

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Creation Care Sunday

April 21, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

(from *Cantata BWV 208*)

arr. Mary Howe for 4 hands

Gordon Campbell and Kathy Parkins, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We walk in wonder beneath the sun and stars.

People: **Creation is God's masterpiece and we are blessed to take part in it.**

Leader: We give thanks for the air, the land, and the water

People: **and for all the creatures joined together in the web of life.**

Leader: Beauty is before us, around us, over us and beneath us.

People: **We join our hearts, minds, and spirits as one in thanks and awe.**

*HYMN NO. 15 (verses 1,3,4,6) *All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way, sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears,

sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Haley Stephenson

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth, we groan with creation:

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water, we groan with creation:

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air, we groan with creation:

People: **Have mercy on us.**

(Prayer continues to next page.)

** Those who are able, please stand.*

Leader: Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste, we groan with creation:

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Giver of life, in the midst of rising seas, we groan with creation:

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Giver of life, forgive us and make us agents of healing

for the good of your creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Haley Stephenson

***RESPONSE**

Sung to *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*Sing, O earth and seas, God's praises, sun and storms and sounding shore,
streams and forests, faithful people, day and night the Christ adore,
born for us and all creation through a love forever sure: evermore and evermore.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: Creator God, we come to you having heard creation groaning in travail.
Speak to us through your holy word that with insight and compassion
we may care for all creation. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Job 12:7-9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 462)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Michael Honeycutt

PSALTER READING

Psalm 104 (selected verses)

(Pew Bible, OT Page 554)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Mindy Douglas

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:18-25

(Pew Bible, NT Page 158)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Mindy Douglas

SERMON

"Sacred Earth"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***A COVENANT OF HEALING**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Today we join in a renewal of our covenant with God and with one another.
Standing together as followers of Jesus, let us commit ourselves to the healing
and protection of God's creation. Let us commit to stand against all threats to life,
and to resist all powers that would destroy it.

**All: We commit to the discovery of some new beauty
every day in God's creation:**

**the sunrise and the sunset, the birds, flowers, trees, rainbows, stars,
and the many forms of life that inhabit the earth.**

(Covenant continues to next page.)

**We commit to listen to the animals as they try to teach us,
the birds as they try to tell us,
the plants of the earth and the fish of the sea
as they declare to us their message of hope and healing for the world.
We will remember always that God speaks to us
through the beauty of God's good creation,
and we will try our best to answer God's call
to revere all that God has created.
May we, together with people everywhere,
awaken and begin to co-create the foundation of a new world
so that the future of all life on our planet
and the future of human lifeways can be protected and healed.**

***HYMN NO. 713**

Touch the Earth Lightly

Tenderness

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

Beautiful Savior

F. Melius Christiansen

*Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine!*

***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

Susan Dunlap

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

Susan Dunlap

**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. 17**

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Prelude and Fugue in G

J.S. Bach

SONAM Concert later today in sanctuary.

SONAM will present Jada Poteat (Choral conductor) in a Master's Recital at 3:00 p.m. In preparation for this event, we ask that you return hymnals and Bibles to the book racks as you exit your pew. Please also collect any trash, children's drawings, and worship bulletins from today's worship and take these with you. Thank you for your cooperation. Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM) is a chorus committed to creating high-quality sacred and secular music and giving back to the community. Jada is a SONAM Fellow, and candidate for a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at UNC-Greensboro. All are welcome.



First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. 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.



Sign in

Donate online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus 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 by *Shelley Turkington* to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, *Elinor Robinson Smith*.

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. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of 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/visual console. 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 *Book of Common Worship* (2018), *Peacefulpebbles* website, and *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.



First Presbyterian Hosting Spring Blood Drive Thursday, May 2 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at FPC in Watts-Hill Hall

If you are healthy and it has been over 50 days since your last blood donation, please sign up to donate. Most donations take about an hour. Go online to schedule your appointment: RedCrossBlood.org and use code *firstpres*. Walk-ins also welcome.

Spring is the perfect time for a pop-up fellowship event.

Check out these opportunities and sign up to join us!

More information can be found on the signup page or contact the host(s).

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-48937424-2024>.

| Hosting | Name of Event | Date | Time |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Catherine Dumas | Occoneechee Mountain hike | April 27 | 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Brianna Honea Bennett | Yoga | May 19 | 1:30 p.m. |
| David & Judy Smith | Bird watching | May 25 | 7:30 a.m. |
| Jon Abels | Make sour dough bread in his home | June 1 | 10:00 a.m. |



Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to the following:

- **Kathy Krahenbuhl and family** on the unexpected death of Kathy's niece, **Janetta Song Aitken Stephenson**, on April 16th in Wilmington NC.
- **Carolyn and Richard Mangeot and family** on the death of Richard's brother, **Brad Mangeot**, on April 18th in Florida.

Concerns: **Jennie Bodkin**, sister of Mindy Douglas, is now home following re-hospitalized this week at UNC-Hospitals with complications from surgery.

Beth Brockman

Katherine Higgins

Mal King

Keith Rokoske

Tony Chavez

Kerry Holbrook

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Alfred Tisdale

Paul Cornsweet

Lee House

Madge McKeithan

Susan Cyr

Ann Huff

Vernon Neece

Bill Hendrickson

Jenni James

Franzi Rokoske

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe**

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Tim Boyer, cousin of Fred Moore

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Jasper Gunn, child of Wilson Gunn

Ford Holbrook, brother Kerry Holbrook

John Keller, son of Tom & Margaret Keller

Michele Miller-Cox, First Presbyterian Day School

Spencer Reeves, friend of FPC

Joe Robinson, former member of FPC

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Denisha Williams, daughter of Sybil King

Emily Wilson, wife of Mike Wilson and daughter-in-law of Jean and Chuck Wilson.

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowwood

Matt Floding, former member of FPC

Andrew Holbrook, nephew of Kerry Holbrook

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

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

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

SPRING FLING!
(AND MINDY'S SEND-OFF BEFORE SABBATICAL!)



All-Church Fellowship & Supper
 Sunday, May 5, 5-7:30 pm
 Bring a dish to share, chair & water bottle.
 Croasdaile Village Picnic Shelter
 2600 Croasdaile Farm Parkway
 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - LOVE IN THE HEART OF DURHAM



The Stewardship Committee is inviting all members to participate in an online *Time & Talent Survey* to connect members to ministries of our congregation. Please take 5 minutes to complete it using this link:

<https://forms.gle/Ts8UqmQUcfr2rG37>

Please submit the survey by May 21st.

A paper copy of the survey is available from the table in the foyer for anyone who prefers that method. Place completed survey in the envelope.



Mindy Douglas' Sabbatical Plans
May 6 – August 5, 2024

Scheduled Plans

May 6-8 – Sprunt Lecture Series and Installation of President Jacqueline (Jacq) Lapsley, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA

May 24-31 – Montreat, NC (time to read, write, reflect, and plan)

June 19-22 – The Visions Conference of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Chicago, IL

June 23-29 – The Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference, Montreat

July 8-22 – London and Portugal

Pastoral Care

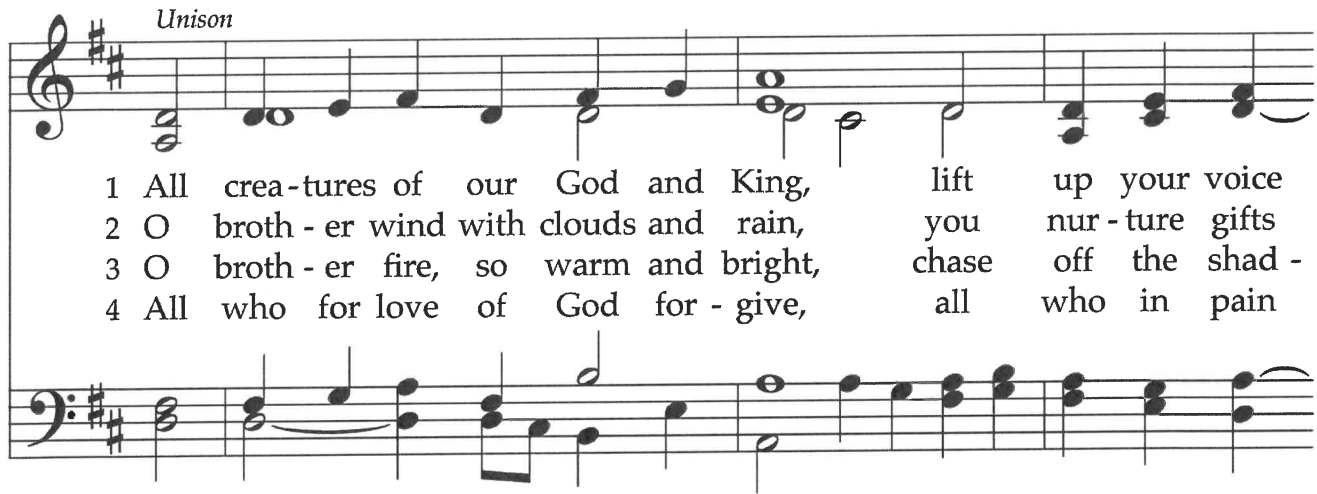
Amy Heit will return for 10-12 hours a week and will join *Esther Hethcox* and *Susan Dunlap* in caring for the congregation. *John Weicher* and *Esther Hethcox* will moderate Session meetings and congregation meetings, as scheduled and as needed.

Preaching Schedule During Mindy Douglas' Sabbatical

- **May 12 – Heidi Biermann**, ThD student at Duke, active at FPC since 2021. Heidi was ordained on April 7th to a validated ministry position in New Hope Presbytery as an associate pastor for teaching. She will carry out this role in two ways – at FPC as a teacher and worship leader, and in small, rural churches throughout our presbytery as a preacher and worship leader.
- **May 19 – John Weicher** (Youth Confirmation Sunday)
- **May 26 – Esther Hethcox** (Congregational meeting to elect additional officers)
- **June 2 – John Weicher** (Officer ordination/installation)
- **June 9 – Bob Dunham** (communion) – Bob is the *pastor emeritus* at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. He lives with his wife Marla at Carol Woods in Chapel Hill.
- **June 16 – Esther Hethcox** (New Member Sunday)
- **June 23 – Tim Verhey** – Tim is an ordained PC(USA) Minister of the Word and Sacrament and a professor at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, NC. He is the son of Phyllis Verhey and the late Allen Verhey and worships with us several times each year. Tim and Mindy were in school together at Union in Richmond.
- **June 30 – Katherine Higgins** – Katherine was active at FPC when she lived in Durham. She now lives in Pittsboro and commutes to Duke to serve as a chaplain and certified educator in clinical pastoral education (CPE). She is an ordained Presbyterian (USA) minister who recently received her PhD in transformative learning at NCSU.
- **July 7 – John Weicher**
- **July 14 – Ian Vellenga** – Ian and his wife Jhanderys Dotel-Vellenga are PC (USA) mission co-workers in Nicaragua, serving with the Council of Protestant Churches. They have served there since 2018 and FPC supports their ministry. Ian's father, David Vellenga, is a retired pastor in our presbytery.
- **July 21 – Esther Hethcox**
- **July 28 – Bruce Grady** – Bruce is the Executive Presbyter of New Hope Presbytery. Before he started in this position a year ago, he served at Duke Divinity School as the director of NC Thrives at the Ormand Center.
- **August 4 – Susan Dunlap**

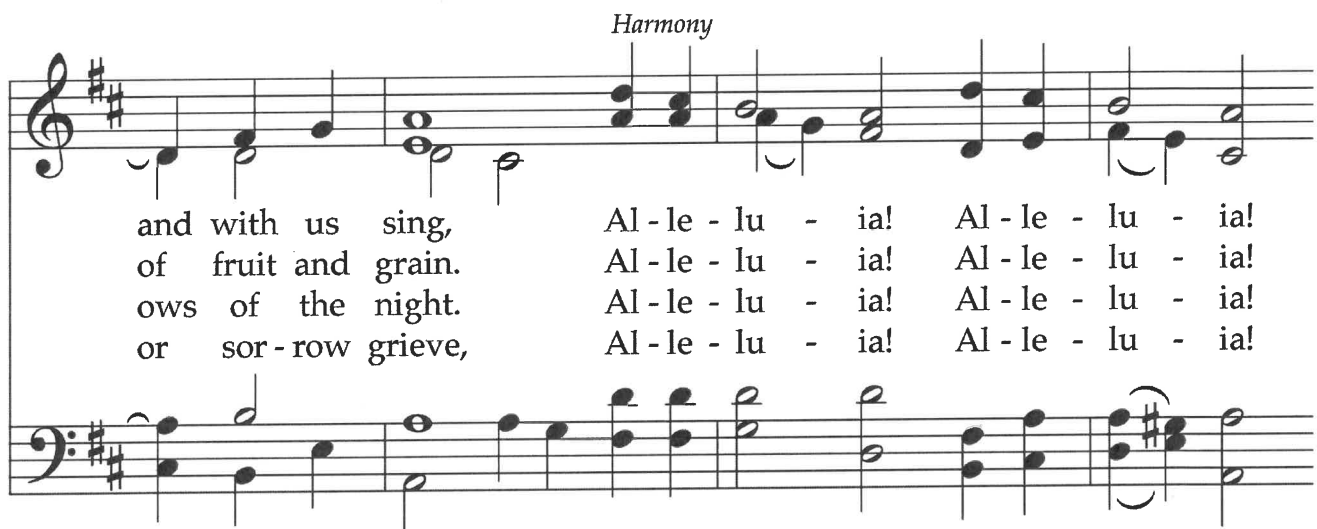
15 All Creatures of Our God and King

Unison



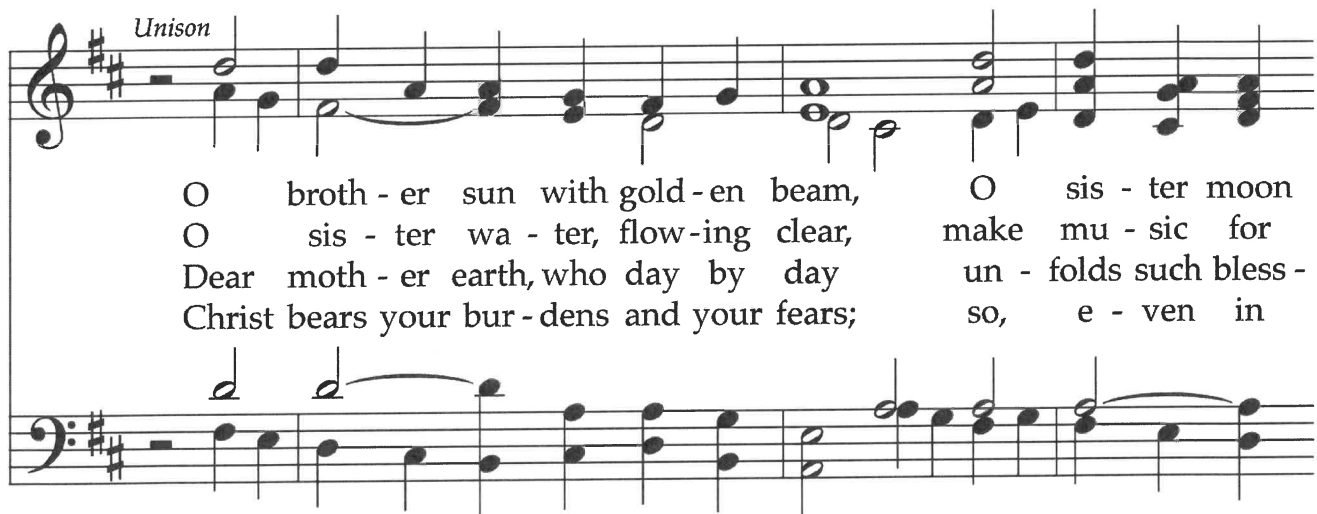
1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

Harmony



and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison



O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

Harmony

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

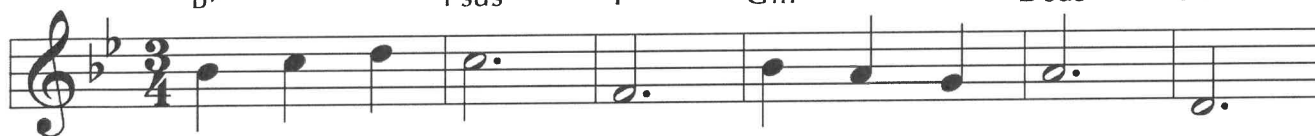
Unison

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

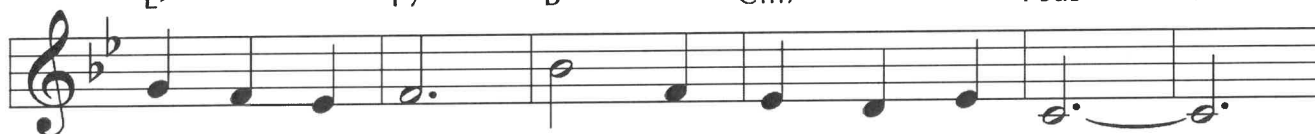
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home. Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> | <p>6 O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> |
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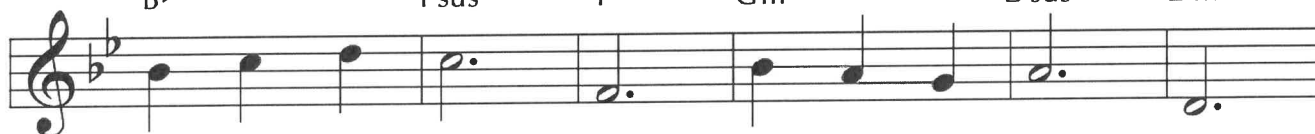
Touch the Earth Lightly

Capo 3: (G)
B \flat (Dsus)
Fsus(D)
F(Em)
Gm(Bsus)
Dsus(Bm)
Dm

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

(C)
E \flat (D7)
F7(G)
B \flat (Am7)
Cm7(Dsus)
Fsus(D)
F

nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

(G)
B \flat (Dsus)
Fsus(D)
F(Em)
Gm(Bsus)
Dsus(Bm)
Dm

gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 we who would fos - ter clouds of di - sas - ter,
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

(C)
E \flat (G)
B \flat (Em)
Gm(Am7)
Cm7(D)
F

1-3

(G)
B \flat

4

(G)
B \flat 

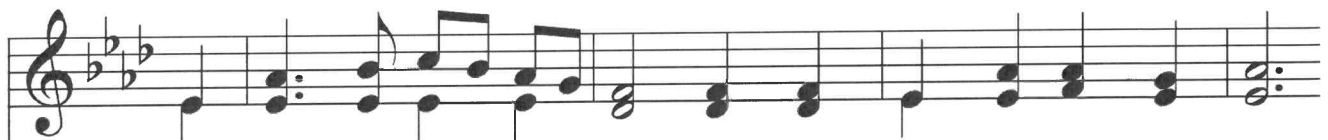
trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly and mak - ing us one.

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

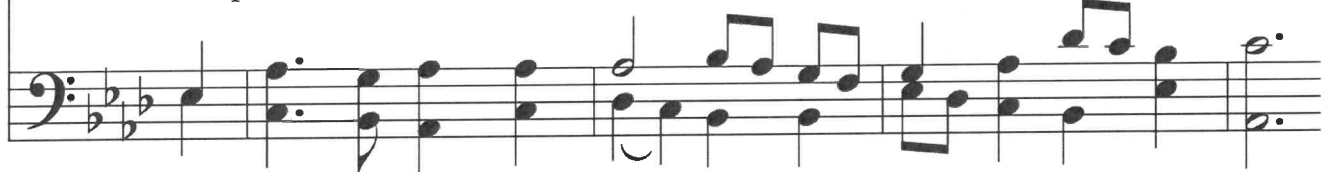
(Psalm 148)



1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin-ing light!
2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es, hill and plain,
3 Sing prais-es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de-light:
4 Sing prais-es now, God's peo-ple; your gift of speech em-ploy



Sing, plan-ets in your or-bits; sing, stars all burn-ing bright!
you moun-tains thrust-ing sky-ward, you val-leys ripe with grain!
you whales that roam the o-ceans, you ea-gles in your flight!
to praise the Lord, your Mak-er, with thank-ful-ness and joy!



Sing praise, you winds and tem-pests, you driv-ing rain and snow!
Sing praise, each fra-grant flow-er; your fair-est hues dis-play.
Sing praise, you sheep on hill-sides, you cat-tle in the stall!
Sing with the whole cre-a-tion; a cos-mic cho-rus raise:



Sing, clouds that race and bil-low and shad-ow earth be-low!
Sing praise, you trees of au-tumn in glow-ing, glad ar-ray!
Though word-less, sing your prais-es to God who made you all!
"To God a-lone be glo-ry and ev-er-last-ing praise!"



The Week at a Glance!

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p>3:00 PM SONAM Concert (sanctuary)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group: Assemble Care Packages for College Students (Brent & Lesley Curtis' home)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, April 22</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-In Ministry Interviews</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Session Meeting</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Newsletter today</i></p> <p>12 Noon Seniors Spring Luncheon (gather at 11:30 AM in the Wilson Parlor; lunch at 12 noon in Watts-Hill Hall)</p> | |
| <p>Wednesday, April 24</p> <p>1:00 PM All Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 25</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-In Ministry Interviews</p> | <p>Friday, April 26</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 27</p> <p>10:00 AM-12:30 PM Occoneechee Mountain Hike (Hillsborough) with Catherine Dumas</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 28 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation Classes for all ages</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship (Hunger for Change Offering, new members received, and Congregational Meeting to approve revised church by-laws)</p> <p>After Worship: Prayer Shawl Ministry (Wilson Parlor)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group: Kickball versus The Somethings (Forest Hills Park)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</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>.