

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Esther Hethcox

PRELUDE

Sarabande in d for Violin and Organ
Tatum Eppinger, violin

G.F. Handel,
arr. James Biery

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Esther Hethcox

Leader: We come to this moment of worship:
People: as individual disciples, with our own personal stories.
Leader: We come to this moment of worship:
People: as a community, called to exist in covenant with one another.
Leader: We come to this moment of worship:
People: to worship a God who broke through the veil of loneliness,
and gifted us with one another.
All: Come, let us worship our amazing God!

*HYMN NO. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Haley Stephenson

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Wondrous One, long ago you created us out of nothing but love.

**You yearned to exist with us in community,
and created us from the dust of earth.**

Yet so often, we fail to be in faithful community.

**We allow differences to separate us from fellowship,
misunderstandings to sow seeds of resentment,
and hurt to go unhealed in isolation.**

Forgive us, O God, for the ways we have failed.

May we go forth today in new ways:

**to create bridges of peace over chasms of division,
to be a balm of healing for old and new wounds,
to know when to be givers of stillness and care,
and when to be agents of your justice and freedom.**

Only through you, can we be these things.

Lord in your mercy...

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

*Those who are able, please stand.

***THE PEACE**

Haley Stephenson

***REGATHERING HYMN (No. 702, verse 3)**

*Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Williams

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Holy One, you are our Shepherd,
who has guided us through the ages.
In this hour of your Word proclaimed,
guide our minds to fully rest on you.
Guide our ears so we might hear new, inspiring things.
Guide our hearts, so our discipleship may be encouraged
and renewed for the days ahead. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

(Pew Bible, OT Page 725)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Jane Williams

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

(Pew Bible, NT Page 41)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Esther Hethcox

SERMON

“Covenant Community”

Esther Hethcox

(silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 727**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

The Servant Song

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *The Confession of 1967*

Emily Barré

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Esther Hethcox

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Caroline Means



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. 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.

The *flowers* are given to the glory of God by *David and Marie Sappenfield*, in loving memory of David's grandmother, *Laura Moore Sappenfield* and his mother, *Nancy Payne Sappenfield*. Both were presented Honorary Life Memberships in Presbyterian Women, PC(USA).

New Members: The following persons were received into membership by the Session at a called meeting held prior to today's worship:

Emily Barré lives in Durham and will be a third-year medical student at Duke University School of Medicine in August. She was raised in Vienna, Virginia and was confirmed at Vienna Presbyterian Church. Her interests are music (loves singing in the FPC choir and Duke medical school's a Capella group, and jamming on her guitar), running with the Bull City Run Club, and playing pickleball. Emily joins by Letter of Transfer.

Michael Colby, Jr lives in Durham. He is an Upper School Humanities teacher at Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill. He was born in England and raised in Baltimore. His hobbies are reading, hiking, gardening, travel, and museums. Mike joins by reaffirmation of faith.

Dow and Peggy Needham live in Durham. He was born in Memphis TN and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a pilot with American Airlines. Dow is retired and enjoys hiking. His wife, Peggy, was also born in Memphis TN. She is a retired educator and volunteers with Durham Public Schools in remediation. Her interests are attending classical music concerts, creating art projects, and reading. Dow and Peggy join by Letter of Transfer.

Spencer Reeves lives in Durham and works as a program coordinator at Duke University. He was born in Memphis, TN and grew up in New Haven. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, and is an ordained ruling elder. He enjoys cooking, listening to and playing music, and taking walks. Spencer joins by reaffirmation of faith and will be an affiliate member.

Samuel Robil lives in Durham and works as a network engineer. He was born in Cairo, Egypt. His interests are reading, hiking and listening to classical music. Sam joins by reaffirmation of faith and will be an affiliate member.

Nathan Thompson lives in Raleigh. He is married to Amy Thompson, and they have a 14-year-old daughter, Caroline. Nathan is an ESL teacher. He was raised in Allentown, PA. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Allentown where he was ordained a deacon in 2012. His interests are gardening, singing, hiking, cooking, and travel. Nathan joins by Letter of Transfer.

Music Note: We welcome our friend *Tatum Eppinger*, violinist, to worship today. Tatum was a student at Wellesley College this past school year and will be transferring to Oberlin College Conservatory of music in the fall.

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

Copies of the **PC(USA) 226th General Assembly post-convention summary**, prepared by Presbyterian Outlook, are available (yellow paper) from the table in the foyer.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Gordon Campbell has been suffering with severe back pain.

Malarie Schexnider and *Lexy Rile* are recovering from Covid.

Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson, remains hospitalized in Colorado with septic meningitis.

Paul Cornsweet Susan Cyr Elizabeth High Kerry Holbrook Lee House Jenni James
Mitzi Lesher-Thomas Madge McKeithan Jo Ann Moore Vernon Neece Ruth Roberson
Franzi Rokoske Keith Rokoske Alfred Tisdale

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

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

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Joe & Mary Kay Robinson, former members of FPC

Elizabeth Romska, daughter of Bob Lewis

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

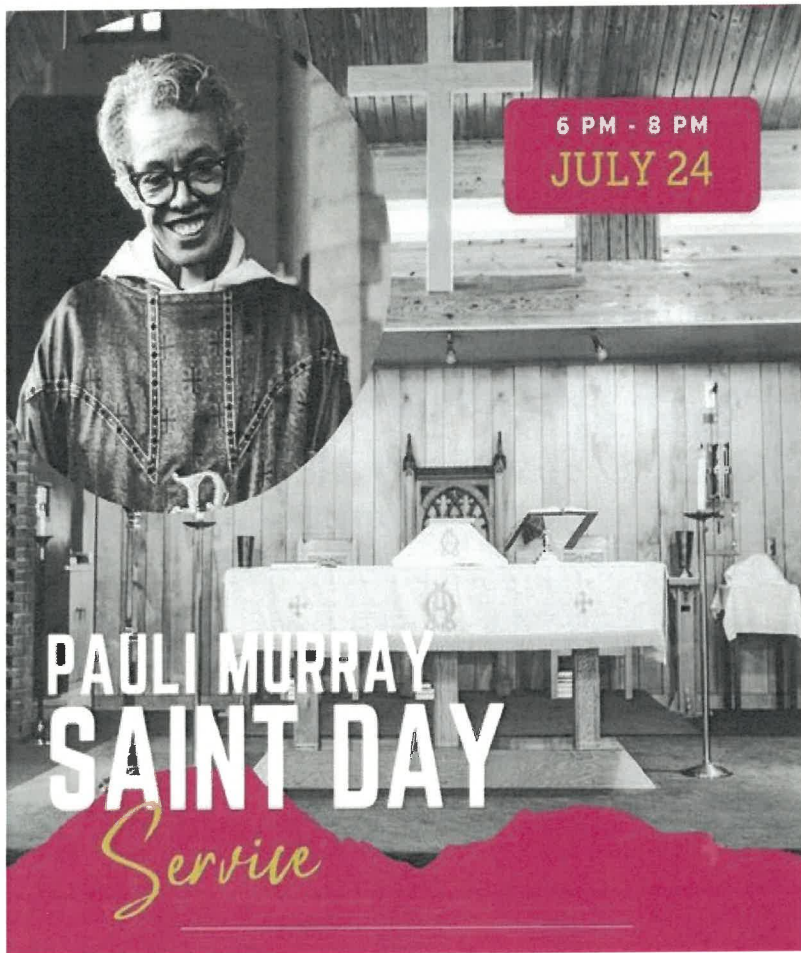
John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Denisha Williams, daughter of Sybil King

Sunday, July 28
11:00 a.m. Worship
Bruce Grady, preaching



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.



Join us for a service to commemorate the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray at Pauli's childhood church, St. Titus' Episcopal on Wednesday, July 24 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This annual service includes an original liturgy and a choir drawn from across the city. It draws an incredibly diverse group to a historically African American church and has become a beloved annual event for many people. While this is a Christian Episcopal service, all are welcome to attend! St. Titus Episcopal is located at 400 Moline St, Durham.



**First Presbyterian Community Blood Drive
Thursday, August 1 from 1:00-6:00 p.m.
in Watts-Hill Hall**

If you are healthy and it will be over 50 days since your last blood donation, please sign up to give. Most donations take about an hour.

Donors will receive a \$20 e-gift card after they give.

**Go online to schedule your appointment:
RedCrossBlood.org. FPC's code is *firstpres*.**

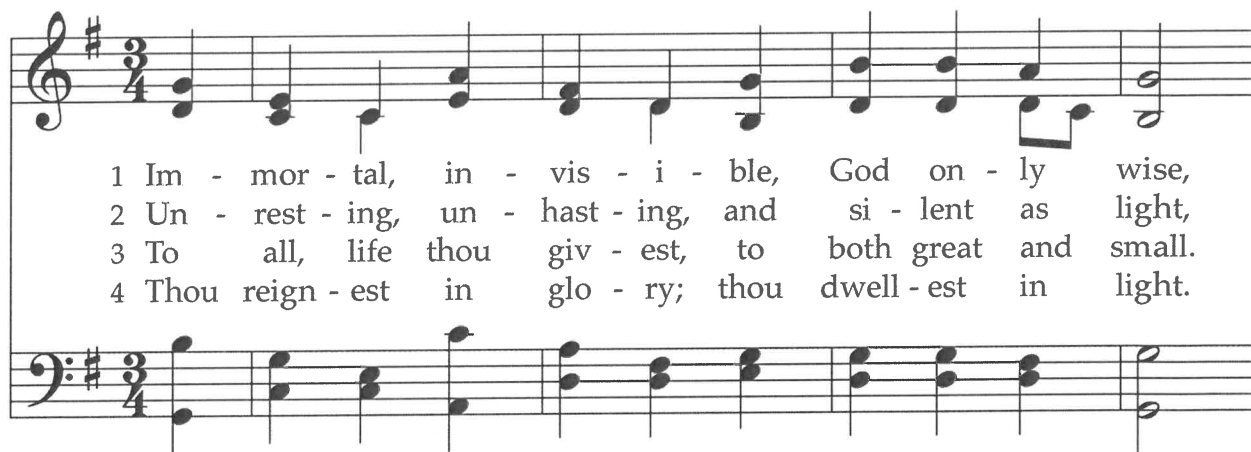
BIRD SLIDE PRESENTATION BY DAVID & JUDY SMITH

July 28, 2024 – 7:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

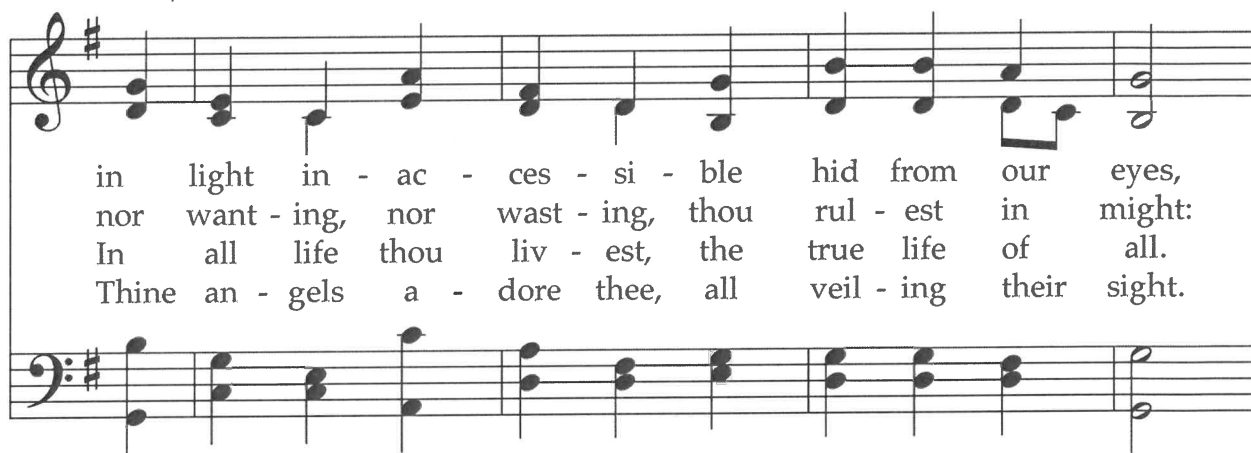
The island nation of Papua New Guinea is not easy to get to, or to get around on, but the presence of many spectacular birds (starting with the incomparable Birds-of-Paradise) puts it high on the most-wanted list for traveling birders. Join our members David and Judy Smith for a slide presentation on the birds and experiences of Papua New Guinea on Sunday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

A poster for the documentary "BAD FAITH: CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM'S UNHOLY WAR ON DEMOCRACY". The title "BAD FAITH" is at the top in large, bold letters, with "BAD" in red and "FAITH" in white. Below it, the subtitle "CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM'S UNHOLY WAR ON DEMOCRACY" is in smaller white text. The poster features a central graphic of a red cross superimposed over a silhouette of a building. Text on the poster includes: "DOCUMENTARY SCREENING & DISCUSSION WITH JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE", "SATURDAY, AUGUST 3", "MT. LEVEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH", "10:30AM-1PM", a QR code, "RSVP tinyurl.com/BADFAITH-screening", "OFFICIAL SELECTION Washington, DC International Film Festival 2024", and "Sponsored by the Mt. Level Community Partnership for Racial Justice" and "DurhamCares Love Your Neighbor".

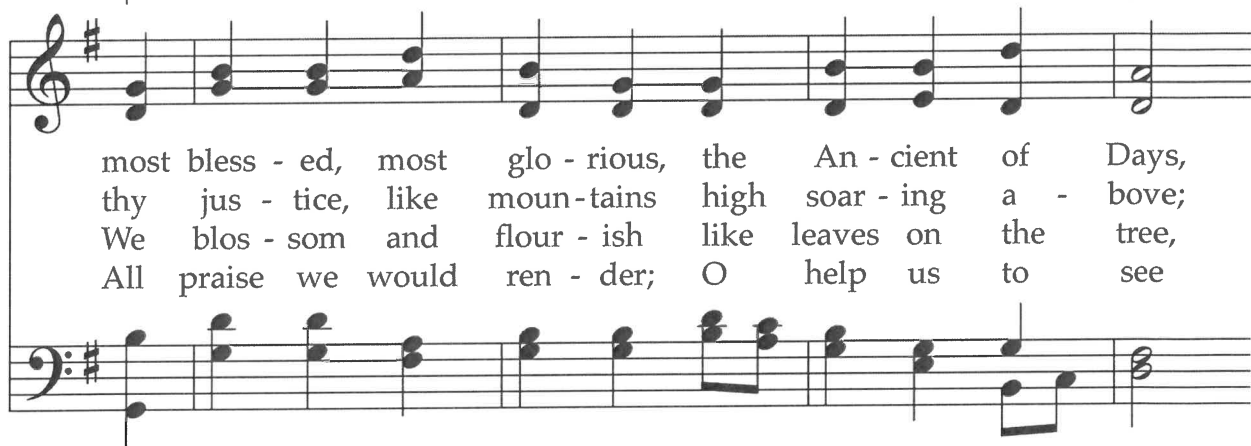
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



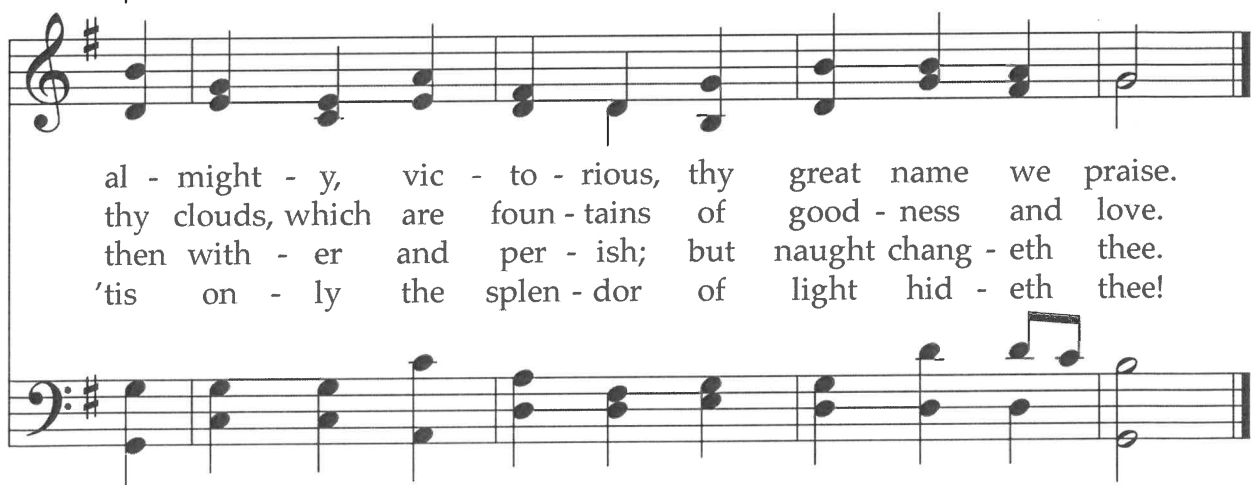
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.



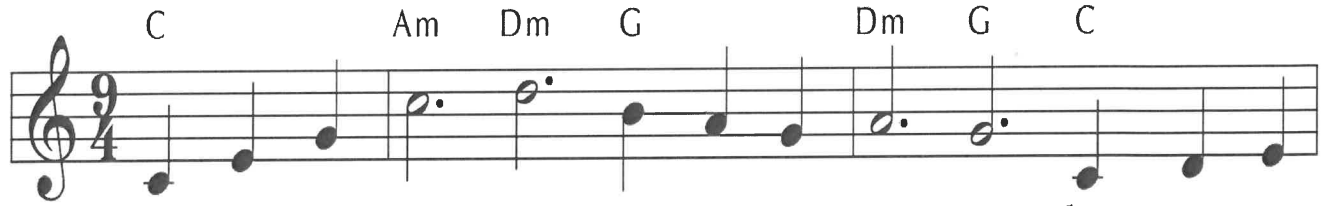
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



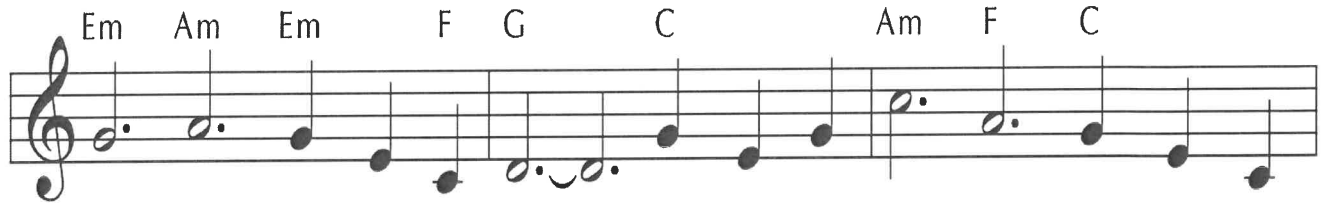
al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Christ Be Beside Me

702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
→ 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
→ all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



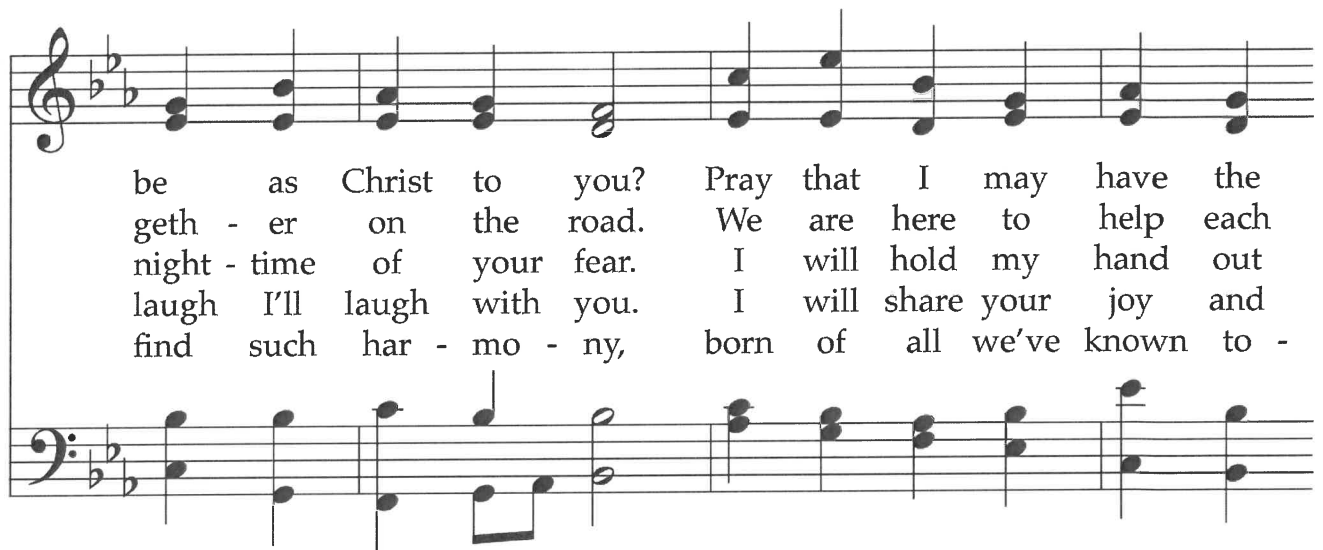
low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part.
sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
→ see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

8

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

543

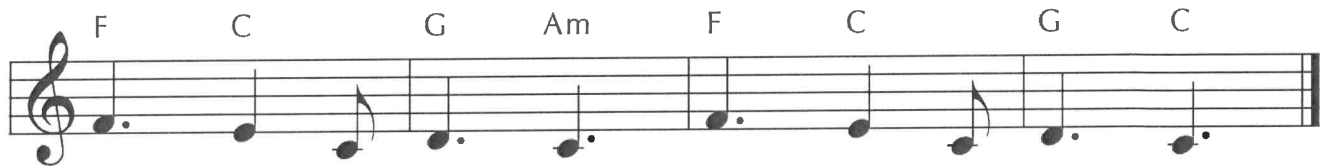
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

The Week at a Glance!

**FPC High School Youth attend Conference at Montreat NC
Sunday, July 21- Saturday, July 27**

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, July 22</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry interviews</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, July 23</p> <p>9:00 AM-4:00 PM New Hope Presbytery (at Westminster PC, Durham)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Daytimers' Luncheon today</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, July 24</p> <p>Chancel choir on summer break.</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff (Robert Daye Meeting Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, July 25</p> <p>9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-In Ministry Interviews</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, July 26</p> <p>6:00 PM First Friends Potluck (home of Bill & Jane Brown)</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, July 27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, July 28 <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Summer Faith Formation Class for children and Lectionary Class for adults</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship (Bruce Grady, preaching) Hunger for Change Offering received</p> <p>7:30 PM David and Judy Smith present Bird Slide Show (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	

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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.