

WITNESS



**First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina**

January 21, 2024

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

*Chorale Prelude on
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

Rebecca Groom Velde

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Weicher

Leader: People of God, this is a special space;

People: **a space where we are invited to come as we are
and worship our loving God.**

Leader: Worship is a moment when we
incline our human intention to divine happenings;

People: **when we listen to what God has done throughout the ages
and what God continues to do in our lives.**

Leader: So let us create a new moment together,
with spirits enlivened, hearts brimming,
and with praise for our God filling the air.

People: **Come, let us worship God!**

***HYMN (see page 7)**

O God Beyond All Praising

Thaxted

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Holy God, through the ages you have given us moments of love;
commandments to guide us in this world,
prophets who call us to remember your ways,
and a Savior who led us to your greatest moment of love.**

Forgive us, Lord, for the moments of love we have let pass us by.

Forgive us, Lord, for choosing comfort over immediate, loving action.

Forgive us, Lord, for pausing when you ask us to act.

May our steps forward be ones of bravery, authenticity, and immediate love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

John Weicher

*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

Kerry Holbrook

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Spirit of the Living God, move afresh in us.
In this moment when you are creating anew in our lives,
may we be open to what your Word speaks to us.
May we be ready to hear what is proclaimed
so we might live afresh in this world. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

(Pew Bible, OT page 860)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Kerry Holbrook

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20

(Pew Bible, NT page 35)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Witness"

Esther Hethcox

***HYMN NO. 432**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Repton

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Mindy Douglas

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls people to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Paul Manz

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.

God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: *In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*



Scan to Give

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)

*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

Mindy Douglas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

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 on a theme by Holst (Thaxed)

Charles Callahan



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.

First Presbyterian welcomes 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.

Today's ***flowers*** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of ***Lanier and Ella Fountain Pratt*** by their son ***Lanny Pratt***.

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.

Worship texts are written by ***Esther Hethcox***. Music reprinted under Onelicense.net A. 713926.

Joys and Concerns

Bob and Sheila Breitweiser are in Scranton, PA this weekend to celebrate Sheila's mom's 100th birthday. ***Norma Cardoni*** was born January 20, 1924.

Brent Curtis will have surgery on Tuesday.

Susan Cyr is recovering at home following two weeks of hospitalization.

Barbara Gerwe is preparing for knee surgery.

Maxie Honeycut is recovering from a recent fall.

Caroline Rourk is recovering at home following hip surgery.

Mary Ann Ruegg is recovering from a recent fall.

Karla Brown & family, friends of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas' doctors confirm she is disease stable!

Diane Lesman is preparing for surgery.

Joe Robinson, former member of FPC, is preparing for surgery.

<i>Doug Butler</i>	<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee House</i>
<i>Jenni James</i>	<i>Mal King</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>

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

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

Robert Lewis Jr., son of FPC regular worshipper Rev. Bob Lewis

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

Emily Wilson, daughter-in-law of Chuck & Jean Wilson

Thank you!

Dear FPC community,

Thanks for your contributions to a Venezuelan family that was referred to us by Iglesia Emanuel. Four family members had recently been kidnapped at the Mexican border before being ransomed by their family. At the beginning of December, the family was lacking basic necessities. Through your generosity and that of several other groups in Durham, the family now has beds and bedding for all, including a crib for the baby; kitchenware; clothes; a laptop; games and toys and books for the 7-year-old and baby; and over \$400 in gift certificates. The family says that they hope God provides for you with the generosity that you have provided for them. **Wendy McCorkle** will be coordinating rides to medical appointments and food pantries for the family. If you can drive occasionally, please contact Wendy at 919-656-7153 or wendy.mccorkle@gmail.com. ---**Karen Sindelar**



FPC Hosting Community Blood Drive

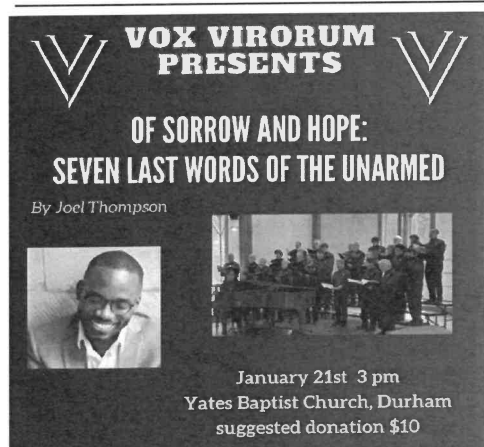
Thursday, February 1, 2024

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

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Come and give blood and you will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. Make an appointment by signing up online 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. Walk-ins are also welcome.



Later today . . .

3:00 p.m. Vox Virorum in Concert
at Yates Baptist Church, Durham

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. Give at the event or use this 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. Learn more and sign up at this link:
<https://durham24.pointintime.info/>.

DURHAM CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION INVITES YOU TO:

2024 Annual Banquet: "Unity in Community"

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. STELFANIE WILLIAMS

Vice President of Durham and Community Affairs at Duke University



Also featuring our new board, CROP Walk 2023, and our Haywood Holderness Award recipient, Imam Abdul Waheed!

23 JANUARY 2024, 5:30PM
WHITFORD HALL
504 W. CHAPEL HILL ST.
DURHAM, NC 27701



Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/CxK8XN8c9wymMJA7> or email
durhamnaction@gmail.com.

Cost: \$20/plate or \$120 table (limited) You may pay via RSVP or at door.

You can be a sponsor! If you want to sponsor the event or need to be sponsored, email us
for more information.

O God Beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

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 indicated by the numbers 1 and 2.

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D)

E^b

(A)

B^b

(Bm)

Cm

(G)

A^b

(D)

E^b

(A)(D)

B^b E^b



- 1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
- 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
- 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G)

A^b

(Em)

Fm

(A)

B^b

(F#m)

Gm

(Bm)

Cm

(G)

A^b

(Em)

Fm



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai-ly learn, re-freshed, re -
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7)

B^b7

(D)

E^b

(A7)(B)

B^b7 C

(Em)

Fm

(G)(A7)

A^b B^b7

(D)

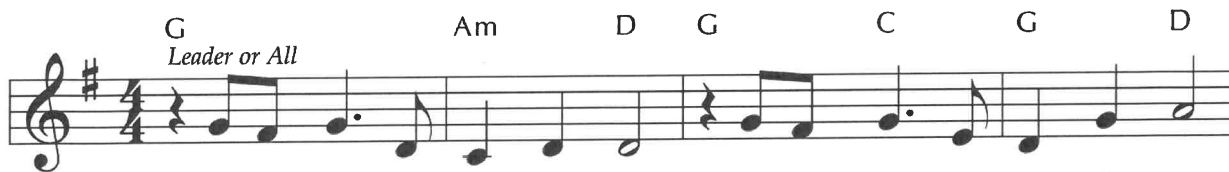
E^b



stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

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



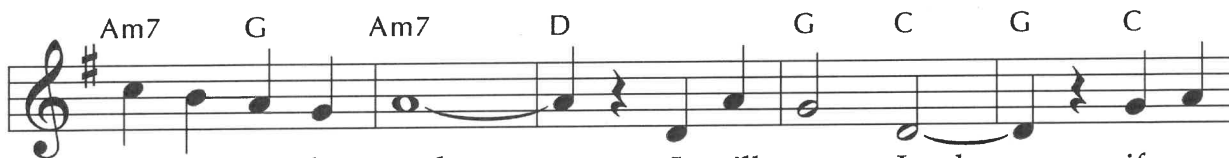
made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



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?



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.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

12 Noon – 3:00 PM Stewardship Committee Planning Retreat (Daye Meeting Room)

3:00 PM Vox Virorum in concert (at Yates Baptist Church, Durham)

5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

Monday, January 22

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

1:30 PM Worship Planning

Tuesday, January 23

11:30 AM. Day Timers Luncheon (at Bennett Pointe Grill)

3:00 PM Things That Matter Book Group (at the home of Kathy Parkins)

5:30 PM DCIA Banquet (Duke Memorial UMC, in Whitford Hall)

Wednesday, January 24

1:00 PM Program Staff

5:30 PM DCIA Service for Christian Unity (at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church; reception following)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

8:00 PM PIT Count neighborhood sweep

Thursday, January 25

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

11:30 AM Durham City & County Employees MLK Civic Celebration (FPC sanctuary)

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

10:00 AM First Friends Hike (meet at 381 Continental Drive) followed by coffee (at Cocoa Cinnamon)

Sunday, January 28

Third Sunday Ordinary Time

(FPC Young Adults at the Montreat "Manna" Conference)

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

11:00 AM Worship (The Hunger for Change offering will be received.)

5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group (at Sky Zone)

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

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