

 ~~CELEBRATE~~
and

 REJOICE... 

he was

LOST....

but has been

♥ FOUND!

© Izzy Allison-Pleasants, 10th Grade

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

MARCH 30, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Esther Hethcox

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

James Biery

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

People: **Let all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.**

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go, as you trust in the Lord.

People: **Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy all you upright in heart.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

***HYMN NO. 415**

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Restoration

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession - Hymn #431

Forgive Us, Lord

Dan Huff, cantor

Leader

1 For griev-ance and in - jus - tice:
2 For weak-ness and trans-gres-sion:
3 In your e - ter - nal mer - cy:

Refrain (sung by all)

For - give us, Lord. For -

A - loof-ness and in - dif - ference:
Re - sis-tance and re - bel - lion:
In your sus - tain-ing grace:

give us, Lord. for - give us, Lord.

*Those who are able, please stand.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

John Weicher

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 157**

I Danced in the Morning, v.1

Lord of the Dance

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,*

*and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Kerry Holbrook

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Gracious God, seeker of the lost:**

draw your children back to your loving embrace,

restore us to our inheritance and reconcile our hearts to you,

that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world.

Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 5:9-12

(Pew Bible, OT page 197)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Kerry Holbrook

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:11b-32

(Pew Bible, NT page 78)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Wilson Gunn

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Presbyterian Brother"

Wilson Gunn

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

John Weicher

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry,

**God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

***HYMN NO. 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know
there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
through the air there's a calling from far away,
there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, come away is the call, with love in your heart as the only song,
there is no such beauty as where you belong,
rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

***Doxology**

Old Hundredth

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.***

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 774	<i>There Is Now a New Creation</i>	Stuttgart
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		Wilson Gunn
POSTLUDE	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	Edwin Childs

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY!

Children's Music (Following Worship): The children who are attending the music program can follow Kathy Parkins upstairs to begin rehearsal.

There will be **NO Youth Groups** or **Meaning in the Middle** zoom meeting this **Sunday, March 30** due to the start of Durham Public School spring break. *All will resume on April 6.*



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 welcome to the pulpit today, **Dr. G. Wilson Gunn, Jr.** Dr. Gunn grew up in Arkansas, matriculated at Davidson College (BA), Duke University (MDiv and ThM) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (PhD). He served pastorates in North Carolina and Virginia for 20 years before entering executive service in Grace Presbytery (NE Texas area). From March 2004 until retiring in October 2018, he served National Capital Presbytery as General Presbyter. Presently Dr. Gunn is an International Coaching Federation Certified coach, consults with Church Judicatories and he serves as the Coordinator of the Presbytery Leader Formation Program. He and his wife Pam have four children (Lisa, Daniel, Ben, and Jasper), three grandsons (Jacob, Josh, and JJ) and a granddaughter, Penelope. Today's ***flowers*** are given by **Gordon Campbell**, in memory of **Dr. Walker H. Campbell**, his uncle.

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.

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.

Today’s **bulletin cover** was created by sophomore **Izzy Allison-Pleasants**. Throughout Lent, bulletin art will be in grayscale or pencil, as a mark of the solemnity of the season.

The **Lenten Banner** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of **Bess Bryant** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

The **Pulpit Paraments:** In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. Her liturgical projects emphasize the “threads that bind” and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

Portions of today’s worship resources were reprinted from: *When We Gather* and *Feasting on the Word*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

These Days devotional books for April-June are available in the foyer.

Easter lilies will grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20. If you would like to remember or honor someone in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, **complete and return the enclosed donor card** (by the offering plate, or US mail) **with your donation by Sunday, April 13.**

The sanctuary will be open for prayer from noon-3pm on **Good Friday, April 18.** Clergy will be present.



Next **Sunday, April 6, Duke University Organist Robert Parkins** (and husband of our Minister of Music, Kathy Parkins) will play his farewell recital at 5:00pm at Duke Chapel. He first began his career at Duke in 1975 and will play all three organs in the Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public. Paid parking is available on a first-come-first-served basis in the Bryan Center Garage at 125 Science Drive. ADA parking is available in the surface lot at the same address.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Condolences:

We extend our love and concern to **Matthew Eggleston and family**, especially Matthew's mother, **Emily**, on the deaths of his Grand Aunt, **Sarah** (92), and his Aunt, **Jill** (64).

We remember in prayer:

Dennis Buckley, who is home following a hospital stay.

Diane Lesman, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Patricia Mumford, who is in hospice care. She is a friend of Emily Wilkins.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Maryn Leonard

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Keith Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Phyllis Verhey

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

Julia Allen, grandmother of Amy Wilson

Evan Breyer, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowwood

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

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Doug Hervey, son of Jeanne Hervey

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

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM Children's Choir (Choir Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Youth Groups Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No MnM Fellowship Today</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, March 31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Mindy's Office)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 PM Yoga (Room 201)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Choir (Choir Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 6 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children and adults.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Worship; John Weicher, Preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM Children's Choir (Choir Room) Prayer Shawl Group (Daye Meeting Room) Youth Groups: Downtown Lunch after Worship (Lobby)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, April 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast (Mad Hatters)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:30 AM MLK Jr. Brunch</p>		

CHURCH STAFF

Shakira Bethea, 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, 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>.