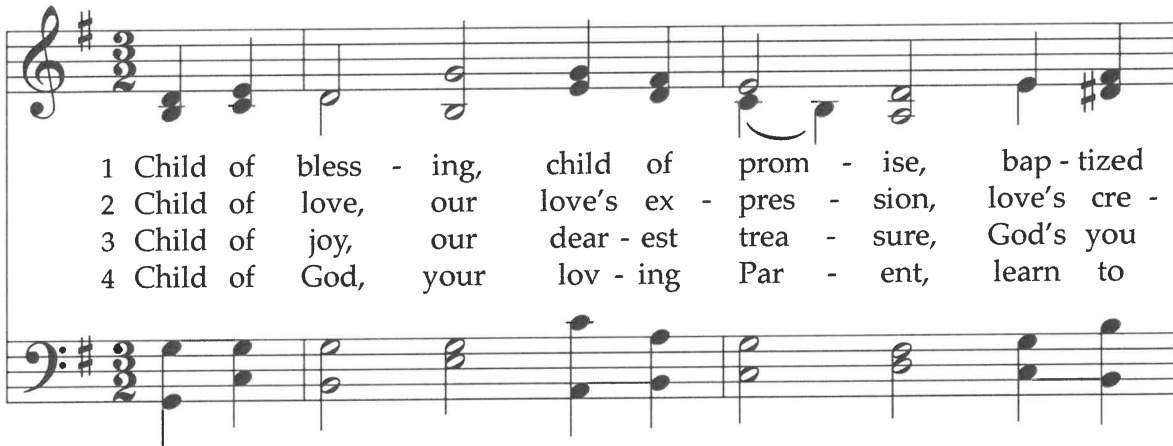


There is wa - ter in the riv - er bring - ing life to tree and plant.

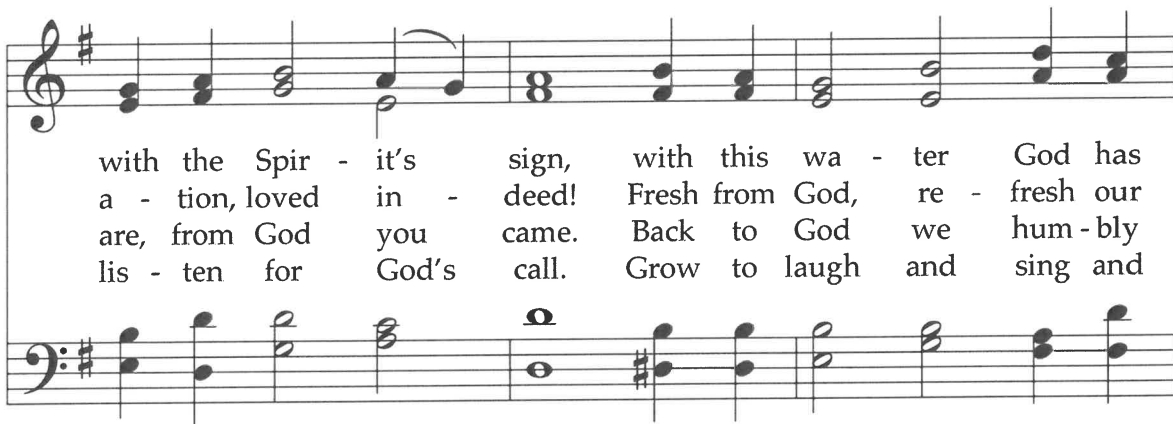


Let cre - a - tion praise its giv - er: there is wa - ter in the font.

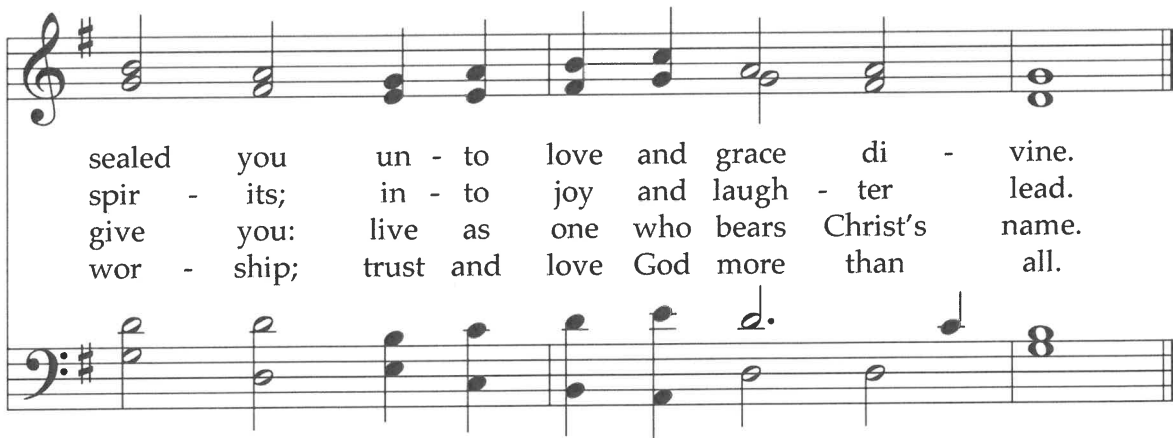
486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
 4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to



with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
 lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and



sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
 wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p>	<p>Monday, September 4</p>  <p>The church office is closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.</p> <p>Presbyterian Women will meet next Monday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. (Daye Meeting Room)</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 5</p>	<p>Wednesday September 6</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir rehearsal</p>
<p>Thursday, September 7</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews</p> <p>3:30-5:30 PM Pick up CSA vegetable boxes (last delivery)</p>	<p>Friday, September 8</p>	<p>Saturday, September 9</p> <p>4:00-5:00 PM SONAM Benefit Concert for FPC Walk-in Ministry (sanctuary)</p>	<p>Sunday, September 10 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation Kickoff event for all classes</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship & Communion</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group Kickoff & Parent Meeting</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>

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919-682-5511
ORGANIZED 1871