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PEACE & JUSTICE SUNDAY

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

JANUARY 14, 2024

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peace & Justice Sunday

January 14, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Esther Hethcox

PRELUDE

Sonata 1 in E flat (Adagio-Canzona) for two violins
Allison Willet and Tatum Eppinger, violins

Henry Purcell

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: O God, who called all life into being,

All: the earth, sea, and sky are yours.

Leader: Your presence is all around us.

All: Every atom is full of your energy.

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

All: with her we yearn for justice to be done,

Leader: for creation to be freed from bondage,

All: for the hungry to be fed,

Leader: for captives to be released,

All: for your kingdom of peace to come on earth.

***HYMN NO. 757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Kingsford

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God,

your justice protects those who are weak,

yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.

Your righteousness redeems those who are poor,

yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds those who are oppressed,

yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.

Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,

that we may trust you in all things;

through Jesus Christ we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

*Those who are able, please stand.

***RESPONSE** (Hymn No. 435, verse 2)

In Babilone

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit
may so move every human heart,
that the barriers which divide us may crumble,
suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease,
and that, with our divisions healed,
we might live in justice and peace;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:2-5

(Pew Bible, OT page 631)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

(Pew Bible, NT page 181)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:43-48

(Pew Bible, NT page 5)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Is Peace Possible?"

Mindy Douglas

***HYMN NO. 773**

Heaven Shall Not Wait

Heaven Shall Not Wait

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(From *Belhar Confession*)

John Weicher

Leader: We believe that God has entrusted to the Church the message of reconciliation.
and that the Church is called to proclaim and embody this reconciliation;
to be peacemakers;
and to believe and to witness that God conquers all powers
of sin and death, of hate, bitterness, and enmity,
through his life-giving Word and Spirit.

People: **We praise God that the gospel does not separate people
on the basis of race, gender, class, or culture,
but is the power of reconciliation in Christ.**

Leader: We believe that God wants to bring about true justice
and lasting peace on earth;
we believe that God is, in a special sense,
the God of the suffering, the poor and the downtrodden.

People: We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed and bread to the hungry;
who sets captives free and makes the blind to see;
who protects strangers, orphans, and widows
and obstructs the plans of the wicked.

Leader: We believe that the Church belongs to God
and that it should stand where God stands:
against injustice and with those who are wronged.

People: We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice
in ourselves and amongst us;
and to struggle against all forms of injustice
and every teaching that allows injustices to flourish.
Jesus is Lord! We will follow Him!
To the one God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be honor and glory forever and ever.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

Land of Rest

Traditional American hymn tune,
arr. Katie Kring

*Oh land of rest, for you we pine when our anguish knows no end.
Land where our tears are wiped away and our divisions mend.
With broken hearts and tear-filled eyes, we tremble in our grief
but from the sorrows of the world is born God's sweet relief.
The shadows fall, and death lurks near but through our fears we pray,
for we know that the darkest night dawns to the brightest day.
Oh, land of rest, to you we fly where wars and borders cease,
there mortal enemies from earth are neighbors now in peace.
The joys and sorrows of this life shall pass before our eyes,
though agony will lay us down, in ecstasy we rise.*

*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

**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. 379**

We Shall Overcome

We Shall Overcome

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Fanfare on "In Christ There Is No East or West"

Spiritual,
arr. Charles Callahan

Join us following worship today in Watts-Hill Hall at a reception welcoming **Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey**, niece of Durham's saint, Pauli Murray. Ms. Rosita will be giving several presentations in the area this week to mark Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's legacy. FPC is co-hosting the Wednesday evening event at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Garrett Road. All are welcome.



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. 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 ***flowers*** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of ***Mary and Ray Myers*** by ***Jim and Christy Myers Gudaitis***.

Thanks to Allison Willet and Tatum Eppinger for providing violin music for us today.

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 taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and *Iona Abbey worship book*. Hymn texts are reprinted from *Glory to God* (Presbyterian Hymnal) with permission under Onelicense.net: A.713929.

Today's bulletin cover was created in January 2023 for MLK Sunday by FPC's ***Mason Armstrong***.

Ushers Needed: If you are interested in serving as an usher, head usher, or being on-call for ushering duties, especially on the first and second Sundays of the month, please contact ***Esther Hethcox*** (e.hethcox@firstpres-durham.org or 540-316-1548). Training is available.

~ Concerns ~

Doug Butler is recovering at home following back surgery.

Susan Cyr is a patient at Duke Medical Center, recovering from surgery.

Eloise Murchison, mother of Kathryn Murchison, has returned to her home in Black Mountain following surgery at Duke Medical Center.

Emily Wilson, daughter-in-law of Chuck & Jean Wilson started chemotherapy this week.

Paul Cornsweet

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

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

Bob Betley, friend of Susan Cyr

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

John Keller, son of Tom & Margaret Keller

Brian Knowles, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese

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

Keith Nivens, uncle of Mindy Douglas

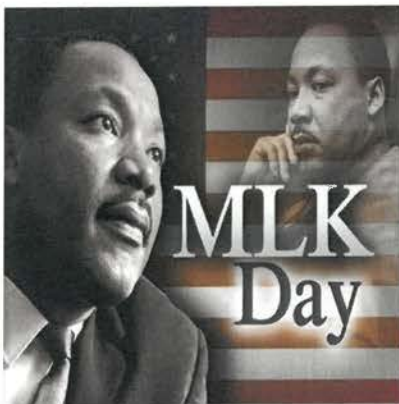
Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher



MONDAY, JANUARY 15

The church office will be closed

in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday.

FPC Service Project

A family-oriented service project

(assembling hygiene kits for Urban Ministries of Durham)

will be held in Watts-Hill Hall from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Volunteers and hygiene supplies are needed.

Durham's Annual MLK Unity March and Rally

The march begins at 10:30 a.m. from N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company (411 West Chapel Hill Street) and ends at FPC. Around 11:30 a.m., FPC will host a community rally in our sanctuary. Music will be provided by Durham's Children Choir. The public is welcome to participate in the march and attend the rally. For more information contact **Dr. Warren Herndon** at 919-599-1056 or email him at drherndon8@gmail.com or go online to: www.durhammlkcommittee.org.



RACIAL EQUITY

Task Force

The Racial Equity Task Force invites everyone at FPC to mark Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday this year with a week of special events involving **Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey**. "Ms. Rosita" is the president of Preserving Pauli Murray, LLC, which she founded to enhance the legacy of her aunt, Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray. Durham knows Pauli Murray as our saint, who demanded justice and equal treatment in her work as writer, activist, attorney, and an Episcopal priest. Her work literally helped launch the civil rights and women's rights movements.



You are invited to meet Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey at these events:

- **Tuesday, January 16**, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Durham Congregations in Action will have a Lunch and Learn with Ms. Rosita at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3002 Hope Valley Rd, Durham. For information or reservations, call DCIA at 919 688-2036.
- **Wednesday, January 17**, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - FPC is co-hosting a conversation about Pauli Murray with Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey and Angela Thorpe, Executive Director of the Pauli Murray Center. It will be at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 4907 Garrett Road in Durham.
- **Thursday, January 18**, 1:00 p.m. - There will be a conversation with Ms. Rosita at Durham Center for Senior Life's auditorium, 406 Rigsbee Ave, Durham.

Please bring your friends and join us in these special opportunities to hear unique insights from someone directly connected to Pauli Murray and knows her fight for equality for everyone.

Tuesday, January 23

11:30 a.m. Day Timers at Bennett Pointe Grill

3:00 p.m. Things That Matter Book Group
at the home of Kathy Parkins

Saturday, January 27

10:00 a.m. First Friends Hike and Coffee
Meet at 381 Continental Drive for a 2-mile hike
followed by coffee at Cocoa Cinnamon.

FPC Hosting Community Blood Drive

Thursday, February 1, 2024

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



FPC contact/organizer: **Julie Whiddon**

Email: foxylady2642@yahoo.com

Phone number: 919-730-6673

Sign up online to donate blood at RedCrossBlood.org using code: *firstpres* or contact Julie Whiddon. For more information on donating blood, pick up a brochure from the table in the church foyer or narthex.

Peacemaking Summit

Gun Violence Prevention

What You Can Do to Advocate for Change

Saturday, January 20, 2024

First Presbyterian Church
Raleigh, NC

Keynote address by Gerard Tate,

Director of the NC Office of Violence Prevention

Workshops Include:

- Guns to Gardens
- Mental Health and Gun Violence
- Update on NC Legislation
- 2nd Commandment or 2nd Amendment

Plus, a bullet melting ceremony with artist Stephanie Mercedes

Scan to register



OF SORROW AND HOPE: SEVEN LAST WORDS OF THE UNARMED

By Joel Thompson



January 21st 3 pm
Yates Baptist Church, Durham
suggested donation \$10

FPC's Chancel Choir has two members who sing with Vox Virorum. You are invited to the concert and to join the *Friend of Vox* program fundraiser.

Link for donations:

http://www.voxvirorum.org/?page_id=224.



Volunteers needed for PIT COUNT of our unsheltered neighbors

FPC's Service & Mission Committee is seeking volunteers from the church to help count the unsheltered in our community. Each year, Durham seeks to capture the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the area and better understand their needs. **Join us on January 24, 2024, as a Point-in-Time(PIT) Count Volunteer.**

Every person you count brings us one step closer to understanding and addressing homelessness in our community.

We're assembling teams, each led by experienced team leaders. Training dates and event details will be emailed directly to you upon signup. Your commitment on January 24th ignites positive change for our vulnerable neighbors. Signup at this link: <https://durham24.pointintime.info/>.

Cole Arthur Riley comes to Durham

Cole Arthur Riley is the author of the NYT bestseller, *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us*. Her writing has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *Guernica*, and *The Washington Post*. Cole is also the creator and writer of Black Liturgies, a project that integrates spiritual practice with black emotion, black literature, and the black body. Events are free. Please register for each event.

Friday, February 16, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Miller Morgan Auditorium, NCCU Campus

Use this link to register for this event:

<https://peacehillavila.org/event/dignity-justice-and-joy-holding-on-to-our-dignity-in-challenging-times/>.



Friday, February 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

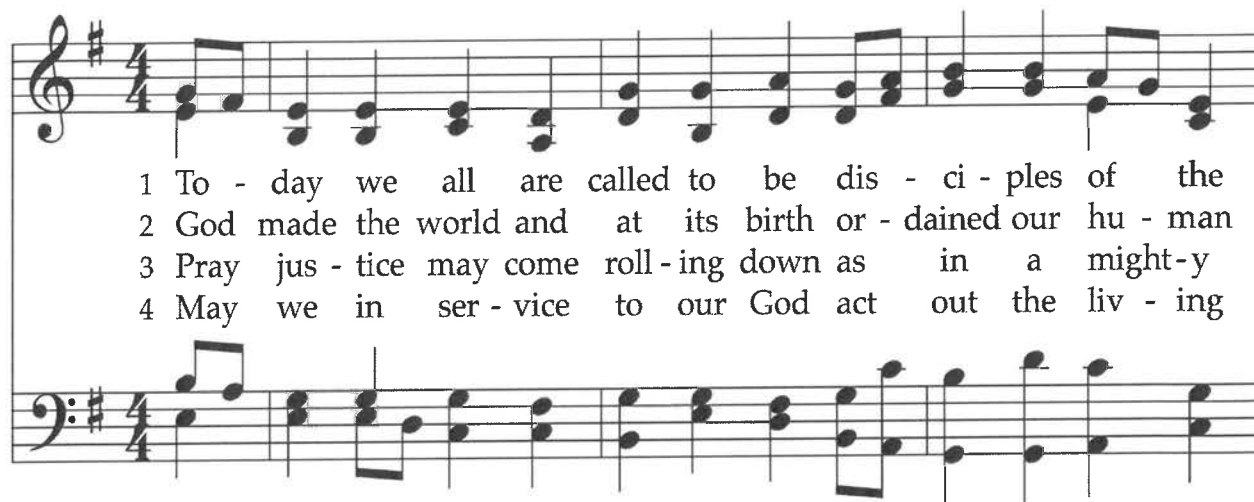
Mt. Level Missionary Baptist Church, Durham

A book signing will follow this presentation. Use this link to register for this event:

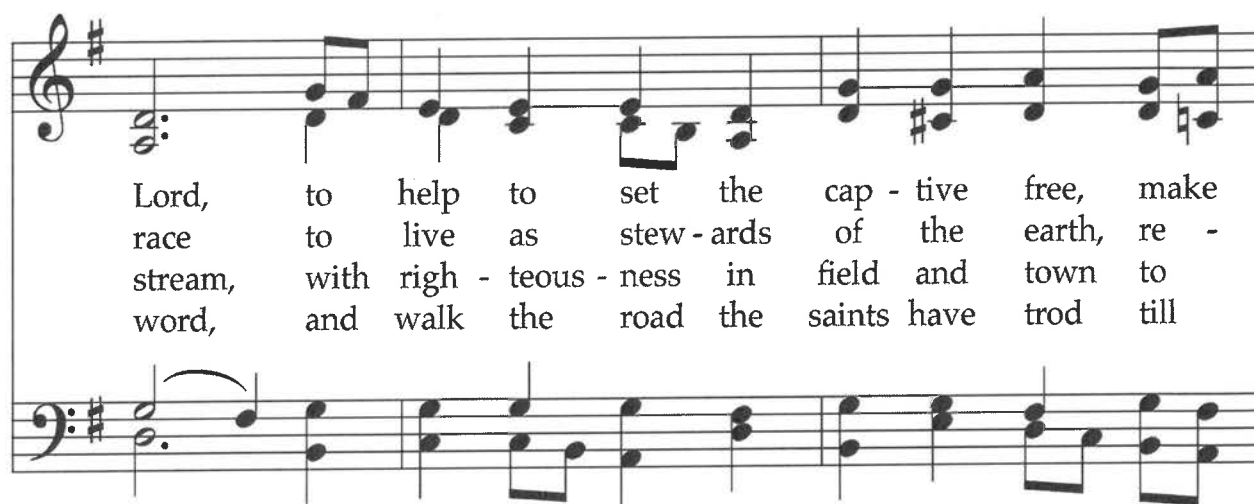
<https://peacehillavila.org/event/dignity-justice-and-joy-holding-on-to-our-dignity-in-challenging-times-2/>.

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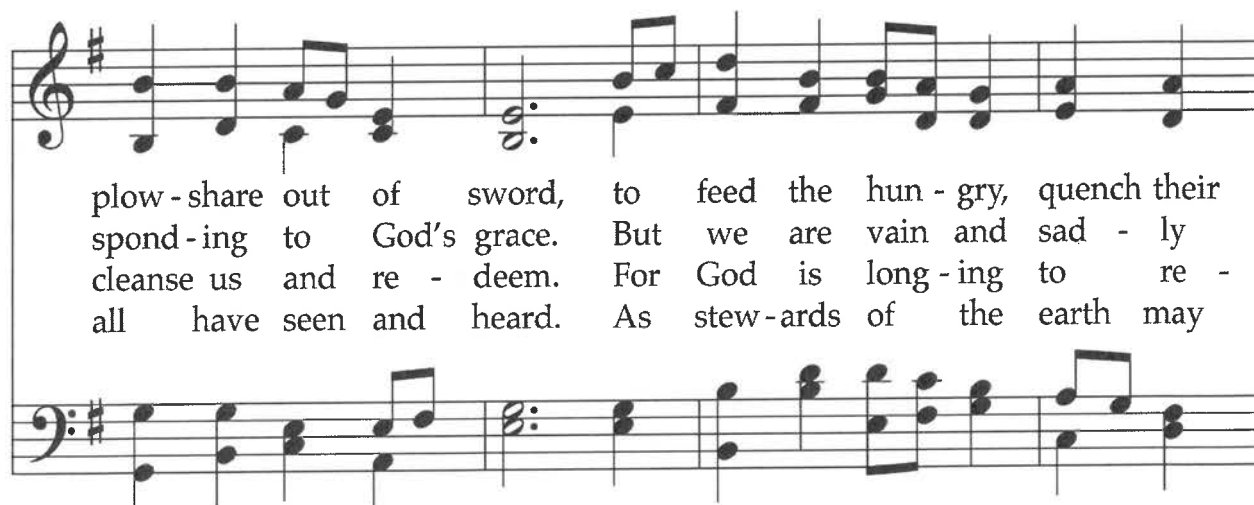
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

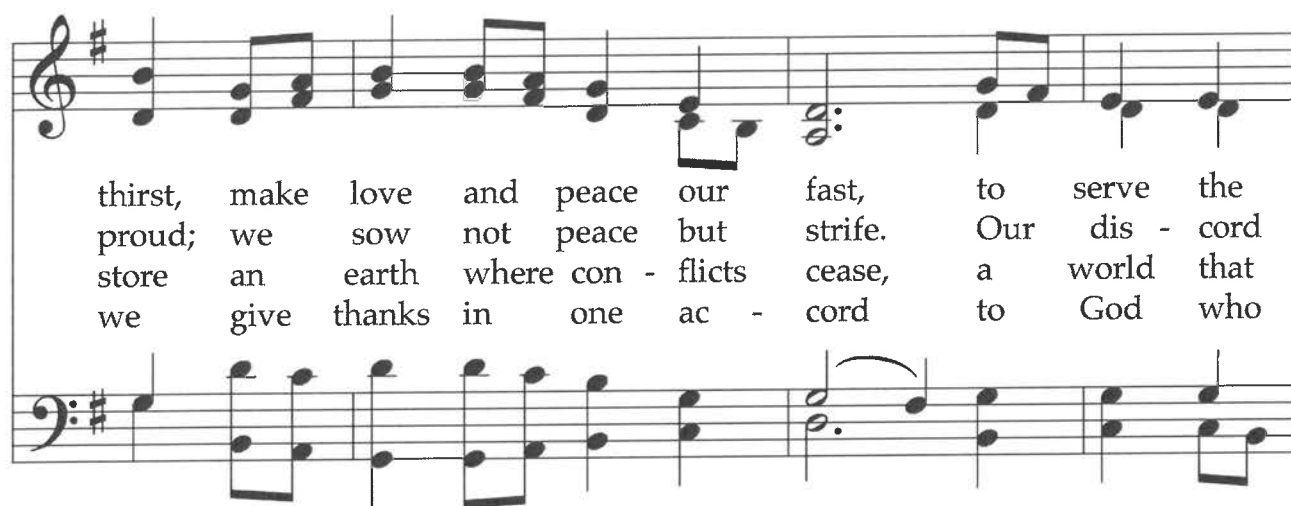


Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



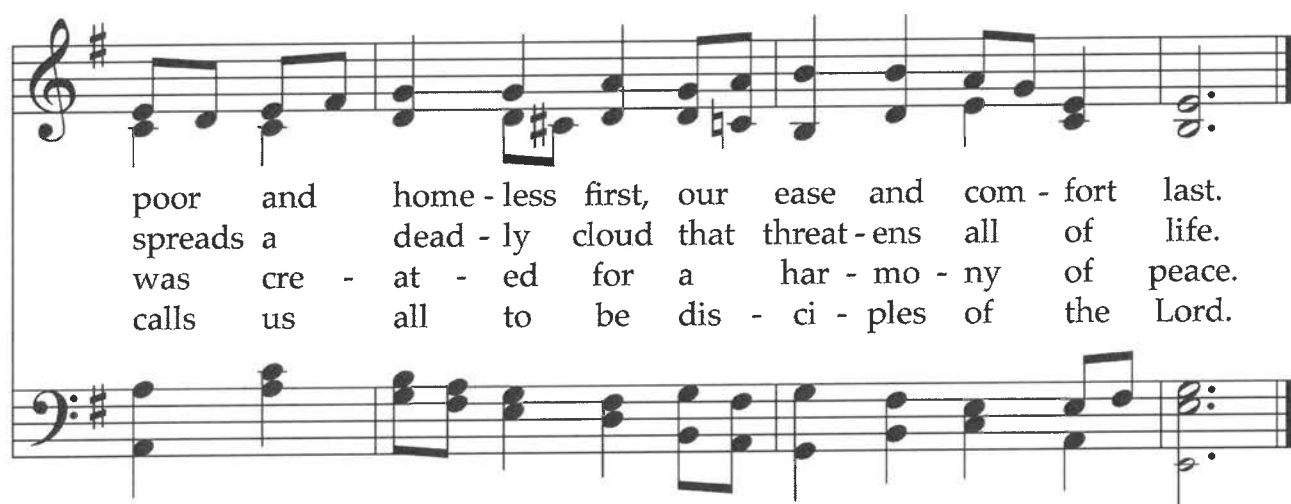
plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

The first system of the musical score consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line breaks corresponding to the musical phrasing.



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

The second system continues the musical composition. It maintains the G major key signature. The treble staff melody concludes with a final cadence, and the bass staff accompaniment provides a solid harmonic foundation. The lyrics are aligned with the musical notes, ending with a double bar line.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part providing harmonic support. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with two verses of the song. The score concludes with a final cadence in the piano part.

Heaven Shall Not Wait

773

Capo 1: (D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(A) (A7)
B^b B^b7

(D)
E^b

(Bm7)
Cm7

(Em) (A)
Fm B^b



1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i - de - as,
4 Heaven shall not wait for tri - um - phant Hal - le - lu - jahs,

(D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(A) (A7)
B^b B^b7

(D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(Asus) (A)
B^bsus B^b



the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
the proud to fall, the e - lite to tend the least:
thoughts of com - pas - sion di-vorced from cries of pain:
when earth has passed and we reach an - oth - er shore:

(Bm7)
Cm7

(Em) (F#m)
Fm Gm

(Bm7)
Cm7

(D)
E^b

(Em7) (A)
Fm7 B^b



Je - sus is Lord; he has cham - pioned the un - want - ed;
Je - sus is Lord; he has shown the mas - ter's priv - ilege:
Je - sus is Lord; he has mar - ried word and ac - tion;
Je - sus is Lord in our pres - ent im - per - fec - tion;

(D)
E^b

(G)
A^b

(A)
B^b

(A7)
B^b7

(D)
E^b

(Bm) (Em)
Cm Fm



in him in - jus - tice con - fronts its time - ly
to kneel and wash ser - vants' feet be - fore they
his cross and com - pa - ny make his pur - pose
his power and love are for now and then for

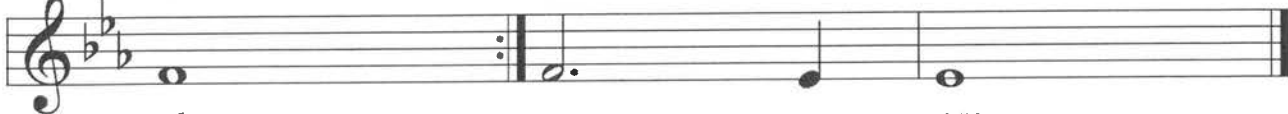
1-3
(Asus)
B^bsus

(A)
B^b

4
(Asus)
B^bsus

(A)
B^b

(D)
E^b



end.
feast.
plain.

ev - er - more.

We Shall Overcome

1 We shall o - ver - come; we shall o - ver - come;
 2 We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand;
 3 We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace;
 4 We are not a - fraid; we are not a - fraid;
 5 God will see us through; God will see us through;

we shall o - ver - come some - day.
 we'll walk hand in hand some - day.
 we shall live in peace some - day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 God will see us through to - day.

Refrain

O, deep in my heart I do be -

lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>12:15 PM Reception for Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey (in Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, January 15</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>9:30-11:00 AM MLK Day Service Project for Urban Ministries of Durham (in Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>10:30-11:30 AM MLK Day Unity March (from NC Mutual Tower to FPC)</p> <p>11:30 AM MLK Day Unity Rally (FPC sanctuary)</p> <p>7:00 PM Welcome and Belonging Committee (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 16</p> <p>Newsletter Today</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>4:00 PM Building Committee</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <hr/> <p>Wednesday, January 17</p> <p>1:00 PM All Staff</p> <p>6:00 PM Stewardship Committee</p> <p>7:00-8:30 PM A Conversation about Pauli Murray with Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey and Angela Thorpe (at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, January 18</p> <p>7:00 PM Nominating Committee</p> <hr/> <p>Friday, January 19</p>	<p>Saturday, January 20</p>	<p>Sunday, January 21</p> <p>Second Sunday Ordinary Time</p> <p>9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation classes for all ages</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 PM 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, Head of Staff
 Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
 Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton
 Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Esther Hethcox, 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