

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 7, 2024

---

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD  
WITH THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

---

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

---

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRELUDE**

*This Endris Night*

Healey Willan

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

**Leader:** In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,  
and God said, "Let there be light."

**People:** **The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

**Leader:** Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

**People:** **The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

**Leader:** Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.  
I have called you by name; you are mine.

**People:** **The voice of the Lord is over the waters!**

**\*HYMN NO. 475**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Nettleton

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Amy Dillon

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** **Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth,  
who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism,  
who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost:  
Come to us, open our hearts and minds,  
so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power,  
for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Genesis 1:1-5

(Pew Bible, OT Page 1)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

Amy Dillon

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1:4-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 34)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

\*Those who are able, please stand

SERMON

*“Baptized for the Journey”*

Mindy Douglas

*(silent reflection)*

\*HYMN NO. 480

*Take Me to the Water*

*Take Me to the Water*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory

*To Thee, Jehovah, I Give Thanks*

M. Drischner

*\*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!***

AFFIRMATION OF CONFIRMANDS

John Weicher

Leader: Friends in Christ, in baptism we make promises for our children,  
for those who remain near, and for those who move far away;  
for everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

People: **We have promised to rely upon God’s grace as family, mentors and friends;  
to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to you as children,  
into your adulthood.**

Leader: God has embraced you confirmands within this covenant of faith.

People: **We have promised, through prayer and example,  
to support and encourage you throughout your life to be faithful Christians.**

Leader: Christ has embraced you confirmands within this covenant of hope.

People: **As members of the church of Jesus Christ,  
we have promised to guide and nurture you, by word and deed,  
with love and prayer, encouraging you to know and to follow Christ  
and to be faithful members of Christ’s church.**

Leader: Your confirmands have been made members of Christ’s church,  
the body of Christ, and joined to Christ’s ministry of justice, peace, and love.

People: **Our promises are binding.  
Our love is strong.  
Our intent is clear.  
Because you have been chosen by God and are precious to God,  
you are also precious to us.**

Leader: The triune God will continue to embrace you within this covenant  
because God’s love knows no end.

All: **Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God  
that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

**\*RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

\*Invitation

\*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

John Weicher

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from one another.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another.**

**We allow the past to hold us captive.**

**In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.**

**Fulfill the promises of our baptism  
so that we may rise to new life,  
and live together in grace.**

\*Silent Confession

\*Baptismal Vows

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Leader: You whose hearts are heavy, consider now this invitation:  
Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you desire to turn from the ways of sin?

**People: I do.**

Leader: Do you renounce all evil,  
and all powers in the world which defy God's righteousness and love?

**People: I renounce them.**

Leader: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

**People: I do.**

Leader: I invite you then to turn back toward the light of Christ,  
back toward your neighbors.

*(Participants turn back toward the light.)*

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word  
and showing his love to your life's end?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing the Peace

\*Response (Hymn No. 475, verse 3)

*Nettleton*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed* Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Leader: With the whole church, let us confess our faith: Do you believe in God, the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*THE BLESSING OF WATER** John Weicher

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** Esther Hethcox

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

**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. 484** *Out of Deep, Unordered Water* Rustington

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING** Mindy Douglas

**\*POSTLUDE** *Nun Danket Alle Gott* Otto Dienel

FPC's Racial Equity Task Force will meet immediately following worship today  
in the Wilson Parlor. Interested people are welcome to join us.



**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.

We are grateful to **Gordon Campbell** for providing music leadership for today's worship.

**COVID on the rise:** The number of people with COVID has increased in Durham and in our FPC community over the past two weeks. We are taking precautions among our staff and encouraging those with any symptoms to work from home (or to wear a mask while working at the church), even if not testing COVID positive, until this wave passes (of course, a positive test requires full isolation). We encourage our FPC community to be aware of the increased presence of COVID in Durham and to consider wearing a mask in communal spaces for your own safety and for the safety of those around you.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by *Alice Raney* in loving memory of her mother, *Ethel Lipscomb Girvin* and grandmother, *Ethel Carr Lipscomb*.

**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.

**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.

**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.

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from PCUSA worship resources for Baptism of the Lord Sunday - <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/baptism-lord-sunday-service/>, and Margaret LaMotte Torrence, liturgy written for the PAM Worship and Music Conference, 2018.

---

### ~ Our Concerns ~

*Doug Butler* is recovering from recent back surgery.

*Franzi Rokoske* is home after a brief hospital stay.

*Paul Cornsweet Susan Cyr Kerry Holbrook Ann Huff Lee House Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*

### 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

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*John Keller*, son of Tom and Margaret Keller

*Brian Knowles*, son/stepson of Sheila Miglarese and Sam Miglarese

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

*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



**The church office will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024  
in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday.  
A service project (assembling hygiene kits) is planned at FPC on Monday morning.  
Stay tuned for details and how you can help.**

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

#### **Annual MLK Unity March and Commemorative Worship**

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 worship service in our sanctuary. Music will be provided by Durham's Children Choir. All are welcome to participate in the march and attend the worship. For more information contact Dr. Warren Herndon at 919-599-1056 or [drherndon8@gmail.com](mailto:drherndon8@gmail.com).



#### **FPC Hosting Community Blood Drive**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

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

Primary contact/organizer: *Julie Whiddon*

Email: [foxylady2642@yahoo.com](mailto:foxylady2642@yahoo.com)

Phone number: 919-730-6673

Sign up online to donate blood at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.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.

#### **SIGN UP TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP**

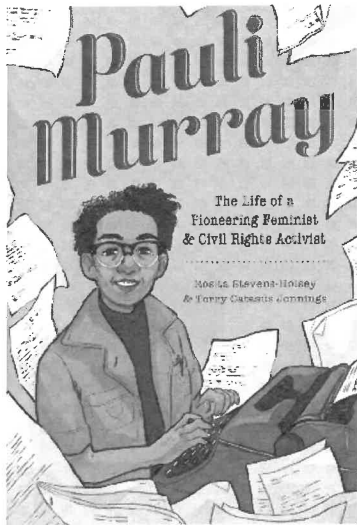
The flower ministry of FPC offers a meaningful way to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion. Following worship, our deacons divide the flowers into smaller arrangements and deliver them to members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as a way of sharing with them a part of our worship service. Please reserve a Sunday by using this link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-45767263-2024#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-45767263-2024#/)/. You can also call the church office for more information and to reserve a Sunday: 919-682-5511 x 215 (Valerie).



# 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.

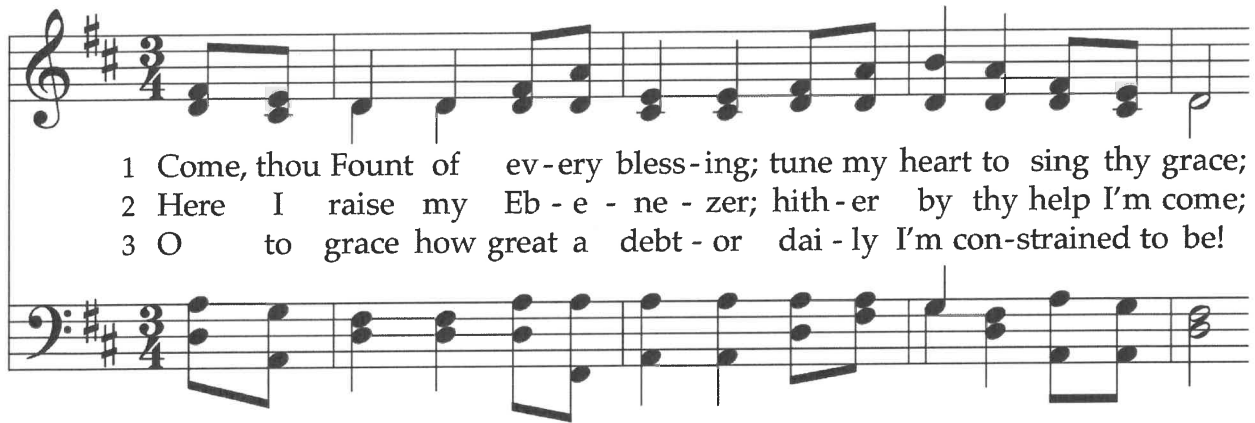


You are invited to meet Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey at all of these events:

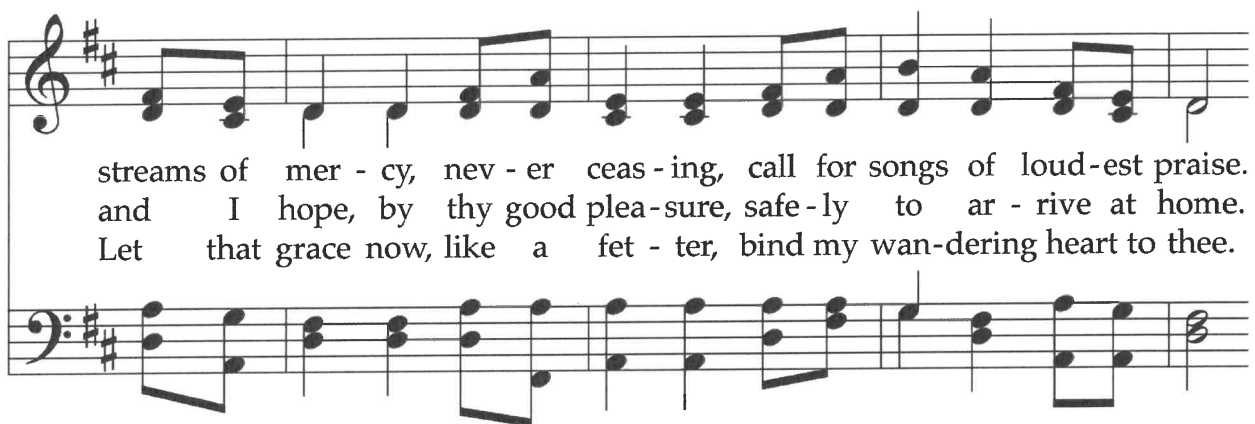
- **Sunday, January 14 after worship** -Join in greeting Ms. Rosita at a reception sponsored by FPC's Racial Equity Task Force. There will be books on sale and for signing.
- **Tuesday, January 16, 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** - Durham Congregations in Action will have a Lunch and Learn with Ms. Rosita at 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 who was closely connected to Pauli Murray and her importance in the history of the USA and Durham in fighting for equality for everyone!

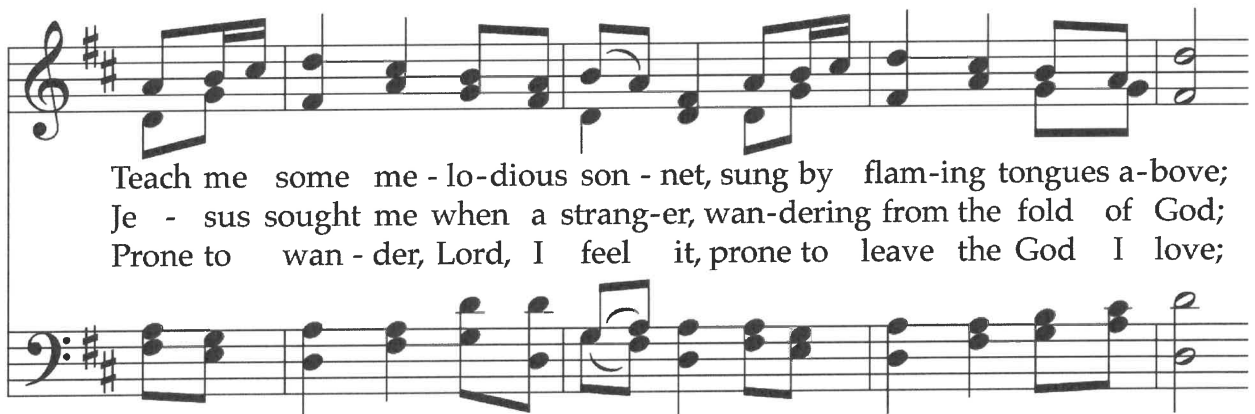
# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



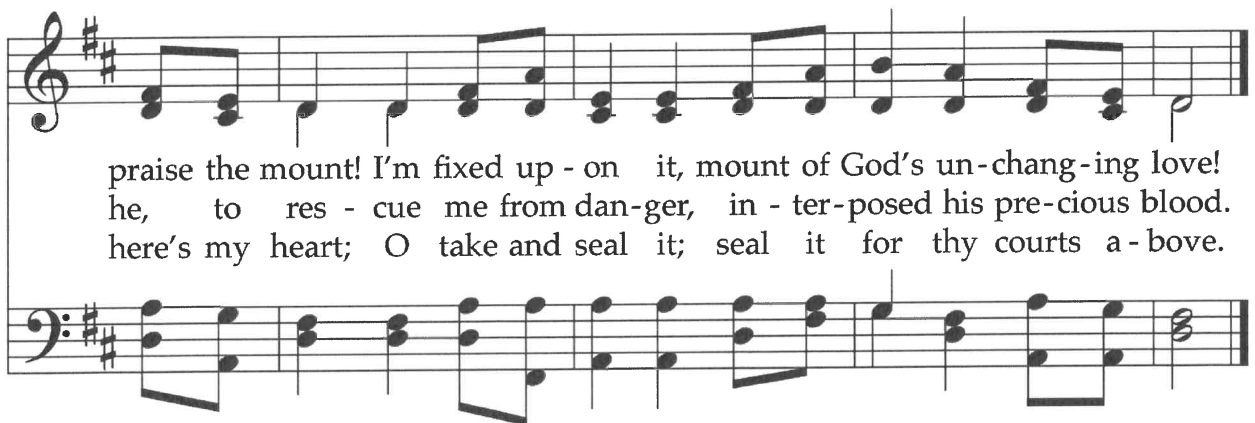
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



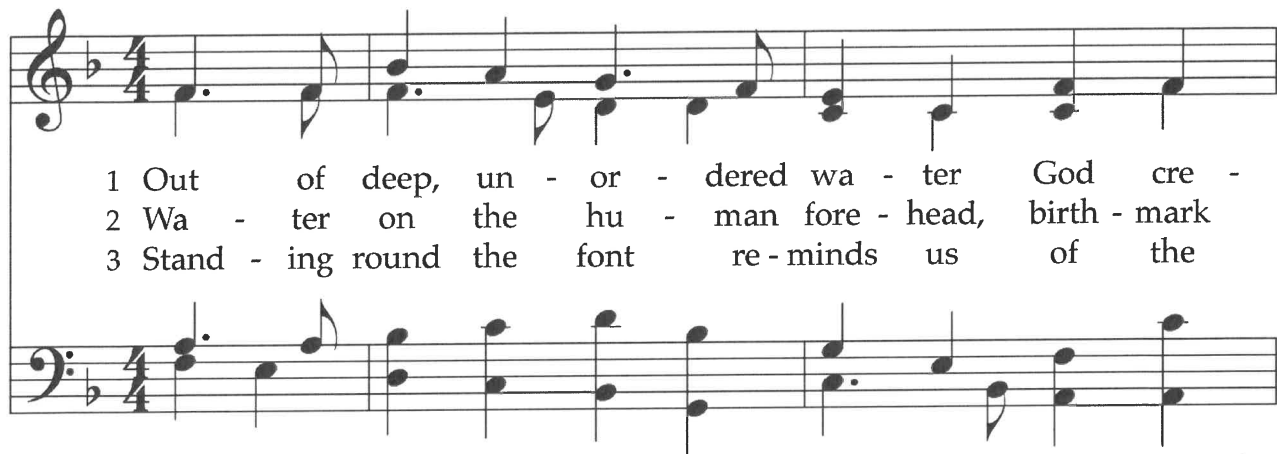
# 480

# Take Me to the Water

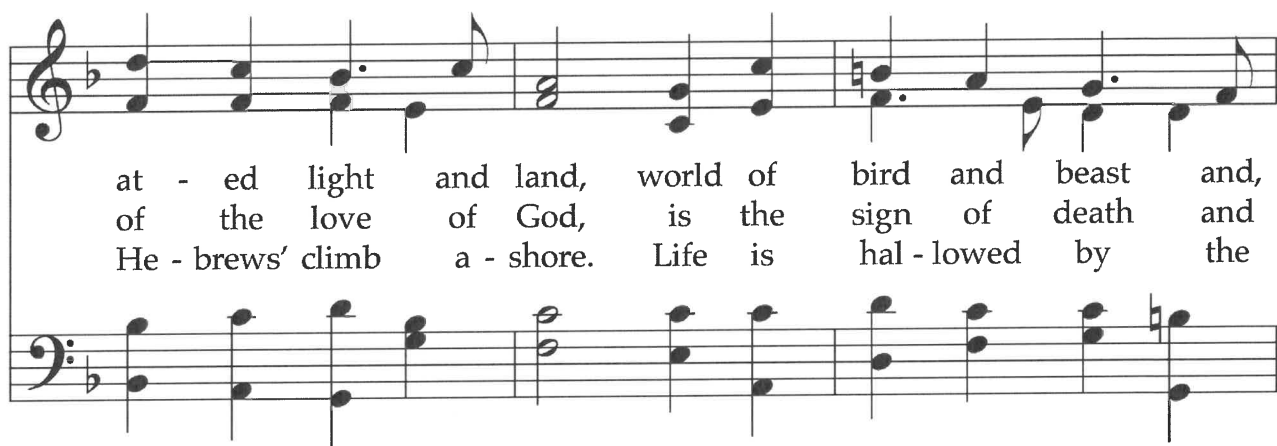
1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -  
2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -  
3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -  
4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.  
ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.  
jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

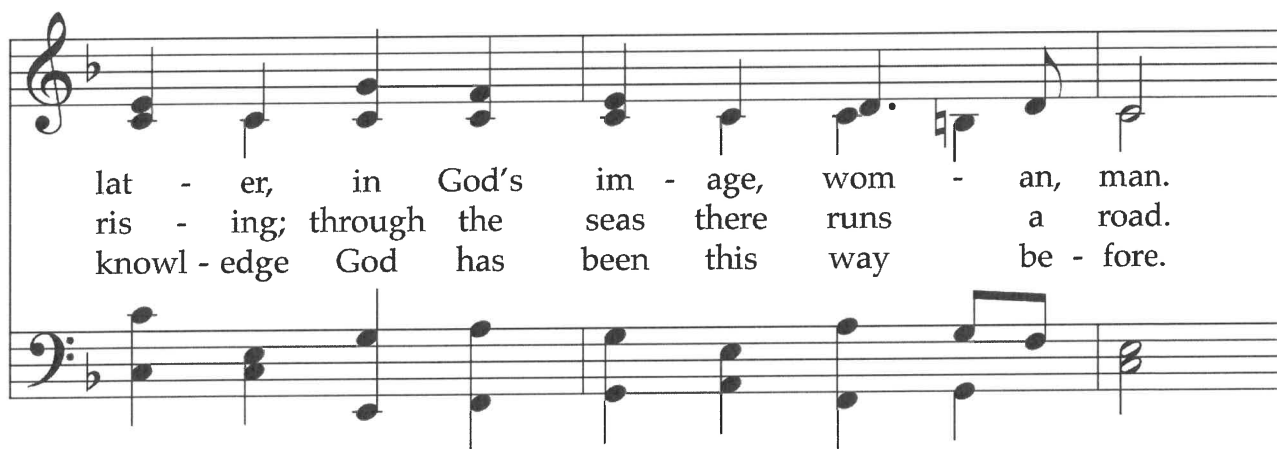
# 484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water



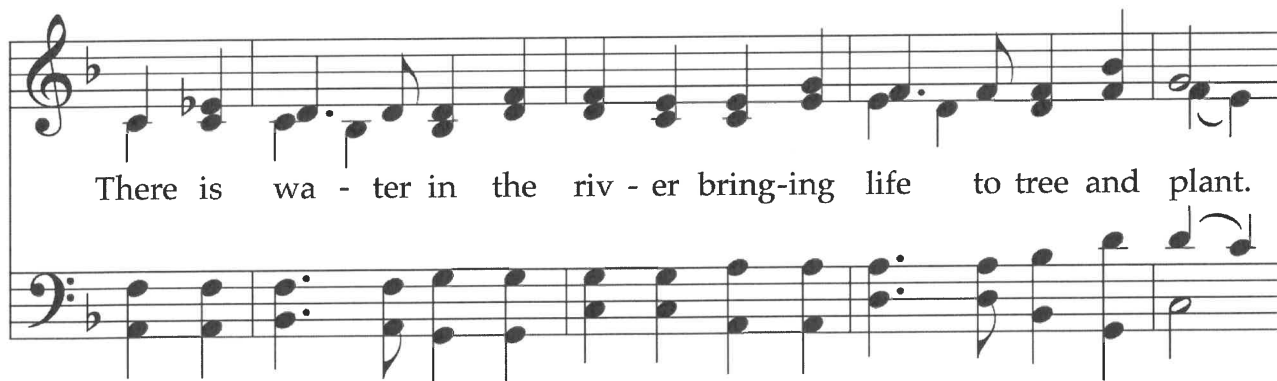
1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -  
2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore - head, birth - mark  
3 Stand - ing round the font re - minds us of the



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.

## This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>After Worship:</b></p> <p><b>12:15 PM:</b> Racial Equity Task Force (in the Wilson Parlor)</p> <p>The Somethings Litty Lunch (at Bull City Burger)</p> <p><b>5:00-7:00 PM</b> Youth Group</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Birds of Taiwan Slide Show (in Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday, January 8</b></p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b> Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study (in the Robert Daye Parlor)</p> <p><b>1:00 PM</b> Worship Planning</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) Christian Education Committee Property Committee</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> (via Zoom) Service &amp; Mission Committee</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) Worship &amp; the Arts Committee</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) Youth Ministry Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, January 9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Things That Matter Book Group is not meeting.</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, January 10</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chancel Choir</b> (to be determined)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, January 11</b></p>   <hr style="width: 30%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday, January 12</b></p>   <hr style="width: 30%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday, January 13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, January 14</b> <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> <p><b>9:45-10:45 AM</b> Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults)</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Mindy Douglas, Preaching</p> <p><b>12:15 PM</b> Reception for Ms. Rosita Stevens-Holsey (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p><b>5:00-7:00 PM</b> Youth Group</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</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*



*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*

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