

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Sunday After Christmas

December 29 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Susan Dunlap

PRELUDE

Ave Maria

G. Caccini

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Dunlap

Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a son has been given to us.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: **Glory to God in the highest!**

*HYMN NO. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

*CONFESSION OF SIN

David Smith

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of grace and truth,

in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

**We confess that we have not welcomed the light
or trusted good news to be good.**

**We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little and hoping for less.**

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

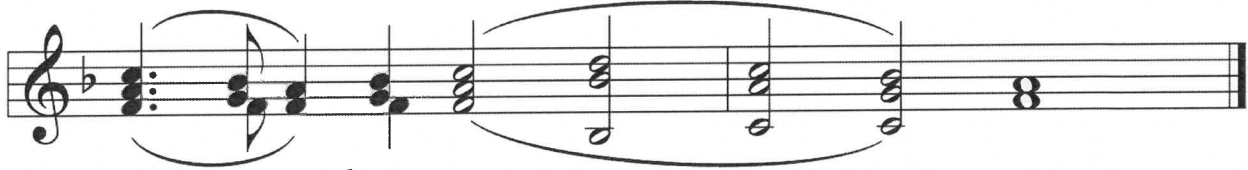
*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Kyrie (Hymn No. 579)

Russian Orthodox Chant



1 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

Silent Confession
 Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING THE PEACE**

David Smith

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

***RESPONSE** (Hymn No.119, verse 1)

Mendelssohn

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Candace Gunn

Leader: The Lord be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Leader: Let us pray.
 All: **O God, into a realm of clerics and rulers,
 you sent your child to teach the wise
 and show the world what power there is in love.
 Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth.
 In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:12-17

(Pew Bible, NT page 201)

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

Candace Gunn

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

Luke 1:68-79

(David Smith, cantor)

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



You have come to your peo - ple and set them free.

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel.

You have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of your servant David. **R**

Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant. **R**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. **R**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare a way
to give the people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins. **R**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R**

Copyright 1987 John Weaver. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

(Pew Bible, NT page 59)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Sam Miglarese

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“The Holy Families: Yours, Mine, and Jesus”

Sam Miglarese

(Silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)* *A Declaration of Faith*

Sam Miglarese

God sent the promised Deliverer to God’s people.

Jesus, the long-expected Savior,

came into the world as a child,

descended from David,

conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of Mary, a virgin. *(Affirmation continues to next page.)*

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.**

In the person and work of Jesus,

**God and a human life are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.**

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,

he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

***HYMN NO. 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Sam Miglarese

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to the Offering

David Smith

Offertory

Allemande (Cello Suite in E flat)

J.S. Bach

Ben Maxwell, cello

***Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6)**

Divinum Mysterium

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee

Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be

Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,

Evermore and evermore!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Susan Dunlap

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of Thanksgiving and intercession.)

All: **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. 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Sam Miglarese

***POSTLUDE**

I Saw Three Ships

Noel Rawsthorn

There is no music time with children following worship today.



Sign in

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.



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.

Thanks to Ben Maxwell for sharing his musical gifts with us. Ben grew up at First Presbyterian and recently completed his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music and the graduate school of music at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Special thanks to *Alice Raney, Griffin Momsen-Hudson, Carter Momsen-Hudson, and Vernon Cooper* for decorating the sanctuary for the season. The *poinsettias* are a loving gift from the *Arthur and Mary Clark Family Fund* in deep appreciation to the family in Christ at First Presbyterian Church.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers for use in the sanctuary during worship. 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. HELP: we are missing several receivers. **If you accidentally took one home, please return it to the church so it can be recharged, sanitized, and used again.**

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.

Portions of today’s worship texts are taken from *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion, Book of Common Worship* (2018 edition), and *Glory to God* (Presbyterian Hymnal). Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Year-End Giving

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions today or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2024, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2024 taxes. If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the church’s website (www.firstpresdurham.org) at any time.

~ **Our Concerns** ~

Sympathies: The love and concern of the congregation is extended to *Joe Harvard, Rebecca Harvard, Maryn and Jenna Leonard*, and *Bankston Harvard and his family* on the death of Joe's wife and Rebecca and Bankston's mother. *Elizabeth Carlisle Caughman Harvard* died on December 24th. There will be a visitation at FPC on Friday, January 3 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at FPC on Saturday, January 4 at 11:00 a.m. A reception honoring Carlisle's life will follow the service in Watts-Hill Hall.

Mary Ann Ruegg is receiving care at the health center at The Forest at Duke.
Jim Gudaitis, husband of Christy Gudaitis, is a patient at Duke Hospital.

Tony Brown *Paul Cornsweet* *Sam Crabtree* *Susan Cyr* *Kerry Holbrook*
Lee House *Dan Hudgins* *Ann Huff* *Jenni James* *Mitzi Lesher-Thomas*
Jen McGonigle *Madge McKeithen* *Harriett Mitchell* *Franzi Rokoske* *Keith Rokoske*
Alfred Tisdale

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes* Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*
Hillcrest Convalescent: *Maxie Honeycutt* Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*
Carol Wills
Bill Mordecai (father of Beth Eisenson)
Becky Carpenter (friend of Susan Cyr)

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowwood
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Larry and Lynn Farrell, parents of Rachel Bethune
Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece
Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey
Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch
Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff
Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James
Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer
Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Last Call for Nominations



NOMINATIONS

Nominations will close on December 31st for the Class of 2028 Deacons and Ruling Elders, and anyone desiring to serve at-large on the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee. Nominees should be members you know who have shown a special dedication to the church, who would bring a needed talent or expertise, or who might like to serve but have been hesitant to step forward. Or, if you yourself feel called to serve, do not hesitate to write down your own name. Green nomination forms can be found on the table in the foyer. **After completing**

both sides of the form, detach and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

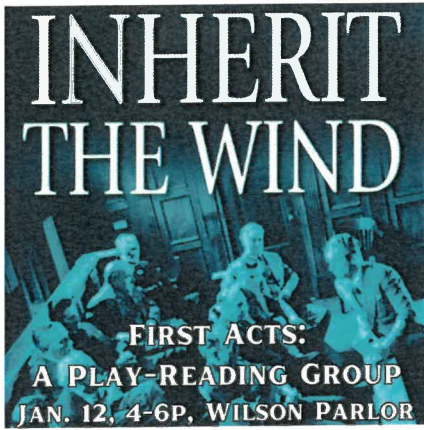


ANNUAL RETREAT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

12:30-3:00 P.M. IN WATTS-HILL HALL

Anyone interested in how FPC can foster racial equity is welcome to join us.
Lunch will be provided.



FIRST ACTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Wilson Parlor

Gather at FPC to read through the second act of *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee. No need to have been part of Act 1. Contact Mason Essif if you would like a copy of the script in advance: 773-480-0638, masonessif@gmail.com.



**Martin
Luther
King, Jr.**
remembered

**The church office will be closed on Monday, January 20
in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday holiday.**

COMMUNITY EVENT – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Annual MLK Unity March and Community Worship

The March begins at 11:00 a.m. from N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company (411 West Chapel Hill Street) and ends with a community service in the FPC sanctuary around 12 noon. All are welcome to participate in the march and the service.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

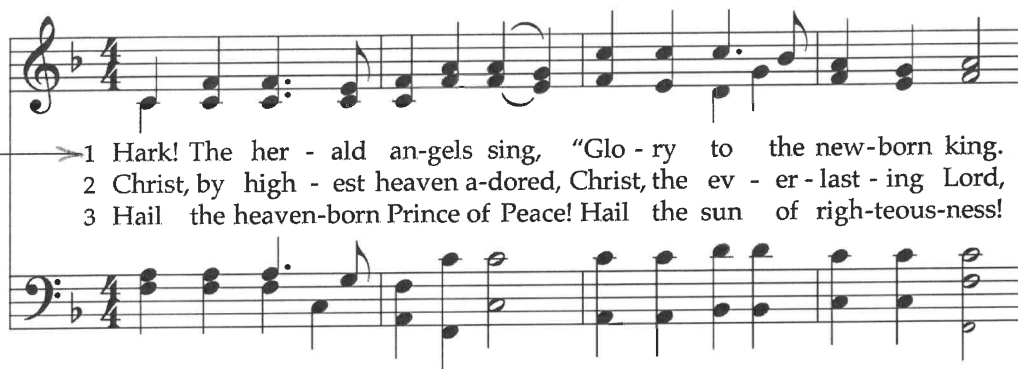
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

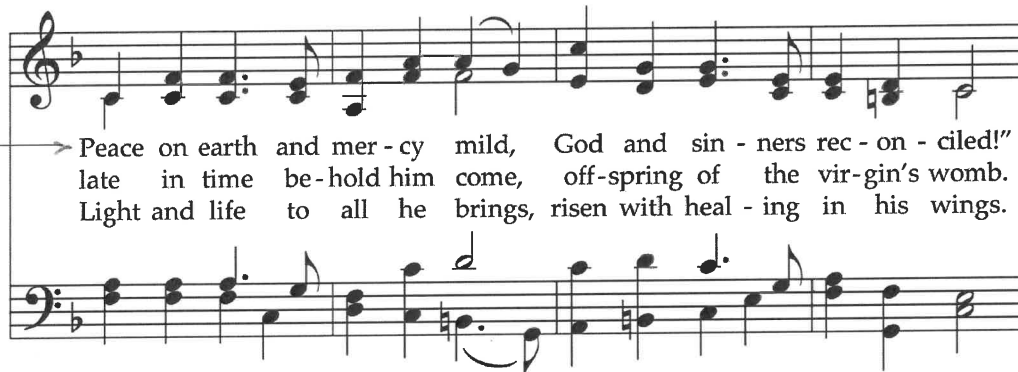
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
you have seen his na - tal star:
to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

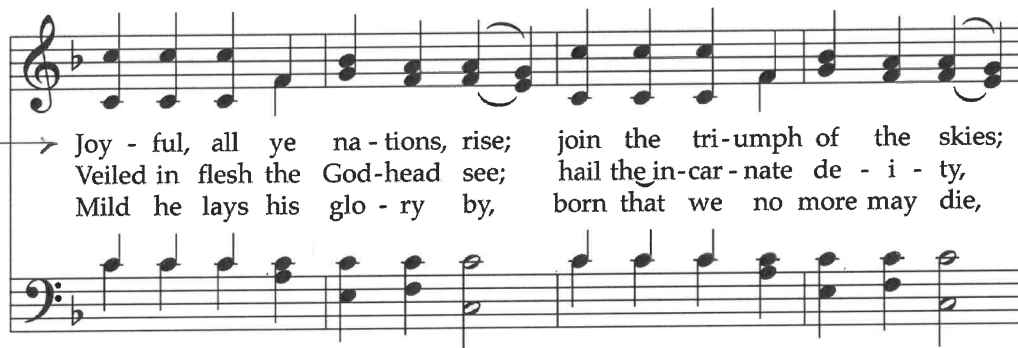
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



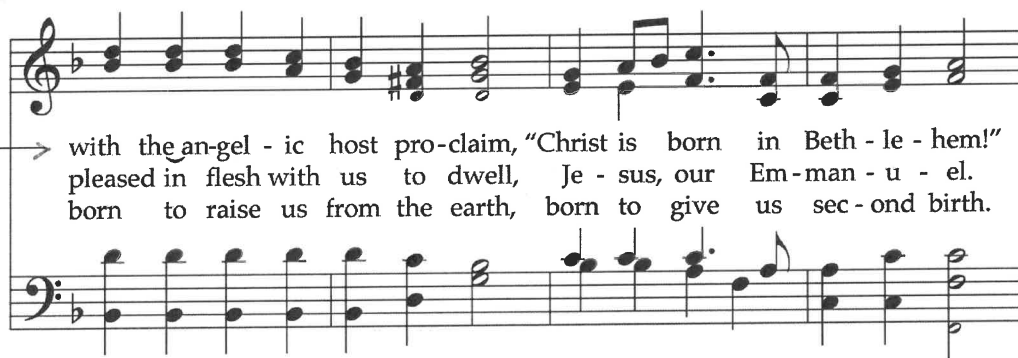
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



→ Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



→ Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



→ with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

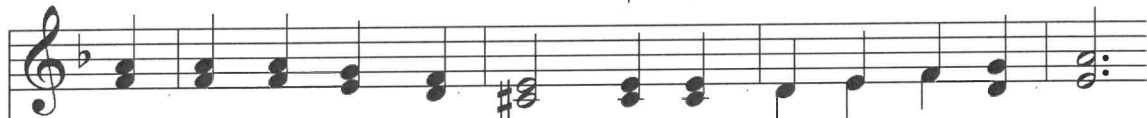
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



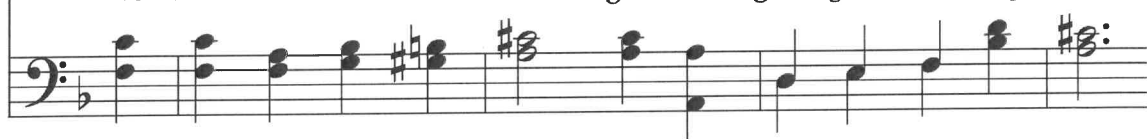
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today

No Children's Music following worship

Monday, December 30

9:30 AM Yoga with Jane Wettach

No Walk-in Ministry interviews

Tuesday, December 31

Newsletter today

Wednesday, January 1



New Year's Day

The Church office is closed in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

No Yoga Class
No Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 2

No Walk-in Ministry interviews

Friday, January 3

8:00 AM FPC Men of Faith Breakfast and Conversation (at the Mad Hatter's Café)

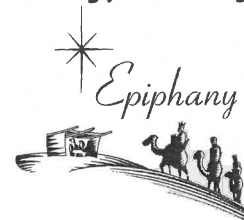
10:30 AM Yoga with Jane Wettach

5:00-7:00 PM Visitation with the family of Carlisle Caughman Harvard (sanctuary)

Saturday, January 4

11:00 AM Memorial Service for Carlisle Caughman Harvard (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 5



9:45 AM Faith Formation classes resume for all ages

11:00 AM Worship & Communion

8:00 PM MnMs/Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (via Zoom)

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, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Esther Hethcox, Designated 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

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/>

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511 ORGANIZED 1871