

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ketty Thelemaque, Durham CAN

PRELUDE

Aria in D for organ

John Dixon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Blessed are those who trust in God!

People: **We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hope in God!

People: **We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.**

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in God's Word!

People: **We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.**

*HYMN NO. 457

How Happy Are the Saints of God

Wareham

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Haley Winslow-Stephenson

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace,

we are a people divided against ourselves

as we cling to the values of a broken world.

The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas.

The fears and jealousies that we harbor

set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,

of intellect and reason,

and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world

as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Those who are able, please stand.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Haley Winslow-Stephenson

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe,
and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

(Pew Bible, OT page 719)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Cris Rivera

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:17-26

(Pew Bible, NT page 64)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

On Level Ground

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

Haley Winslow-Stephenson

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give
Offertory Anthem

Esther Hethcox
James Biery

The Beatitudes
(text by Marilyn Biery)

*Lift up your hearts, you poor in spirit,
the kingdom of heaven is yours;
and blest are you, bent in two with mourning,
God's comfort will bear you through all.*

*With joyfulness show love and mercy,
the mercy of God will be yours;
and blest are you, pure of heart and selfless,
the vision of God will be yours.*

*Be still with gentle, quiet meekness,
the plenty of earth will be yours;
and blest are you, filled with aching hunger,
the satisfied heart will be yours.*

*Work tirelessly for peace and justice,
as children of God you'll be known;
and blest are you, who are persecuted,
the kingdom of heaven is yours.*

*With joyfulness show love and mercy,
the mercy of God will be yours;
and blest are you, pure of heart and selfless,
the vision of God will be yours.*

*Rejoice, be glad, be joyful people,
the kingdom of heaven is yours;
so blest are you – hear the words of Jesus:
The kingdom of heaven is yours!*

*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!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Esther Hethcox

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

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

...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. 852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

I'll Fly Away

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Canzona in G

D. Buxtehude

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY!

Children's Music

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

Youth Group

4:30 – 6:30 at Sky Zone
Middle Schoolers w/Future YGers, 3rd – 5th grades

Meaning in the Middle Fellowship

8:00pm via 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.

Today's *flowers* are given to the glory of God and in memory of *Allen Verhey* from his family.

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.

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.**

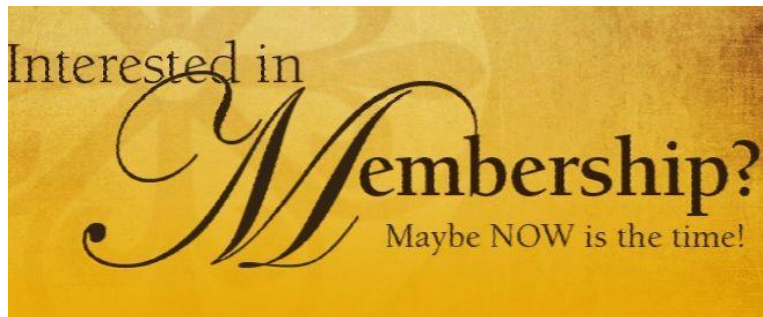
Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: *The Book of Common Worship, Lectionary Liturgies*, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Memorial Services

We gather in faith and remembrance to honor those who have passed. These memorial services provide an opportunity for family, friends, and our community to come together in prayer, reflection, and gratitude for the lives of our loved ones. You are welcome to join us in offering support, sharing memories, and finding comfort in the presence of one another. Below is a list of upcoming services.

- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for **Orville Powell** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on *Wednesday, February 19*, at *11 a.m.* Condolences may be shared with **Dianne Powell** (wife) and **Sandy Powell** (daughter) at 1033 Laurelwood Dr, Durham, NC 27705 <https://www.hudsonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/orville-powell>
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for **Maxie Honeycutt** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on *Saturday, March 1*, at *11 a.m.* Condolences may be shared with **Michael Honeycutt** (son) and **Paul Pasquarella** (son-in-law) at 17 Duke of Gloucester Circle, Durham, NC 27713. <https://www.hallwynne.com/obituaries/maxie-honeycutt>
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for **Bill Hendrickson** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on *Saturday, March 15*, at *3 p.m.* Condolences may be shared with **Sally Hendrickson** (wife) at 1111 Millspring Drive, Durham, NC 27705. <https://www.hallwynne.com/obituaries/william-hendrickson>



We will welcome and introduce new members during worship on Sunday, *February 23rd*, and *March 9th*. Please contact **Mindy Douglas** or **Esther Hethcox** if you are ready to join this faith community.



Congratulations Catherine on receiving the **Judith Deckers Teaching Award!**

Catherine Admay is a senior lecturer in the Sanford School of Public Policy and a faculty affiliate at Duke’s Global Health Institute. Admay's teaching and research interests are in the areas of human rights, law and development, global health, comparative constitutional law of socio-economic rights, conflict transformation, and interdisciplinary engagements with law (ethics, arts, storytelling).

<https://today.duke.edu/2025/01/three-undergraduate-faculty-win-inaugural-judith-deckers-teaching-award>



Under Paris Skies: 500 Years of Music in Paris

February 22nd at 7:30pm | FPC Sanctuary
FREE - donations accepted

This performance takes you on a journey through the streets and courts of the City of Love, exploring centuries of music and poetry—from the melodies of the trouvères to the splendor of Louis XIV’s court.

Experience an enchanting array of timbres, featuring recorders, violas da gamba, vielle, gothic harp, and voice, designed to transport you on a timeless voyage bound only by the beauty of Paris.

This event is part of the 2025 North Carolina HIP Music Festival, hipmusicfestival.org “the hippest musicians on period instruments.”



Duke Chorale Tour Kick-Off concert supporting refugees through Church World Service - Durham

Thursday, March 6, 7:00pm, Judea Reform Congregation

The 50-voice Duke Chorale sings music about freedom from a variety of eras and cultures, including Estonia, South Africa, Iran, America and more, with all proceeds supporting recent arrivals to the US. Allan Friedman, director. Mary Hamilton, accompanist. Donations accepted at the door.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18ZK9qCqpE/>

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Birth Announcement: A son, **Elliot Matthew Erney** was born to **Catie Brockman** and **Nate Erney** on Monday morning. Proud grandparents are Beth and Larry Brockman, and great grandmother is Mickey Velkey. Mom and baby are both doing well!

Condolences, we extend our love and concern to:

Christy Gudaitis upon the death of her husband **Jim Gudaitis** on Saturday, February 8, 2025. A visitation will take place on Sunday, February 16th from 2:30-5:00pm at Hall-Wynne.

Dianne Powell and **Sandy Powell** upon the death of their husband and father **Orville Powell** on February 6, 2025. The memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, February 19th at 11:00 a.m.

We remember in prayer:

Jacqueline Culver, niece-in-law of Mary Jo Keenan, recovering from heart surgery.

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson, recovering at home after hospitalization.

Maryn Leonard, preparing for surgery.

Mac McCorkle, recovering from pneumonia at home.

Caroline Pritchett, having a pacemaker implanted on Monday.

Tom Rokoske, father of Keith Rokoske, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer this week.

Logan Tice, friend of the congregation, recovering from a second surgery.

Carol Wills, preparing for surgery.

Phyllis Verhey, fractured spine and recovering at The Pavilion at Croasdaile.

Lin Bentel

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Andy Henry

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Harriett Mitchell

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Franzi Rokoske

Keith Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Care Communities

Croasdaile 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

Jacqueline Culver, niece-in-law of Mary Jo Keenan

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

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

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM (Choir Room) Children's Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 – 6:30 PM (Sky Zone) Middle School w/Future YGers, 3rd – 5th grades</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's/Meaning in the Middle Fellowship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, February 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:30 AM (Watts-Hill Hall) Coalition for Affordable Housing & Transit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM (Mindy's Office) Worship Planning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM (Room 205) Leadership Team</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, February 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM (Daye Meeting Room) Finance and Investment Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, February 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM (Sanctuary) Orville Powell Memorial Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM (Daye Meeting Room) All Staff Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 PM (Room 201) Yoga</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM (Choir Room) Choir</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, February 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 23 6th Sunday after Epiphany New Members Welcomed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:45 – 10:45 AM Faith Formation (children, youth, and adults)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Worship – Mindy Douglas, Preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 – 12:45 PM (Choir Room) Children's Music</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM – 1:30 PM (Watts-Hill Hall) Diaconate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 – 7:00 PM (Youth Rooms) Youth Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, February 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM (Room 201) Yoga</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, February 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM (Sanctuary) Mallarme HIP Concert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter Deadline</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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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