



# **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

**DECEMBER 3, 2023**

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRELUDE** (Handbell Choir)     *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*     15<sup>th</sup> cent. melody, arr. Hal Hopson

**INTROIT**

*O Morning Star*

Philipp Nicolai, harm. J.S. Bach

*O Morning Star, how fair and bright!*

*You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!*

*Of Jacob's line, King David's son,*

*our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!*

*Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing!*

*Rule and might o'er all possessing!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kati Ruark, Daniel and Sam Dziuban

**AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Leader: All the things we talked about in Advents and Christmases past,  
and all the things we talk about in the weeks ahead,

“All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord  
through the prophet Isaiah:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.””

**All (sing):** *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Veni Emmanuel*

Leader: Zechariah the prophet spoke of

“the rising sun that will come to us from heaven  
to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

And this same Jesus declared in Revelation,

“I am the root and offspring of David,  
and the bright morning star,”  
and he promised, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

And so we have hope.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

**\*HYMN NO. 82**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Hyfrydol*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of light and salvation,  
the bright Morning Star,**

**we confess that we have grown accustomed to darkness.**

**In your light we see challenges to our stability and comfort.**

**We look at ourselves and into our own hearts and deepest thoughts,  
and we do not like what you show us.**

**Forgive us our many sins.**

**In this season of Advent and beyond,**

**teach us to walk in your light**

**in the power of your Holy Spirit,**

**as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**\*THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

**RESPONSE (sung)**

*Marion*

*The radiance of God's light beams joy into our days;*

*now filled with God's own peace and love, our hearts resound with praise.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Guide us, O God,  
by your Word and Spirit,  
that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom,  
and in your will discover your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(Pew Bible, NT page 166)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jane Wettach

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Isaiah 64:1-9

(Pew Bible OT page 694)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Advent Begins in the Dark"*

Mindy Douglas

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Esther Hethcox

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.  
We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.  
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.  
We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

**HYMN** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* Mindy Douglas, cantor  
After the refrain has been introduced by the organist and cantor, please sing the refrain where indicated (R) below.

### Refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
your radiance shines in all who look to you;  
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (R)*

*O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;  
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;  
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. (R)*

*O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
and in your advent, draw us all to you,  
our hope reborn in dying and in rising. (R)*

*Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,  
Creator of the mountains and the seas,  
Lord of the stars, and present to us now. (R)*

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give  
Offertory Music (Handbell Choir) *Still, Still, Still* John Weicher  
Austrian Carol, arr. Cathy Moglebust

\*Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6)

*Divinum Mysterium*

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Mindy Douglas

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
Leader: How can we thank you, O God?  
for sun and moon and stars;  
for breath and life and all things good;  
for your steadfast promise and your faithful love;  
for the day that is surely coming  
when all things will be made new.  
With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,  
we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

All (sung):

*Sanctus*

*Land of Rest*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Bless - ed is the one who comes

God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus,  
who came to be your living Word,  
to baptize us with Spirit and fire,  
to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty,  
and to announce the good news of your coming realm.  
With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come,  
Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.  
He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again  
until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.  
With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,  
sharing this holy meal,  
remembering Christ's dying and rising,  
and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

Great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—  
this bread, this cup, these people—  
Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world.  
Make us one in the Spirit,  
one in the church,  
and one with Christ our Lord.  
Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,  
serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone.

*(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.)*

Keep us in the peace of Christ  
until you gather us at your table in glory.  
Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness:  
prepare the way of the Lord!  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours,  
almighty God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (in unison)

Ecumenical version★

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Mindy Douglas, John Weicher

**\*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The bread is gluten free, and the elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. If you are able, come forward to receive communion. The bread server will dip a pre-cut piece of bread in the common cup for you and then pass it to you. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)*

Communion Music

*Sleepers, Wake for Night Is Flying*

J.S. Bach

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All: **God our hope, we give you thanks  
that you have given us this foretaste  
of the justice, righteousness, and peace  
of your promised new creation.  
Strengthen us with this heavenly food  
as we seek to serve your holy realm.  
Lead us to live in joyful expectation  
of the coming again in glory  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 377**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

*Houston*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

**\*POSTLUDE**

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

D. Buxtehude

**Today following worship in Watts-Hill Hall . . .**

**Advent Festival and Alternative Gifts Fair**

- Advent devotional materials can be picked up.
- Advent activities for all ages
- Purchase alternative gifts from mission partners.
- Enjoy light refreshments.



**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 *Friendship Pad*, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and is given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

## WORSHIP NOTES and PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent paraments:** In 2012, First Presbyterian Church commissioned internationally known fiber-artist Laurie Wohl to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. The Advent text on the pulpit parament, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” The Advent text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: “The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.” We are grateful that the bequest of Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

★ **The Lord’s Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated:** From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

**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.

**Today’s worship texts** are from *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and *Iona Abbey worship book*.

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### ~ Concerns ~

**Condolences:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *César and Cathy Guajardo* on the sudden death of César’s brother *Gerardo Guajardo* in Mexico on November 28.

#### Concerns:

- *Susan Cyr* is home following a brief hospital stay.
- *Franzi Rokoske* is recovering from surgery this week.
- *Emily Wilson* will have surgery on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- *Spencer Reaves*, who worships regularly with FPC, is recovering for surgery this week.
- *Edwin Orphys*, cousin of Kerry Holbrook

*Paul Cornsweet*  
*Jenni James*

*Kerry Holbrook*  
*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*

*Lee House*  
*Alfred Tisdale*

*Ann Huff*

#### 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

**Bob Betley**, friend of Susan Cyr

**John Keller**, son of Tom & Margaret Keller

**Gabe Lamazares**, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC

**Keith Nivens**, uncle of Mindy Douglas

**Joe Quirk**, friend of Mindy Douglas

**Calvin Rogers**, friend of Steve Rimmer

**John C. Weicher**, father of John Weicher

**Kim Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings

**Brian Knowles**, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese

**Robert Lewis, Jr.**, son of Robert (Bob) Lewis, Sr.

**Alan Petersburg**, brother-in-law of Jenni James

**Doug Rimmer**, brother of Steve Rimmer

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss



### **Friday, December 8**

#### **Vocal Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert**

(Free admission, sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.)

### **Saturday, December 9**

#### **Durham Holiday Parade**

(Watch parade live from sanctuary steps, 10:00 a.m.)

### **Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent**

**Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism and new members introduced**

(sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

### **Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**

**Lessons & Carols** (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

**Children's Christmas Pageant** (sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)

**All-Church Potluck** (Watts-Hill Hall, following the pageant)

**followed by a Carols Sing-Along**

### **Thursday, December 21**

**Longest Night Service with prayer, hymns, and moments of silence**

(sanctuary, 5:30 p.m.)

### **Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Worship** (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

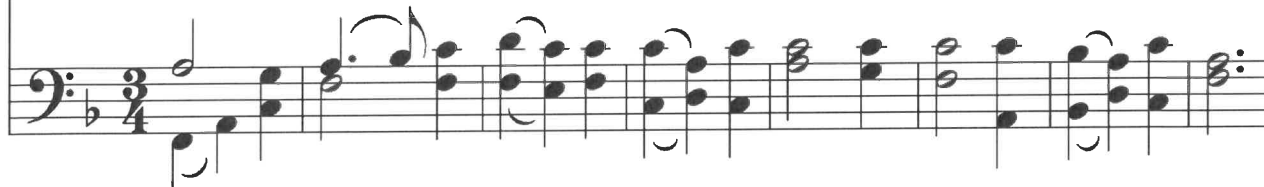
**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**

(sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)

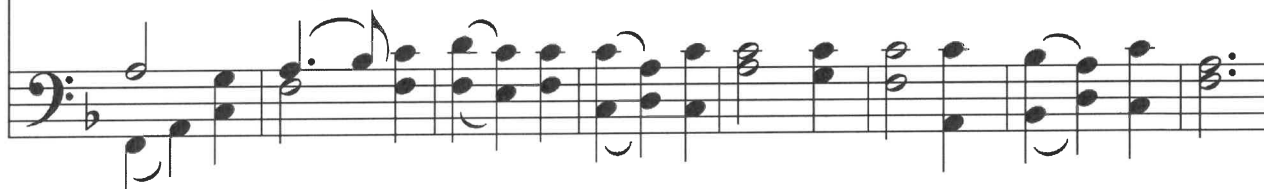
# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



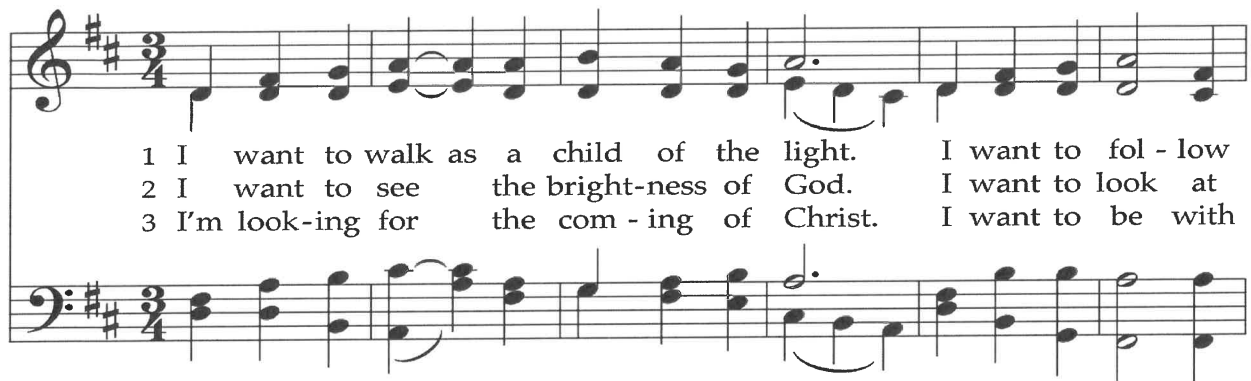
Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



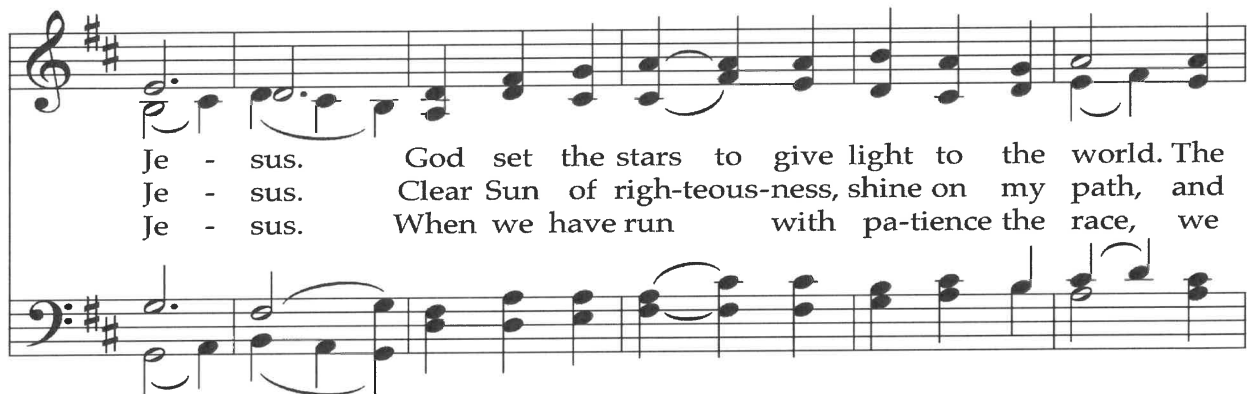
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



# 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



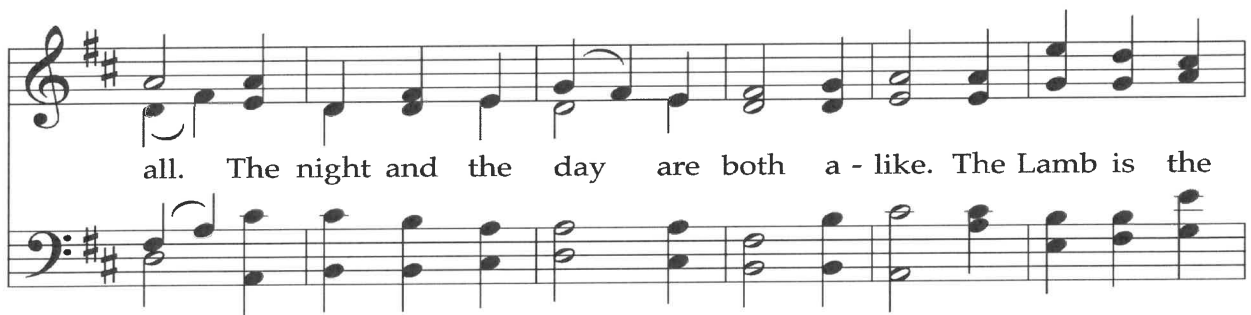
1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and  
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



*Refrain*  
star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the



light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

## The Week at a Glance!

### Later Today

**12:15 PM** Advent Festival and Alternative Gifts Fair for all ages (Watts-Hill Hall)

**5:00-7:00 PM** Youth Group (at home of Brent Curtis; assemble college care packages)

**5:00-7:00 PM** The Somethings Artvent

**8:00 PM** MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

### Monday, December 4

**9:00 AM-12 Noon** Walk-in Ministry Interviews

**10:30 AM** Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study

**1:30 PM** Plan Worship

### Tuesday, December 5

**6:00 PM** Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel

### Wednesday, December 6

**1:00 PM** All Staff Meeting

**3:30 PM** Middle School Hangout (at Cocoa Cinnamon)

**7 PM** Chancel Choir

### Thursday, December 7

**9:00 AM-12 Noon** Walk-in Ministry Interviews

**1:00 PM** Gathering Together Tea (Watts-Hill Hall)

**6:00 PM** Tutoring Sessions at Iglesia Emanuel

### Friday, December 8

**7:30 PM Vocal Arts Ensemble Concert: O Holy Night** (FPC sanctuary, free admission)

### Saturday, December 9

**10:00 AM** Durham Holiday Parade  
(Watch parade from sanctuary steps)

**6:00 PM** First Friends Advent Potluck  
(Home of Melinda Ruley / Stewart Fisher)



### Sunday, December 10

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:45-10:45 AM** Faith Formation classes for all ages

**11:00 AM** Worship with Baptism and new members welcomed

**5:00 -7:00 PM** Youth Group

**8:00 PM** MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto: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, Head of Staff  
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate  
Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton  
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Pastoral Associate  
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant  
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave)  
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator  
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music  
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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