

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

5th Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord

arr. Truuke Ameigh

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

All: **The Lord heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

Leader: The Lord counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

All: **Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.**

*HYMN NO. 327

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is.

Your understanding is beyond measure.

We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

In your compassion, forgive us,

For we place our hope in your steadfast love.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*THE PEACE

Esther Hethcox

*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.*

Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Carl Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, speak to us what has been told from the beginning,
your Word that is the foundation of the world. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:29-39

(Pew Bible, NT page 35)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Carl Rist

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

(Pew Bible, OT page 668)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Molting Season"

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

(Silent reflection)

***HYMN**

An Eagle is Soaring

Sung to *Ash Grove*

An eagle is soaring and turning and diving;

It stretches its wings to the currents of air.

It gracefully moves without effort or striving;

The updrafts will carry its flight anywhere.

How hard, Lord, we struggle and work for your blessing;

May we see your grace in the eagle above.

For you will renew us when we wait and listen,

And you will uphold us in strength and in love.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Esther Hethcox

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,

the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people

to bless all families of the earth.

(Affirmation continues next page.)

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

This Is the Hour of Banquet and of Song

Richard Shephard

*This is the hour of banquet and of song; this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the brief, bright hour of fellowship with thee.*

*Here would I feed upon the Bread of God; here drink with thee the royal Wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste a-fresh the calm of sin forgiven.*

*Too soon we leave, we go our several ways; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone,
the bread and wine consumed: yet all our days thou still art here with us, our Shield and Sun.*

*Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet passing points to the glad feast above,
giving us a foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.*

*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!

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: Ever-living God, we have known, and we have heard
that you are the creator of the ends of the earth
and your understanding is unsearchable.

You give power to the faint and strength to the powerless;
when your people grew weary

you lifted them up in Christ with wings like eagles,
and when your church falls exhausted you send your Holy Spirit
so that we may walk and run in your strength and not our own.

By the depth of your mercy,

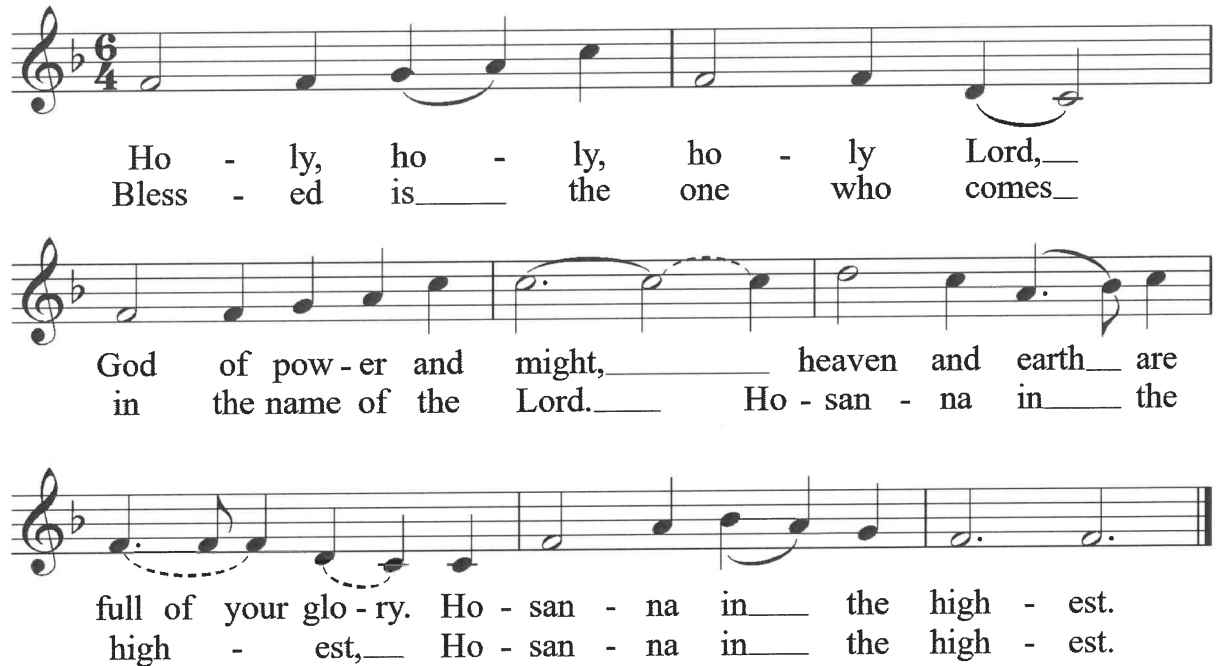
you turned the agony of your Son's cross into the grace of his resurrection.

Leader: And so, we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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: Everlasting God, enter among us now,
in the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your people may be sanctified.
May these gifts of bread and wine be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Leader: Ever-loving God,
we seek for you in solitude, and we long for you in company;
we hope for you in distress, and we ache for you in the darkness.
Meet us in our suffering and in our trials;
heal us when we are stricken and hopeless;
and raise us up when we are faint and weary.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

Hasten the day when every enemy becomes a friend in you,
every hunger is filled in you,
and every tear is comforted by you,
and you are all in all,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **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.)

***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: Loving God, we have eaten at your table and shared the feast of your love. May these living signs of your grace embolden us in our discipleship in the world. May we be witnesses of your sacramental love, embodying your mercy and justice in all we do. Amen

***HYMN NO. 463**

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Nora Tubbs Tisdale

***POSTLUDE**

How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord

arr. Wilbur Held

The Welcome and Belonging Committee is hosting an “Interest Meeting for Discerning Visitors” following worship today in Watts- Hill Hall. If you are considering membership with FPC, you are encouraged to attend. There will be refreshments and welcome materials.



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right. 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.

We welcome to the pulpit the Rev. Dr. Nora Tubbs Tisdale, an ordained PC(USA) minister (+40 years) and retired seminary professor (Yale Divinity School, Clement Muehl Professor of Homiletics emeritus). Tisdale attended Queens College, Charlotte; UNC-Chapel Hill (B.A.); Union Theological Seminary (D. Min.); and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D.). She was born in Florence, SC and grew up in Kingsport, TN and Wilmington, NC. Her husband, *Alfred Tisdale*, is a retired Episcopal priest. They now reside in Durham (Croasdaile Village) and worship with us on Sundays.

Today's sanctuary *flowers* are given to the glory of God and in honor and memory of *Tina & Joe Ray* by *Laurie Ray*.

★ *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.

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.

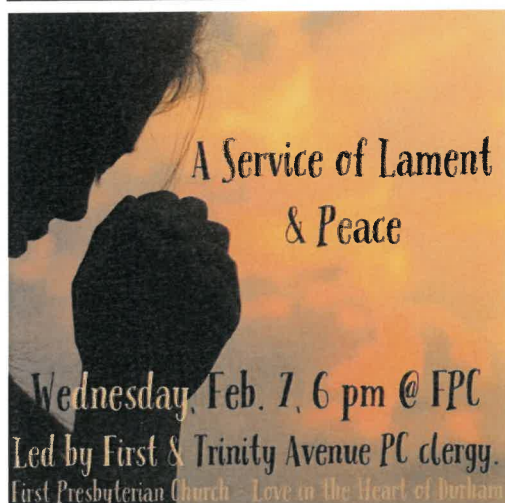
Restroom locations: to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Today's worship texts are from *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Feasting on the Word* (Year B, Vol. 1), and *Eucharistic Prayers*. Music reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.

FPC seeks childcare workers (hourly pay) for Sunday mornings, 10:30-12 noon.

To learn more, contact Lenore Champion at l.champion@firstpres-durham.org.

Use this link to apply: <http://bit.ly/3ufkPjc>.

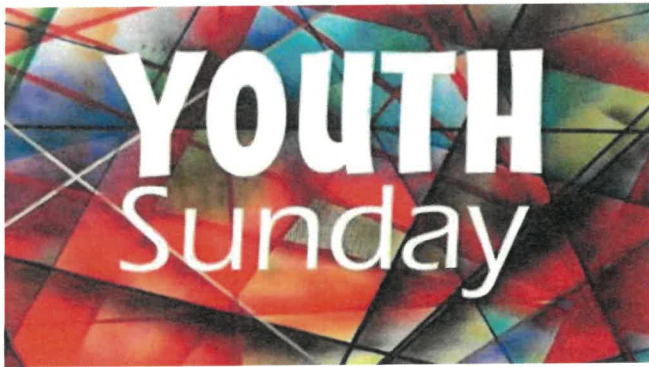


Wednesday, February 7

6:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church (Durham) will join with FPC for a service of lament and peace that will include prayers, songs, and moments of silence.

All are welcome.



Sunday, February 11

11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

FPC youth have planned the service and written the liturgy. They will lead worship. Lorenzo Mbugua and Lainey Blackwood will preach.

~ Concerns ~

- **Brent Curtis**, recovering at home following surgery.
- **Harvey Estes**, a patient at Duke Medical Center.
- **Barbara Gerwe**, recovering at home following knee surgery.
- **Diane Lesman**, recovering at home following hip surgery.
- **Troy Evans**, nephew of Vernon Neece
- **Ford Holbrook** and **Andrew**, brother and nephew of Kerry Holbrook
- **John Keller**, son of Margaret & Tom Keller, hospitalized in Atlanta from chemotherapy issues.
- **Joe Robinson**, former member of FPC, recovering from surgeries this week.
- **Alfred Tisdale**, undergoing tests at Duke Medical Center.
- **Denisha Williams**, daughter of Sybil King, dealing with health issues.
- **Emily Wilson**, wife of Mike Wilson and daughter-in-law of Jean and Chuck Wilson, as she undergoes a second round of chemotherapy.

Paul Cornsweet

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Jenni James

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Franzi Rokoske

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

Karla Brown family, friends of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Brian Knowles, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese

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

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

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


327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)


Unison




1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy



Harmony *Unison*




rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from



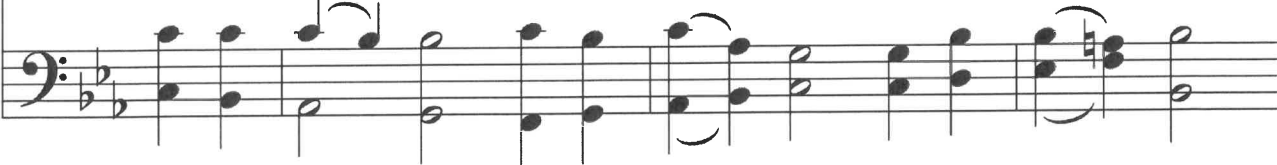

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.



Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a unison vocal part and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats: B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The vocal line is written on a treble clef staff, and the piano accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are repeated twice. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a final chord in both staves.

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."



Wednesday, February 14

Imposition of Ashes

12 Noon in the FPC Memorial Garden

6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

**A light supper will be available in Watts-Hill Hall
following the evening service.**

The Chancel Choir will rehearse at 7:15 p.m. in the choir room.

Cole Arthur Riley comes to Durham on February 16

There will be two free appearances by NYT bestseller author Cole Arthur Riley who wrote “This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us” and soon-to-be-released “Black Liturgies.”



• **2:00-3:30 p.m.** at Miller Morgan Auditorium on North Carolina Central University campus. **Emily Wilkins** will be in the FPC parking lot at 1 PM for anyone who would like to carpool. For details and to register, go to:

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

• **7:00-8:30 p.m.** at Mt Level Missionary Baptist Church in Durham. A book signing will follow

the presentation at this location. For details and to register, go to:

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

The Week at a Glance!

<div>Later Today</div> <div>After Worship: Interest Meeting for Discerning Visitors (Watts-Hill Hall)</div> <div>After Worship: Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)</div> <div>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</div> <div>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</div>	<div>Monday, February 5</div> <div>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</div> <div>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)</div> <div>1:30 PM Plan Worship</div> <div></div> <div>Tuesday, February 6</div> <div>12 Noon – 4:00 PM Program Staff Retreat (Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)</div>	
<div>Wednesday, February 7</div> <div>6:00 PM A Service of Lament and Prayer for Peace</div> <div>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</div> <div></div> <div>Thursday, February 8</div> <div>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews</div>	<div>Friday, February 9</div> <div></div> <div>Saturday, February 10</div> <div>9:30-11:00 AM Youth Sunday Rehearsal (sanctuary)</div>	<div>Sunday, February 11</div> <div>Transfiguration of the Lord</div> <div>Youth Sunday</div> <div>9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation classes for all ages</div> <div>11:00 AM Worship led by Youth</div> <div>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</div>

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

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