

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost *Peacemaking Season*

September 29, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Mission: Medical Transportation

Esther Hethcox

Susan Dunlap

PRELUDE

Prelude on "We Shall Overcome"

Adolphus Hailstork

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We know what God desires of us:

People: **That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

Leader: We gather this morning to remind each other about that,

People: **to remember that now is always the right time to do these things.**

All: **So, with thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.**

Esther Hethcox

*HYMN NO. 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

National Hymn

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

We are called to be your people, Living God.

Why do we find it so hard to answer?

You ask us to speak out against injustice,

and we whisper because we are afraid someone might hear us.

You ask us to see the pain and poverty around us,

but we close our eyes.

You tell us that everyone,

and each one, is created in your image,

yet we persist in noticing the differences between us and others.

Forgive us, God of the Past and Creator of the Future.

May we be the ones who go out into the world,

bearing your gifts of peace, of hope, of healing, of joy

to everyone who is broken,

even as we have been made whole

through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Esther Hethcox

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Esther Hethcox

*Those who are able, please stand.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second system contains the lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Nora Allison-Pleasants

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **God of courage,**

you gave Esther the strength to speak out

and the intelligence she needed to save her people.

Help us to believe that you are still present and active in this world

and that your grace remains as an everlasting force in our lives.

In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Timothy 1:3-7

(Pew Bible, NT Page 211)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Nora Allison-Pleasants

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 31:1-3, 21-24

Leigh Wynkoop, cantor

*(After the refrain has been introduced by the organist and the cantor,
 please join in singing it where indicated (R).)*

Our help is in the name of the Ho - ly One.

The musical notation is on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
 deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. (R)

(Verses continue next page.)

Be a strong rock, a fortress to keep me safe, for you are my rock and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Blessed be the Lord!

for you have shown me the wonders of your love in a time of danger.

I said in my fear, "I have been cut off from your sight."

But you heard the sound of my prayer when I cried out to you. **(R)**

Love the Lord, all you saints;

the Lord protects the faithful but punishes the haughty.

Be strong and let your heart take courage,

all you who wait for the Lord. **(R)**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Esther 7:1-6

(Pew Bible, OT Page 448)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"For Such a Time as This"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Iona Community)

Susan Dunlap

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;

in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,

conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place

into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;

to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;

to stand with those on the edge;

to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

*HYMN (see page 7)

Inspired by Love and Anger

Salley Gardens

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Esther Hethcox

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Susan Dunlap

Offertory Anthem

Morning Has Broken

Shawn Kirchner

Soprano Solo, Carrie Huff

Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day.

*Doxology with Alleluias
*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!*

Lasst uns erfreuen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Susan Dunlap

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 379**

We Shall Overcome

We Shall Overcome

***SENDING**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: May God walk with you this day,
People: **as we seek to walk with the lonely and afraid.**
Leader: May Jesus walk with you this day,
People: **as we follow Jesus, leaving all our fears behind us.**
Leader: May the Holy Spirit walk with you this day,
People: **as we go to serve all who have been tossed aside by the world.**

***BLESSING**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Marching to Zion

Spiritual,
arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Children's music follows worship

Children, kindergarten to grade 6, are invited upstairs to the choir room immediately after worship today for a time of music with Kathy Parkins.



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.

We are grateful to *Leigh Wynkoop*, *Carrie Huff*, and *Gordon Campbell* for sharing their musical gifts with us today.

Today's *flowers* are given to the glory of God by *Ed and Caroline Pritchett* in honor of their parents: *Dr. & Mrs. Francis D. Smith* and *Dr. & Mrs. Clark P. Pritchett*.

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.

The Call to Worship is written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "*Hold Fast to What Is Good.*" Used with permission. *Other portions of today's worship texts* are taken from *Feasting on the Word*, *Lectionary Liturgies*, and *Glory to God (The Presbyterian Hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net A.713926.

The *These Days* devotional books for October-December 2024 have arrived. Free copies are available from the table in the foyer while quantities last.

FPC's Peacemaking Banner is on display in Watts-Hill Hall through the end of September. The banner was completed in 2010 to honor the 30th anniversary of "Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling." The congregation chose and signed the squares. *Sue Fricks* assembled the banner.

PRIDE



DURHAM ★ NC

Sunday, September 29

Emmaus Way Worship (held at Trinity Ave PC) – 4:00 p.m.
Queerly Beloved Worship (held at Epworth UMC) – 5:30 p.m.
PRIDE Eucharist at St. Joseph's Episcopal – 6:00 p.m.



World Communion Sunday is celebrated worldwide on the first Sunday of October. Next Sunday, October 6, let us gather around the Lord's table and entrust our lives to the one who holds the world together, giving generously to the work and witness of Christ through the life of the Church. See the enclosed insert regarding the Peace and Global Witness Offering which we will receive on World Communion Sunday. Specially marked offering envelopes will be available in the bulletins next Sunday. You can also give online to this offering through the church's website.

JOYS and CONCERNS

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Congratulations to *Lara Duffney* and *Art Baker* on the birth of *Hannah Susan Baker* on September 18th. Mom and baby are doing well. Hannah joins big sister *Grace*.

CONCERNS: *Mickey Velkey* is recovering at home following knee replacement surgery.

<i>Tony Brown</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>
<i>Fred Callaway</i>	<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Jen McGonigle</i>	<i>Keith Rokoske</i>
<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Ann Huff</i>	<i>Madge McKeithen</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>
<i>Sam Crabtree</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>	<i>Vernon Neece</i>	<i>Phyllis Verhey</i>
<i>Susan Cyr</i>			<i>David Verner</i>

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills*

Bill Mordecai, father of Beth Eisenson

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Tim Boyer, cousin of Fred Moore

Jerry Boles, sister-in-law of Maxie Honeycutt and aunt of Michael Honeycutt

Francisca Cristobal, family of Al & Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Larry and Lynn Farrell, parents of Rachel Bethune

Isla Foster, cousin and *Linda Foster Momsen*, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Katie Jackson, wife of Matt Hirsch

Rosalind Mutua, sister of Mercy Ndambiri

Paul Pasquarella, husband of Michael Honeycutt

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Denisha Williams, daughter of Sybil King

Joy Wintermute, friend of Kerry Holbrook and FPC

Free Yoga at FPC!

Does gentle stretching, intentional deep breathing, gradual strength building, and increasing balance sound appealing? If so, you are invited to join a free yoga class for seniors at FPC. Classes will be held on **Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.** and **Fridays at 10:30 a.m.** Both classes are targeted toward seniors who are looking for a gentle yoga experience. The Friday class is especially suited for people who have little or no experience with yoga. *Jane Wettach*, who has recently become a certified yoga instructor, leads the classes. If you want to attend, or get more information, contact Jane at janewettach@gmail.com or 919-612-8396.

Inspired by Love and Anger

John Bell

Irish Folk Melody
SALLEY GARDENS



1 In - spired by love and an - ger, dis - turbed by need and pain,
2 To God, who through the pro - phets pro - claimed a diff - erent age,
3 God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will ex - tend my reach?
4 A - mused in some - one's kit - chen, a - sleep in some - one's boat,



in - formed of God's own bi - as, we ask God once a - gain:
we of - fer earth's in - diff - erence, its ag - o - ny and rage:
And who, when few will lis - ten, will pro - phe - sy and preach?
at - tuned to what the an - cients ex - posed, pro - claimed, and wrote,



"How long must peo - ple suf - fer? How long can few peo - ple mind?
"When will the wronged be right - ed? When will the king - dom come?
And who, when few bid wel - come, will of - fer all they know?
a sa - vior with - out safe - ty, a trades - man with - out tools



How long dare vain self - in - terest turn prayer and pi - ty blind?"
When will the world be gen - erous to all in - stead of some?"
And who, when few dare fol - low, will walk the road I show?"
has come to tip the bal - ance with fish - er - men and fools.

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

We Shall Overcome

1 We shall o - ver - come; we shall o - ver - come;
 2 We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand;
 3 We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace;
 4 We are not a - fraid; we are not a - fraid;
 5 God will see us through; God will see us through;

we shall o - ver - come some - day.
 we'll walk hand in hand some - day.
 we shall live in peace some - day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 God will see us through to - day.

Refrain

O, deep in my heart I do be -

lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day!

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

After worship: Youth return from CROSS Mission Retreat (FPC parking lot)

12:15-12:45 PM Children's Music (K-grade 6) with Kathy Parkins (Choir Room)

8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)

Monday, September 30

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

1:30 PM Worship Planning

Tuesday, October 1

Wednesday, October 2

1:00 PM Program Staff (Daye Meeting Room)

4:30 PM Free Yoga with Jane

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 3

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

Friday, October 4

10:30 AM Free Yoga with Jane

Saturday, October 5

9:30 AM-2:30 PM Session Retreat (at Westminster PC)

Sunday, October 6



9:45 – 10:05 AM Toast and Talk for 20 minutes - Faith Formation Classes for Children, Youth, and Adults

11:00 AM Worship and Communion

12:15-12:45 PM Children's Music (K-grade 6) with Kathy Parkins (in the Choir Room)

5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)

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>.

OUR MISSION CO-WORKERS

FPC partners with PC (USA) Mission Co-Workers:
 Jhan and Ian Dotel-Vellenga, Nicaragua
 Jeff and Christi Boyd, Democratic Republic of the Congo
 To learn more about their work, go to

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/>