

CARING

FOR
GOD'S

VINEYARD

MATTHEW 21:33-46

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 8, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship Season

October 8, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Stewardship – Community

Mindy Douglas

Leah Graves

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on “Old Hundredth”

Johann Pachelbel

INTROIT

Creation

Haydn

*The spacious firmament on high, with all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame, their great original proclaim.
Th’ unwearied sun, from day to day, doth his Creator’s power display;
And publishes to every land the work of an almighty hand.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 19:1-4)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its Maker’s handiwork.
People: **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
Leader: Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
People: **their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

*HYMN NO. 13

The Mighty God with Power Speaks

Kingsfold

*CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O God, forgive us when we consider ourselves so grand
that we do not rest and enjoy your presence,
defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love.
Forgive us for when we esteem ourselves so little
that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves, exposed,
without the cloak of productivity.
Forgive us when we deem our species so central
that we do not rest and halt consumption,
decimating earth, denying her Sabbath and integrity.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

(Prayer of Confession continues, in unison.)

**Forgive us through Christ,
who redeems us from our brokenness
that we might enjoy your presence, creation, and community.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING THE PEACE**

John Weicher

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (sung) *Be Thou My Vision*

Hymn No. 450 (verse 1) *Slane*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

(Pew Bible, NT page 198)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Amy Dillon

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:33-46

(Pew Bible, NT page 24)

Leader: The Word of the Lord

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Stewards of God's Kingdom"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 847**

Our Hope, Our Life

O Waly Waly

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Esther Hethcox

**As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
but which others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:**

Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning,

**through all the crises of our times,
until God's kingdom fully comes,**

God keeps covenant forever.

Our world belongs to God!

The Lord is above all! Let the earth be glad!

Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!

The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God,

renounce the works of darkness,

and dedicate ourselves to holy living. *(Affirmation continues next page.)*

(in unison)

**As covenant partners,
called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in the world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
And we are confident
that the light which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus!
Our world belongs to you.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Kim Abels

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Praise to God

John Weicher
Mark G. Sirett

*Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days;
bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ.
all to thee, our God we owe, source whence all our blessings flow.*

*All the plenty summer pours, autumn's rich o'er flowing stores;
flocks that whiten all the plain, yellow shelves of ripened grain;
Lord, for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.*

*As thy prospering hand hath blessed, may we give thee of thy best;
and by deeds of kindly love, for thy mercies grateful prove,
singing thus through all our days, praise to God, immortal praise.*

(Descant sung by sopranos)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

*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

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**

Sing a New World into Being

Sung to Nettleton

*Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream.
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song!*

*Sing a new world into being, where each gender, class, and race.
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace.
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being, risk transforming heart and mind.*

*Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled in God's shalom.
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.*

*Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets' cry.
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry.
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being, live the promise you believe.*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Hymn setting of "Nettleton"

Dan Hosted

A Stewardship Season Kickoff reception will be held in Watts-Hill Hall immediately following worship today. All are welcome to attend. Heavy hors d'oeuvres can be enjoyed while hearing a brief presentation from the Stewardship Committee.



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the *Ritual of Friendship pad*, pass it along the pew, and then return it to the starting point, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given by *Brent and Lesley Curtis* to the glory of God and in loving memory of Brent's sister, *Marsha Curtis Hussung*.

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.

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. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of worship.

Restroom locations: to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Sources for today's worship texts: *Feasting on the Word*, *Book of Common Worship* (2018), and *In Wind and Wonder*. The *Affirmation of Faith* is from "Our World Belongs to God," articles 1, 2, 6. (edited). It is posted on the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship website.

Today's bulletin cover is an original drawing by *Izzy Allison-Pleasants*.

These Days daily devotional booklets for *October – December 2023* are available from the table in the church foyer. Get your free copy while supplies last.

Copies of recent 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.

~ Our Concerns ~

Added this week:

Rosita Stevens-Holsey, niece of Pauli Murray and friend of FPC, recovering from surgery
Dennis Tiede, nephew of Mary-Jo Keenan, under hospice care

Bob Breitweiser	Paul Cornsweet	Kerry Holbrook	Lee House	Jenni James
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, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe**

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Robert (Bob) Clark, regular online worshipper
Ellen Doyle OSU, friend of Carolyn Mangeot
Lynda Frank, mother of Leah Graves
Jasper Yeatts Gunn, child of Wilson Gunn
Kelley Keller, friend of Kerry Holbrook
Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore
Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Joy Wintermute, friend of FPC

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Sylvia Elder, grandmother of Esther Hethcox
Grace, Chris James' great-niece
Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox
Gabe Lamazares, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC
Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James
Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer
John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Please remember to update the pastoral staff on the progress of your family and friends.

Philippians in Six Sessions

Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a prison cell as a letter to a community he loved. This book is full of themes of joy and community life together. 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 began September 24 and continues in the basement parlor at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday for six sessions.** For more information, please contact **Susan Dunlap**, sjd4@duke.edu.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: FPC 101

So, how do I get connected to the life of FPC? This worship is different - why do we do it this way? What do we believe? What do elders do?

FPC 101 - a class for new folks, new members, wanna-be members, recent members, and really anyone. Join us during the faith formation hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) in Room 205 (Christian Education building, second floor, corner room).

October 15 - Connect at FPC with George Gentithes

October 22 - Worship with Nora Tubbs Tisdale

October 29 - Theology & Polity with Heidi Biermann & Wilson Gunn

Learn about FPC's CARE Team Ministry

For the first three Sundays of October, Faith and Community Class is focusing on refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S. On **October 15**, we will be viewing a film from PCUSA, "Genesis of Exodus," which provides an intensive look at why people in Central and South America are leaving to make the perilous journey to the U.S. Join the class at 9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall next Sunday to view the film.

FALL EVENTS

THE SOMETHINGS Potluck: All Hallows Tide and Monasticism Practices

Saturday, October 14

5:00 p.m. Matthew Eggleston is hosting *The Somethings* at his home (2210 Sparger Rd, Durham). This potluck event during the Halloween season will explore Monasticism spiritual practices with us! Together we will learn the history of this discipline and we can explore together how to incorporate this strain of spirituality into our daily lives.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Sunday, October 15

11:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

We will be presenting Bibles to our 3rd grade students. If you have a 3rd grader or if you ARE a 3rd grader, please come to worship. If you can't make it, we will arrange to get a Bible to you!

AWESOME AUTUMN All-Church Fellowship

Sunday, October 15

3:00-5:00 p.m. at Forest Hills Park

Bring picnic-style food to share.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Sunday, October 22

11:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

Jackie Rodriguez, Duke University's Presbyterian Campus Minister, will be preaching.

COMMUNITY-WIDE TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29

5:00-7:00 p.m. in the church's parking lot

Families can decorate and host a TRUNK. Sign up with Stephen Berry. Families can also dress up in costumes and kids can go for TREATS! Face-painting and refreshments will be available.

WORKSHOP: Building Bridges with Asylum Seekers

Saturday, October 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church - 4900 Kaplan Dr, Raleigh

Learn how our congregation can become allies to asylum seekers and imagine how communities can be prepared to welcome our neighbors. Lunch served at 12:30 p.m. **RSVP by today, October 8.** Event sponsored by New Hope Presbytery Peacemaking Committee. To register and for more information contact Libby Johnson at 865-789-8912 or Linda Rapuanon at 917-991-4138.

31st Annual Community Vigil Against Violence

Join us **Saturday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. on the grounds of Elizabeth Street UMC** (1209 N. Elizabeth Street) for a ritual of sacred attention to 50 lives taken by violence in Durham County during 2022. All are welcome. Vigil is sponsored by Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham. For more information, contact Rev. Annette Love (919-746-6751 or aclove58@gmail.com).

Durham CAN Candidates Assembly

Sunday, October 15 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

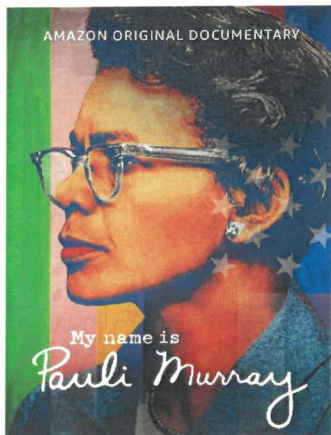
Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church - 316 Hebron Rd, Durham

Come hear “yes” or “no” answers from candidates for Durham City Council and Mayor on issues affecting Durham CAN members, including affordable housing and services for victims of gun violence. Issues are developed through meetings, caucuses, and listening sessions throughout our member congregations, associations and neighborhoods and formed into actionable issues. For more information on supporting this event, contact Susan Dunlap at 919-801-5968 or sjd4@duke.edu.

Opportunities Galore for Serving our Community!

This fall, why not set aside some time to serve our community, get to know other amazing people, and finish your days knowing that your efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of others! We have multiple options for you at **Iglesia Emanuel**, so read on, and respond with joy!

- **The Emanuel Learning Center** offers one-on-one tutoring two evenings a week, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 - 7:00 p.m.** We welcome new tutors who are willing to make a consistent commitment for one evening a week. We provide the tools and training you might need. You bring the warm, caring heart. Contact Mimi Dunn for more information.
- **The Emanuel Food Pantry** always has room for more volunteers and supporters. We continue to provide healthy food to over 600 families a week. Find a spot for yourself on one of our shifts. Sign up at this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48AAAD23A6FA7-iglesia#.
- Our newest project — **English as a Second Language** classes for adults! Classes are scheduled to begin on November 2nd. Classes for women will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., and for men on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** Lead teachers and assistant teachers are needed. Please contact Alicia Baucom by email at baudomalicia@yahoo.com, or call 910-545-2640 to learn more.



Pauli Murray Video Showings

Pauli Murray is the unofficial saint of Durham, and we all now have the special opportunity to view the award-winning film “My Name is Pauli Murray” at the homes of FPC members on dates in October and November.

The 91-minute film won the Peabody Award in 2022 and has been described by critics as a film that “educates and uplifts in equal measure while paying stirring tribute to a largely unsung yet hugely important -- individual.” It depicts Pauli’s life and struggles and influence on Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall.

The current schedule for the showings of the movie is below.

You can sign up for a showing at this link:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-44740033-pauli#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-44740033-pauli#/)

DATE AND TIME	HOST	TELEPHONE	PET IN HOME	# OF SLOTS
Saturday, October 21 5 PM	Jennie Alwood	919-973-9234	2 cats	5+
Tuesday, October 24 7:30 PM	“The Somethings,” Anna Blair, and Caroline Means	864-640-0246	1 cat	7
Thursday, October 26 7 PM	Jon Abels	919-604-3546	No pets	10
Saturday, October 28 2 PM	Kerry Holbrook	919-973-3276	cats	3
Friday, November 17 2 PM	Anna Blair	864-640-0246	1 cat	7

ANNOUNCING FPC’S NEXT BLOOD DRIVE

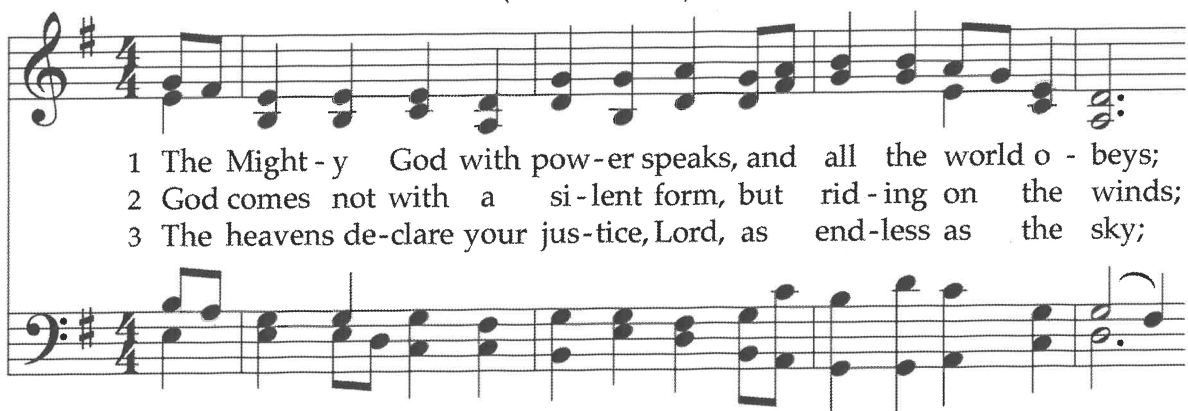
Thursday, November 2, 2023

1:00-6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

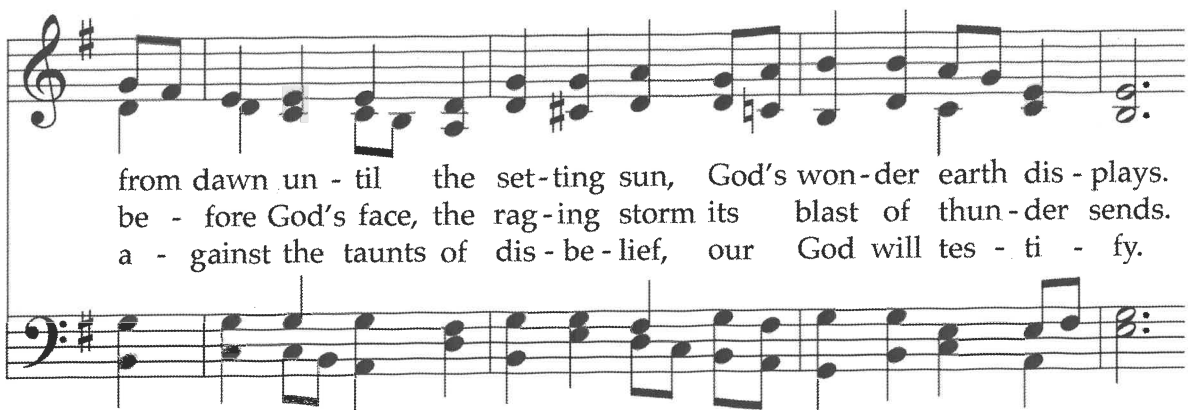
Go online to **RedCrossBlood.org** and use code ***firstpres*** to schedule your appointment. We currently have **29 spots to fill**. The Red Cross has been facing dire blood inventory for several months post-COVID. As a result, too often, treating physicians must make difficult decisions between who will receive a blood product and who will have to wait. If you are healthy and it has been over 50 days since your last blood donation, please sign up to donate. Most donations take about an hour, so book your appointment today. For more information, contact ***Julie Whiddon*** (919-730-6673), FPC's organizer and Red Cross volunteer. Informational brochures on donating blood are also available in the church foyer.

13 The Mighty God with Power Speaks

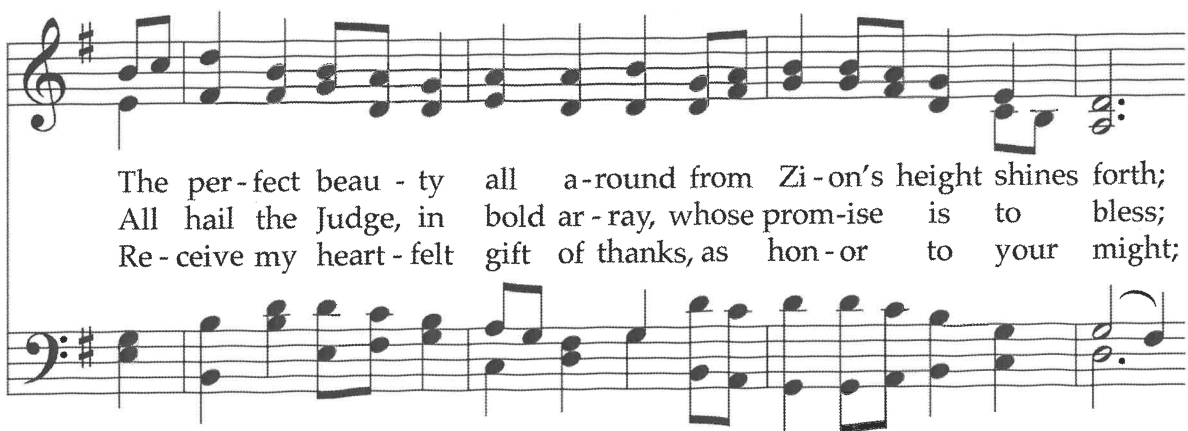
(Psalm 50)



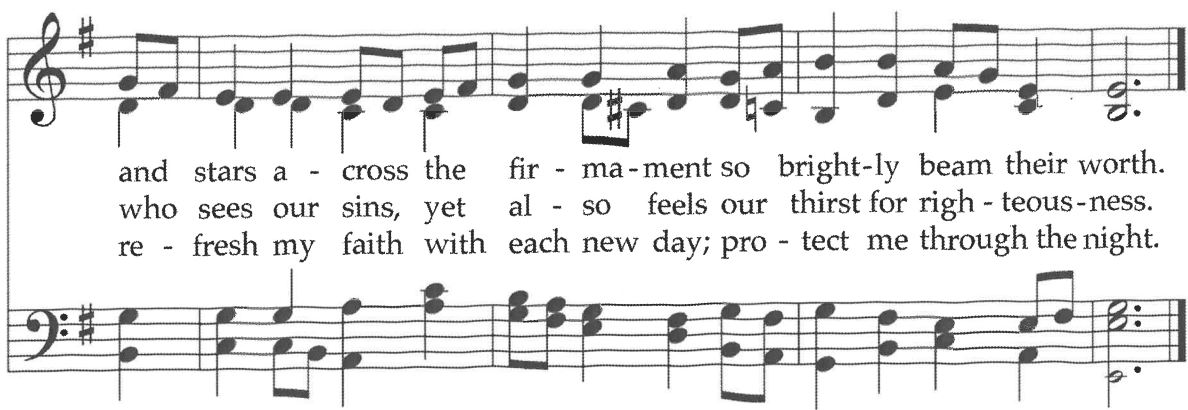
1 The Might - y God with pow - er speaks, and all the world o - beys;
 2 God comes not with a si - lent form, but rid - ing on the winds;
 3 The heavens de - clare your jus - tice, Lord, as end - less as the sky;



from dawn un - til the set - ting sun, God's won - der earth dis - plays.
 be - fore God's face, the rag - ing storm its blast of thun - der sends.
 a - gainst the taunts of dis - be - lief, our God will tes - ti - fy.



The per - fect beau - ty all a - round from Zi - on's height shines forth;
 All hail the Judge, in bold ar - ray, whose prom - ise is to bless;
 Re - ceive my heart - felt gift of thanks, as hon - or to your might;



and stars a - cross the fir - ma - ment so bright - ly beam their worth.
 who sees our sins, yet al - so feels our thirst for righ - teous - ness.
 re - fresh my faith with each new day; pro - tect me through the night.

Verse 1 only

THE WORD

450

Be Thou My Vision

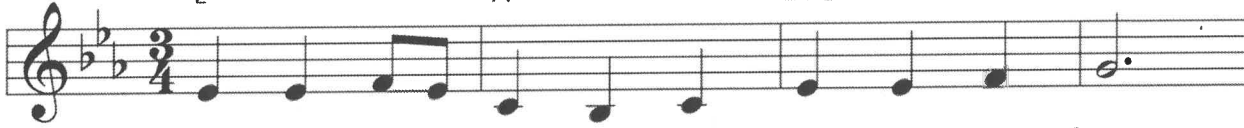
Capo 1: (D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(D/F#)
E^b/G

(A7)
B^b7

(D)
E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A)
B^b

(D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(A)
B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G)
A^b

(D)
E^b

(F#m7)
Gm7

(G)
A^b

(A)
B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm)
Cm

(D/F#)
E^b/G

(G)
A^b

(D)
E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

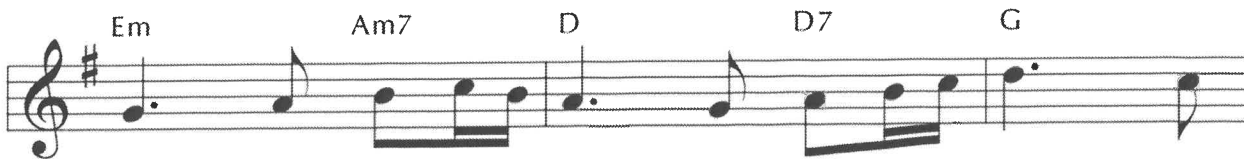
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Our Hope, Our Life

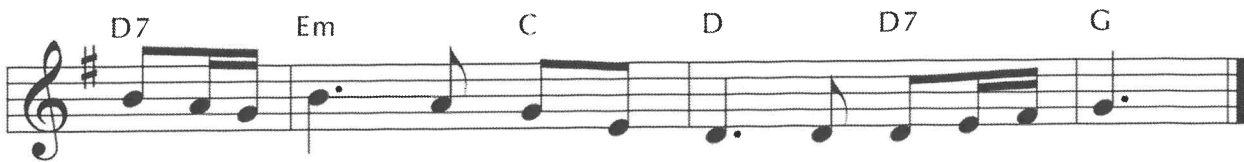
(Psalm 49)



1 Our hope, our life are in the Lord, the God we
 2 Some flaunt their gold; some trust its power, but what they
 3 Though wealth or learn - ing may be ours, or fame that
 4 Be - yond this age of shame and sham we glimpse a




hon - or and con - fess. Why crave re - nown or
 cher - ish will de - cay; and still the ran - som
 spreads through - out the land, the shack - les of mor -
 bet - ter des - ti - ny: the Lord will lift us



op - u - lence? They fade, those things we now pos - sess.
 for a soul re - mains a price too great to pay.
 tal - i - ty pre - vent so much that we have planned.
 free from death to dwell in praise e - ter - nal - ly.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>Following Worship Stewardship Kickoff (in Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, October 9</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>6:00 PM Christian Education Committee (via Zoom)</p> <p>6:00 PM Property Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee (via Zoom)</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship & the Arts Committee (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 10</p> <p>5:45-7:00 PM Tutoring (at Iglesia Emanuel)</p> <hr/> <p>Wednesday, October 11</p> <p>1:00 PM All Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, October 12</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</p> <p>5:45-7:00 PM Tutoring (at Iglesia Emanuel)</p> <hr/> <p>Friday, October 13</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday, October 14</p> <p>9:30 AM Presbytery Workshop: Building Bridges with Asylum Seekers (at Western Blvd PC, Raleigh)</p> <p>10:00 AM Community Vigil Against Violence (at Elizabeth Street UMC, Durham)</p> <p>5:00 PM The Somethings (at Matthew Eggleston's home)</p>		<p>Sunday, October 15 National Children's Sabbath</p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (classes for all ages)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship (Bibles presented to 3rd graders)</p> <p>3:00-5:00 PM Awesome Autumn All-Church Fellowship (at Forest Hills Park)</p> <p>6:00-7:30 PM Durham CAN Candidates Assembly (at Mt. Level Missionary BC)</p> <p>8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p> 

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Pastoral 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

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ORGANIZED 1871