

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

### PRELUDE

*Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie,*

Maurice Duruflé

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Your love is as high as the heavens, O God;  
your faithfulness soars through the skies.

**People: Your righteousness reaches the towering peaks;  
your justice, the depths of the sea.**

Leader: We shelter beneath your wings;  
we feast on the food you provide.

**People: We open our eyes to drink in your goodness;  
for you are the source of all life,  
and because of your light we see light.**

### \*HYMN NO. 370

*This Is My Father's World*

*Terra Beata*

*This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Mother's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
her hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Mother's world.  
O, let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world.  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
and earth and heaven be one.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**Merciful God,**

**your justice protects those who are weak,  
yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.**

**Your righteousness redeems those who are poor,  
yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.**

**Your peace upholds those who are oppressed,** (*continued on next page*)

\*Those who are able, please stand.

**yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.  
Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,  
that we may trust you in all things;  
through Jesus Christ we pray.**

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**\*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 399**

*God Welcomes All*

*Themba Amen*

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

**COLLECT** *(sung by choir)*

*O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace*

Christopher Tye

*O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace, eternal source of love,  
in flame, we pray, our inmost hearts with fire from heaven above.  
As thou dost join with holiest bonds the Father and the Son,  
so fill us all with mutual love and knit our hearts in one,  
and knit our hearts in one.*

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 65:17-25

(Pew Bible, OT page 696)

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

**EPISTLE SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

(Pew Bible, NT page 181)

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

Brian Blount

**SERMON**

*"Friends with the Monster"*

Brian Blount

*(Silent reflection)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*From the Confession of Belhar*

Esther Hethcox

**We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one  
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;  
that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged,  
that God calls the church to follow in this;  
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Esther Hethcox

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

*I Surrender All*

Spiritual, arr. by Moses Hogan

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;*

*I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.*

*I surrender all, all to thee, my blessed Savior,*

*I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to thee;*

*Fill me with Thy love and power, let thy blessing fall on me.*

*I surrender all, all to thee my blessed Savior,*

*I surrender all.*

\*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!*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Brian Blount

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, O God, for Jesus Christ

who gave hope to ordinary people like us

and crashed through the boundaries

which separated us from life,

from each other, and from you.

With those who have gone before us

and those who will come after us,

we join the whole creation in the eternal hymn...

All (sung):

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Brian Blount, Mindy Douglas

**\* THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*(The bread and the elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. The bread server will dip a pre-cut piece of bread in the common cup for you and then pass it to you. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)*

Communion Anthem

*Jesus Is My Joy, My All*

*J.S. Bach*

*Jesus is my Joy, my All,  
He for me His life hath given;  
I am His, I hear His call;  
He hath writ my name in heaven.  
Earthly treasures pass away;  
Jesus I will love for aye.*

*In my Jesus I am blest  
He to pleasant pastures leads me,  
Stills my soul and gives it rest,  
And with heavenly manna feeds me.  
Earthly things must fade and fall;  
Jesus is my Life, my All.*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you, God,  
that you never leave us hungry or thirsty.**

**We commit ourselves to so living in love,  
that all are fed and know your gracious  
community. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 766**

*The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

*McKee*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Brian Blount

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in C Major*

J.S. Bach

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***HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY!***

\*\* There will NOT be children's choir today as Kathy is on vacation. \*\*

**Youth Groups from 5:00 – 7:00pm**

Youth Room

**Bird Slide Show at 7:00pm**

Robert Daye Meeting Room

**Meaning in the Middle Fellowship at**

**8:00pm**

Zoom



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.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in recognition and appreciation of *Sybil King's 5 years of service* as FPC's Administrative Assistant. We are grateful for her contributions to the administration team!

**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.

We thank **Andy Lang**, organist, **Dan Huff** and **Leigh Wynkoop**, conductors, for their musical gifts offered in today's service.

**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. **If you accidentally took one home, please return it to the church so it can be recharged, sanitized, and used again.**

**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 resources** were reprinted from: Iona Worship Book, Liturgies for the Journey of Life. Book of Common Worship. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

### **Circle & Bible Study**

**Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 10:30 a.m. in Daye Meeting room

*New faces welcome.*

## **PRAYER SERVICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

**Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** at Noon in Sanctuary

On Wednesday, February 5, at noon, we will gather in the sanctuary to pray for all who are facing challenges during these times. We will read scripture, offer each other encouragement, and ask God to “grant us wisdom and grant us courage for the living of these days.” For more information, contact Susan Dunlap.

## **FPC HOSTING COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00-6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

Primary contact/organizer: **Julie Whiddon** | foxy lady2642@yahoo.com | 919-730-6673

Sign up online to donate blood at **RedCrossBlood.org** using code: *firstpres*. For more information on donating blood, pick up a brochure from the table in the church foyer.

## **THINGS THAT MATTER BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm in Watts-Hill Hall

Join us for *Poems*. Laura McNab will host and would appreciate helpers. We will discuss the poetry of Nikki Giovanni. Please bring your favorite poem to share.

## **FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES GAME NIGHT**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

Bring your favorite game(s), a dish to share, and perhaps something to contribute to mocktails/creative seltzer drinks. Oh, if you are not a board gamer, come anyway! There's always a table of folks who just chat.

## *~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~*

Condolences - We extend our love and concern to:

*Michael Honeycutt and family* upon the death of his mother *Maxie Honeycutt* on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Bruce Loeblich and family* on the death of his wife, *Katy Loeblich* on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

*The Winslow-Stephenson* family upon the death of their grandfather, *Van Stephenson*.

*Beth and Howard Eisenson* upon the death of Beth's father, *Bill Mordecai*.

*Steve Rimmer and family* upon the death of his brother, *Doug Rimmer*, on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

We remember in prayer:

*Maryn Leonard*, recovering at home from a work accident.

*Mac McCorkle*, recovering from pneumonia in Sydney, Australia.

*Lin Bentel*, recovering from open heart surgery at Parkview Rehab Center.

*Catie Brockman*, home after being hospitalized with complications related to her pregnancy.

*Jim Gudaitis*, husband of Christy Gudaitis, a patient at Duke Hospital.

*Kirsten Hanson*, family of Laura Hanson, entering hospice care.

*Mary-Jo Keenan's* nephew's wife Jacqueline Culver who is hospitalized and facing surgery.

*Tony Brown*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Jenni James*

*Jen McGonigle*

*Madge McKeithen*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Keith Rokoske*

*Alfred Tisdale*

### Care Communities

Coasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

### Family and Friends of the Congregation

*Janet Bodisco-Massink*, friend of Emily Wilkins

*Francisca Cristobal*, relative of Al and Judy Arrowwood

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*Craig and Suzy Curtis*, brother & sister-in-law of Brent Curtis and those affected by wildfires.

*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

*Aaron Pritchard*, friend of Kathy Parkins

*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su

*Logan Tice*, friend of the congregation

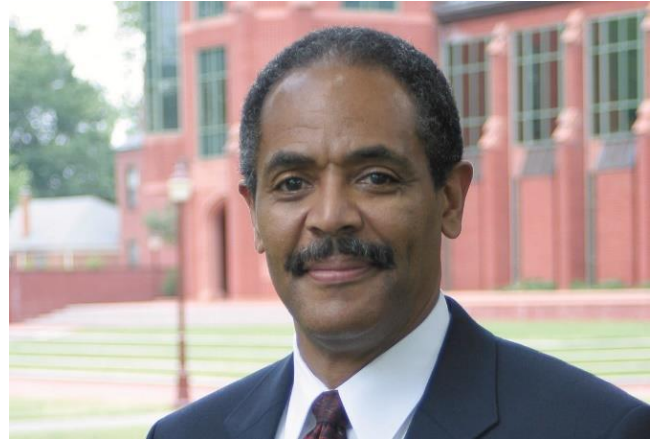
*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER

### **Brian K. Blount**

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Brian K. Blount is President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. He was called to this position in 2007, after serving for 15 years as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary.



An M.Div. graduate of Princeton Seminary in 1981, he obtained his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1978. After graduating from Princeton Seminary, he went on to become the pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia from 1982-1988. William and Mary's first African-American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society received his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Emory University in 1992. He returned to teach at Princeton Seminary the same year. He served as the president of the Society of Biblical Literature from 2017-2018. He served as the president of the Association of Theological Schools from 2018-2020.

Professor Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, and in the areas of cultural studies, biblical hermeneutics, and apocalyptic theology.

He lectures widely. He was the 2011 Beecher Lecturer at the Yale Divinity School, Yale University. The author of numerous articles, he also preaches and directs adult education classes in local congregations. He is married, and he and his wife, Sharon, have two children, Joshua and Kaylin.



# God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of dotted quarter notes and eighth notes. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, including a prominent bass line with dotted quarter notes and eighth notes.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It also consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff continues the melody with dotted quarter notes and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The bass staff continues the accompaniment with chords and single notes, also ending with a double bar line.

# Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G)

(D)

(Em)

(Bm7)

B $\flat$

F

Gm

Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C)

(G)

(Am7)

(Dsus) (D)

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

Cm7

Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G)

(D)

(C)

(Bm)

B $\flat$

F

E $\flat$

Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C)

(G)

(Am)

(D7)

(G)

B $\flat$

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

Cm

F7

B $\flat$



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

766

# The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by  
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and  
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when  
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to  
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and  
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek  
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the  
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the  
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.  
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.  
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.  
 love are found, there can the church be known.

## This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Later Today</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5:00 – 7:00 PM</b> (Youth Room) Youth Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7:00 PM</b> (Daye Meeting Room) Bird Slide Show</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's/Meaning in the Middle Fellowship</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday, February 3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> Walk-In Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:30 AM</b> (Daye Meeting Room) Presbyterian Women's Circle</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1:30 PM</b> (Mindy's Office) Worship Planning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, February 4</b></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, February 5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:00 PM</b> (Sanctuary) Prayer Service for Peace and Justice</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1:00 PM</b> (Daye Meeting Room) Staff Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4:30 PM</b> (Room 201) Yoga</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 PM</b> (Wilson Parlor) Racial Equity Task Force</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7:00 PM</b> (Choir Room) Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday, February 6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> Walk-In Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1:00 – 6:00 PM</b> (Fellowship Hall) Red Cross Blood Drive</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday, February 7</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00 AM</b> (Mad Hatters) Men of Faith Breakfast</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:30 AM</b> (Room 201) Yoga</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday, February 8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:30 AM</b> (Sanctuary) Youth Sunday Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:00 PM – 9:00 PM</b> (Fellowship Hall) First Families and Friends Game Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, February 9</b> <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:45 – 10:45 AM</b> Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11:00 AM</b> Youth-Led Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:15 – 12:45 PM</b> Children's Music (Choir Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	

### CHURCH STAFF

*Shakira Bethea*, Interim Church Administrator  
*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  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music  
*John Weicher*, Associate Pastor  
*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*, Associate Pastor  
 (Medical Leave)

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>.

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