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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

**JUNE 16, 2024**

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost    Father's Day / Pride Sunday

June 16, 2024

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

### PRELUDE

*If with all your hearts (from "Elijah")*

Felix Mendelssohn

Dan Huff, soloist

*"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me." Thus saith our God.*

*Oh! That I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence.*

### INTROIT

*Serenity*

Charles Ives

Ann Huff, piano

*O, Sabbath rest of Galilee! O, calm of hills above,*

*where Jesus knelt to share with thee, the silence of eternity interpreted by love.*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease:*

*take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess, the beauty of thy peace.*

— John Greenleaf Whittier

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: Since the beginning of time, God has called us to covenant life.

People: **In the first glimmers of the cosmos, God knew each of us by name,  
God loved each of us.**

Leader: God has made a covenant with us, promising to love us fully as we are,  
for we are made in the image of God.

People: **All God asks is that we bear witness to this love through worship and actions.**

Leader: God has called us into this space, this moment right now.

People: **A moment of time to be fully as we are, fully with God.**

**Come, let us worship God!**

### \*HYMN (See insert)

*O God Beyond All Praising*

*Thaxed*

### \*CONFESSION OF SIN

Vernon Cooper

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O Holy God, you have shown us your transforming power—  
the incarnational mystery of a body made new and different,  
the resurrection glory of new life and existence,  
the ascension of a lonely life to an abundant one.**

**Yet we have failed to fully grasp the transformational power of your love.**

**When you have called for our boldness, we have chosen comfort.**

**When you have invited us to new ways, we have fallen back to old habits.**

*(Prayer continues to next page.)*

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

**When you have called us to create bridges, we have deepened chasms of division.  
When you have called us to love radically, we have chosen neutrality.  
Forgive us, O God, for how we have failed you and failed the beloved of your kingdom.  
In your mercy, renew us and make us whole;  
craft us evermore into the likeness of Christ  
and inspire our days to be adventures in trust and devotion to you.  
In your saving goodness, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silent Confession  
Declaration of Pardon

**\*THE PEACE**

Vernon Cooper

**\*REGATHERING HYMN (See insert)**

*Two Oaks*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome;  
all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Kerry Holbrook

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us pray.  
People: **Holy God, as we approach your Word in this morning,  
may we be as your people have been.  
May we be as discerning as your judge, Deborah.  
May we be as hopeful as your prophet Isaiah.  
May we be as trusting as your servant Rahab.  
May we be as daring as your disciple Tabitha.  
Lord, speak to us in this hour, so we may be as your people have been. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Esther 4:12-16

(Pew Bible, OT Page 447)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Kerry Holbrook

**EPISTLE LESSON**

John 4 (*selected verses*)

(Pew Bible, NT Page 94)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

Esther Hethcox

**SERMON**

*"An Uncomfortable Gospel"*

Esther Hethcox

*(silent reflection)*

**\*HYMN NO. 100**

*Canticle of the Turning*

*Star of the County Down*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *A Declaration of Faith*

Vernon Cooper

**The church has its ongoing story with God.  
The church's story with God did not end with the latest events recorded in Scripture.  
Across the centuries the company of believers  
has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history. (Affirmation continues to next page.)**

**It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory, and shame.  
We confess we are heirs of this whole story.  
We are charged to remember our past,  
to be warned and encouraged by it, but not to live it again.  
Now is the time of our testing as God's story with the church moves forward through us.  
We are called to live now as God's servants in the service of people everywhere.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Esther Hethcox

**MISSION COMMISSIONING**

Esther Hethcox, John Weicher

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Solo

*Sing Me to Heaven*

Daniel Gawthrop

*In my hearts sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poet's gloss,  
words alone are vain and vacant and my heart is mute.*

*In response to aching silence memory summons half-heard voices,  
and my soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song.*

*If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby.*

*If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.*

*If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to heaven.*

*Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure, touch in me grief and comfort;  
love and passion, pain and pleasure.*

*Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem.*

*Love me, comfort me, bring me to God.*

*Sing me a love song, sing me to heaven.*

\*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!***

**LITANY OF LOVE (See page 6)**

Malarie Schexnider, Josh Walters, Caroline Means

\*HYMN NO. 692

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

*Wild Mountain Thyme*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Esther Hethcox

\*POSTLUDE

*Canticle of the Turning*

Carlton Young



First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us.  
Let us know you have joined us in person for worship  
by scanning the QR code to the left.  
For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Sign in

Donate online

## Worship Notes and Parish Announcements

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus 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 are grateful to Dan and Ann Huff* for sharing their gifts of music with the congregation today. The choir is on a well-deserved vacation for the summer.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given by *Steve Rimmer* and *Lyn and John Williams*, to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Martha Rimmer*, Steve's wife and Lyn's mother.

*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 written by *Esther Hethcox*; others were taken from *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.

*These Days devotional books* for July-September 2024 have arrived. Copies are free and available from the table in the foyer. Pick up a copy while supplies last.

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### Preachers through the remainder of June



**Rev. Dr. Tim Verhey**  
**Sunday, June 23 – 11:00 a.m. worship**



**Rev. Dr. Katherine Higgins**  
**Sunday, June 30 - 11:00 a.m. worship**

## Habitat House Dedication and Celebration with Omar Guess!

The Habitat house for Omar Guess will be dedicated on **Saturday, June 22 at 12 noon**.  
The address is 716 Belmont, Durham and it would be great to have folks from FPC attend.

Please also plan to attend the celebration for Omar and his new home **after worship on Sunday, June 23, in Watts-Hill Hall**. Light refreshments will be available.



- **Joe Harvard** is recovering from a recent hospital stay.
- **Jo Ann Moore** is recovering from a recent hospital stay.
- **Alfred Tisdale** has returned to his home in Croasdaile Village.
- **Sylvia Elder**, grandmother of Esther Hethcox, is recovering from a fall.
- **John Keller**, son of Tom and Margaret Keller, is recovering at home following a stem cell transplant.
- **Doug Neece**, brother of Vernon Neece, is recovering from a fall.

**Tony Chavez**      **Paul Cornsweet**  
**Jenni James**    **Mal King**  
**Ruth Roberson**   **Franzi Rokoske**

**Susan Cyr**  
**Mitzi Leshner-Thomas**  
**Keith Rokoske**

**Kerry Holbrook**  
**Madge McKeithan**

**Lee House**  
**Vernon Neece**

### Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

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

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

**Sabrina Anwar-Wilson**, friend of Mary Berry

**Tim Boyer**, cousin of Fred Moore

**Francisca Cristobal**, family of Al & Judy Arrowwood

**Kim Cummings**, father of Drew Cummings

**Larry and Lynn Farrell**, parents of Rachel Bethune

**Isla Foster**, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

**Andrew Holbrook**, nephew of Kerry Holbrook

**Ford Holbrook**, brother Kerry Holbrook

**Katie Jackson**, wife of Matt Hirsch

**John Keller**, son of Tom & Margaret Keller

**Alan Petersburg**, brother-in-law of Jenni James

**Doug Rimmer**, brother of Steve Rimmer

**Joe Robinson**, former member of FPC

**Elizabeth Romska**, daughter of Bob Lewis

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss

**John C. Weicher**, father of John Weicher

**Denisha Williams**, daughter of Sybil King

## **Litany of Love**

- One: When God created the heavens and the earth, God called it all *good*.
- All: Every one of us is good and beautiful in the eyes of God.**
- One: God created us in the image of Godself.
- All: We are God's beautiful creation,  
whom God called into existence and community.**
- One: As creatures made in the image of God,  
we are created with worth and for dignity.
- All: Together we are the fullness of God's love in the world,  
a love that is expansive and diverse.**
- One: We are a community of individual experiences,  
we show how God loves *all*.
- All: All gender identities and expressions;  
all ways of being family;  
all ways of being fully human.**
- One: We are made better as a community when we embrace our queer siblings,  
affirming their worth and loving their all.
- All: We are God's covenant people, called to love.**
- One: We are also called to protect  
any person who is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.
- All: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.**
- One: Until we are all free, none of us is free.
- All: May we be co-creators in God's kingdom,  
working to affirm, honor and value all God creates and calls good.**
- One: May we be shepherds of healing,  
welcoming the hurt and wounded into our flock.
- All: May we be hosts of reconciliation  
by setting a wide, open table for all to gather around.**
- One: May we be gardeners of freedom, sowing seeds of hope,  
so all life may be abundant.
- All: We are God's people, all that we are, all that we ever will be.  
Let us bask in this love.  
Let us work in this love. Amen.**

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

## Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

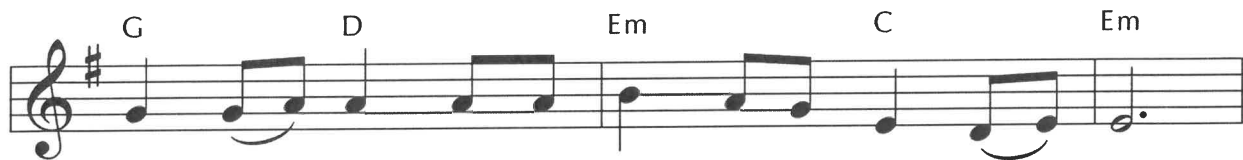


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



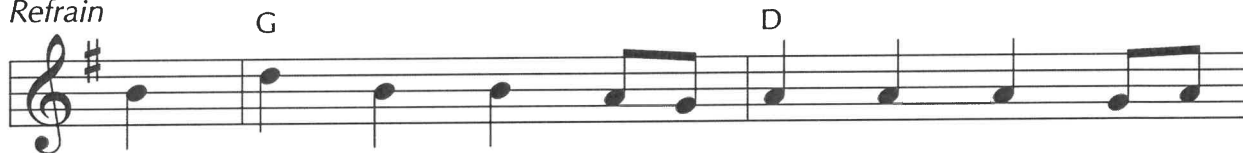
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be





name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

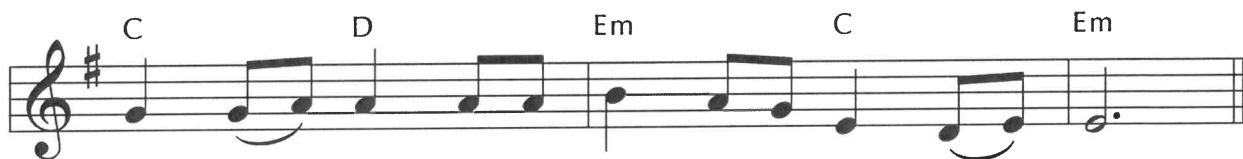
*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

692

## Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)  
 Refrain F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  C7



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)  
 Dm F/C B $\flat$  C7 Dm F/C Gm



liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)  
 F B $\flat$  Gm7 F B $\flat$  F



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

(D) (G) (D) (G)  
 F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
 2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
 3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)  
 C7 Dm F/C B $\flat$  C7



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
 goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
 sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)  
 Dm Gm7 F B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
 deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
 Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

*to Refrain*



## THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

40% - Local Hunger Programs

10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries and Iglesia Emanuel have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

**Remember to bring your offering next Sunday!**

## The Week at a Glance!

### Later Today

**12:15 PM** Middle School delegation leaves for Charleston Mission

**No MnMs Fellowship**

### Monday, June 17

**9:00 AM-12 Noon** Walk-in Ministry interviews

### Tuesday, June 18

**Newsletter today**

### Wednesday, June 19



**The church office is closed today in observance of Juneteenth holiday.**

**Church staff meeting is cancelled.**

**Chancel Choir is on summer break.**

### Thursday, June 20

**World Refugee Day**

**9:00 AM-12 Noon** Walk-In Ministry Interviews

### Friday, June 21

Middle School delegation returns from Charleston Mission

### Saturday, June 22

**10:00 AM** Day School Pre-K Graduation (sanctuary)

**12:00 PM** Habitat House Dedication for Omar Guess (716 Belmont Dr, Durham)

**6:00 PM** First Friends Summer Potluck (Home of Paul Baldasare & Jane Wettach)

### Sunday, June 23

**7:30 AM** High School delegation leaves for Appalachia Service Project

**9:45 AM** Summer Faith Formation classes for children and adults

**11:00 AM** Worship (Tim Verhey, preaching)  
Farewell to the House family  
Hunger for Change offering received

**12:15 PM** Reception and Celebration for Omar Guess

**8:00 PM** MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

**About the bulletin cover:** The drawing represents the congregation (the cat) and Jesus (top left) sending the youth off to do their part in many communities this summer, while also sending everyone out to celebrate Pride month in whatever ways they wish. – Isa Cummings

### CHURCH STAFF

*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Lenore Champion*, Children's Ministry Director  
*Vernon Cooper*, Sexton  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff (Sabbatical)  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Omar Guess, Sr.*, Sunday Morning Sexton  
*Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus



*Amy Heit*, Parish Associate  
*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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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