



(c) Ellie Everett, 9th grade

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

MARCH 9, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Adagio (from "Miniature Suite")

Nancy Plummer Faxon

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Weicher

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world,
led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**People: As we begin our Lenten journey,
let us be led by the Spirit,
even into the uncomfortable places.**

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place,
Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

**People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led,
even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness,
we will be led by our Christ,
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

***HYMN NO. 439**

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

Stuttgart

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

**As Lent unfolds before us, great God,
we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem.**

**The road is long, our sins are many,
and our burdens are heavy.**

**We can't imagine new life, Easter life,
because our current lives are filled
with bad choices and failed efforts.**

(Confession continues onto next page.)

*Those who are able, please stand.

**Meet us in our weakness.
Take up our sins.
Ease our burdens.
Carry us on the way.
Bring us to Jerusalem, at last.
Show us a love that is stronger than death,
a love no tomb can hold.**

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Esther Hethcox

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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Williams

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Bring your word near to us, O God.**

**May it rest not only on our lips,
but also reside in our hearts.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to respond to your word
with our whole lives**

**until you become our dwelling place;
through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

(Pew Bible, OT page 180)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jane Williams

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MUSICAL SELECTION

Trio (from "Elijah") Lift Thine Eyes

Felix Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help.

Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.

Thy Keeper will never slumber.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-13

(Pew Bible, NT page 61)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!****SERMON***“We Do Not Walk Alone”*

Mindy Douglas

*(Silent reflection)****HYMN NO. 734***Hope of the World*

Donne Secours

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

You Do Not Walk Alone (upper voices of the choir)

Elaine Hagenberg

*Leigh Wynkoop, conductor**May you see God’s light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.**May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.**When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.**May you always remember when the shadows fall, you do not walk alone.**—Traditional Irish Blessing*

*Doxology (all sing)

*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.***NEW MEMBER SERVICE**

Mindy Douglas and Esther Hethcox

Words of Welcome and Introduction

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, vv. 1 & 2)

*The Servant Song**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?**Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on the road.**We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

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. 167**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich

Children's Music: The children who are attending the music program after church can follow Kathy Parkins upstairs to begin rehearsal.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mindy Douglas

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY!

Youth Group (5:00–7:00pm): Chosen Family Senior Projects in Youth Room

Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (8:00pm): MnM is a faith formation group and a fellowship community of adults in their late 20s to 40s – single or with life partners. Read our newsletter at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/> to learn more. New friends are always welcome!

Congregational Meeting: The Session of FPC has called a Congregational Meeting for today, Sunday March 9th at the end of worship. This is our annual meeting, which will include the following:

1. The election of new deacons, elders, and nominating committee members.
2. A presentation of the 2025 annual budget from the stewardship and finance committee chairs, Jon Abels and Al Arrowood, respectively. Approval of Pastors' terms of call, Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey, Personnel Chair.
3. "State of the Church" address looking back at 2024 and forward to 2025 which will include an update on the Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign and Renovation and Expansion Project. The **August 2023 - July 2024 annual report** is available online, and a few hard copies are available today for those who need them.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

The Session of FPC has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, March 16th at the end of worship. During the **congregational meeting**, the **FPC Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** (elected by the congregation on Sunday, November 17) will present their candidate, along with the terms of call (salary, housing, and benefits) for the position of Associate Pastor.



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.

Today's *flowers* are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Bill Lorimer** by *Marcia, Stephen, and David Lorimer*.

Our thanks to **Lesley Curtis, Shelley Turkington, and Leigh Wynkoop** for sharing their musical gifts with us by singing the Mendelssohn trio. Organists' guilds around the globe have designated this Sunday, March 9, as "*Women Composer Sunday 2025*." The Prelude and the offertory anthem are written by women of note. Women have always composed music, but publishers refused to print their music or distribute it, calling it (among other things) "unseemly" and "unladylike" to be a composer. As in other things, the social stigma against women pursuing careers of their own severely impacted their contributions to the art.

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.

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.

Today's **bulletin cover** was created by **Ellie Everett**, who was loosely inspired by classic painting of today's Gospel text, the temptation of Christ, as told by Luke. Throughout Lent, bulletin art will be in grayscale or pencil, as a mark of the solemnity of the season.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: *Lectionary Liturgies* (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com), *Call to Worship* and *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 1*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Welcome New Members: The following persons were recently received into membership by the Session.

March 9, 2025

Katherine Allison (she/her) - Born and raised in Houston, TX, Katherine studied neuroscience at the University of St Andrews and attended medical school at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She met Eric Hanson in 2018 and they were married in 2022. Katherine is currently a pediatric resident at Duke. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, playing board games, and singing in the church choir.

Eric Hanson (he/him) - Originally from Houston, Texas, Eric studied mechanical engineering at UT Austin and is a senior product engineer. He met Katherine in 2018 and they were married in 2022. In his down time, Eric enjoys finding the best craft beer, creating art through woodworking, frisbee golf, and filling the kitchen with love through cooking and baking.

Lyn McLean Johnson (she/her) - Originally from Mankato, MN, Lyn's educational journey took her through Denver University, Columbia University, and UCLA. After a fulfilling career, she relocated to North Carolina from southern New York six years ago with her husband Glenn. The couple are proud parents of two sons and a daughter, and they cherish their four grandchildren. In her retirement, Lyn has found joy in reading, swimming, walking, hiking, and tutoring ELL students at Iglesia Emanuel, where she shares her knowledge and passion with the community.

Glenn Johnson (he/him) - Glenn and his wife, Lyn, relocated to Durham from the New York City area six years ago to be closer to their children and grandchildren, enjoy a warmer climate, and embrace a more relaxed lifestyle. They've been delighted with this decision, as their family is spread between Chapel Hill, Charlotte, and New York City, allowing them to maintain frequent contact with everyone. Glenn is retired and enjoys pursuing hobbies such as golf, oil painting, reading, hiking, and traveling, as well as spending quality time with loved ones.

The following new members were approved by the Session and introduced to the congregation on February 23rd. Their brief biographies were not available at that time, so are included here. They can also be found, along with other new members, on the New Member board in the foyer.

February 23, 2025

Alexis Dubiel (she/her) - Alexis was raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her journey led her to Queens University of Charlotte where she earned her undergraduate degree. Now, she's continuing her academic pursuits at Duke University, working towards her goal of becoming a physician assistant. Megan and Alexis both enjoy hiking with their two Airedale terriers, Boone and Bindi.

Megan Dubiel (she/her) - Megan is originally from Greenville, South Carolina and attended Queens University of Charlotte. Currently, she works as a registered nurse at Duke University Hospital. Megan and Alexis both enjoy hiking with their two Airedale terriers, Boone and Bindi.

Holly Shupert (she/her) - Holly is a retired lawyer, educator, leader of youth, and high school basketball coach. Currently, she is a mother of three adult children, one grandson, and madly in love with her husband of 41 years. Holly enjoys making pottery, playing games, reading, watching basketball and planning travel adventures.

Les Shupert (he/him) - Born in Paris, Texas, Les grew up in Idabel, Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma for undergraduate school. Here, he also married his beautiful wife, Holly. He finished his graduate work at Georgetown University and began a 34-year career in scientific research for National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, the last 18 years were spent at a NIH satellite facility in Hamilton, Montana. Last Fall, Les retired and he and Holly moved to Cary, NC to be close to family. He enjoys golf, games, swimming, his children and playing with his grandson.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Condolences:

We extend our condolences to *Antoinette Kabasu* upon the tragic killings of family members in the Congo.

We remember in prayer:

Kasey Snell, recovering from surgery.

Carol Wills, recovering from surgery at Hillcrest.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Mark Higgins

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Harriett Mitchell

Maryn Leonard

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Caroline Pritchett

Franzi Rokoske

Keith Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Phyllis Verhey

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

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

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

Tom Rokoske, father of Keith Rokoske

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Logan Tice, friend of the congregation

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Rokoske GoFundMe Available

Franzi and Keith Rokoske are grateful for the support many of you have been able to provide directly or through the Care Team. Recently, they have identified a specific new need for emergency preparedness: the purchase and installation of a whole-house generator. A GoFundMe site has been created specifically for this expense. If you are interested in contributing in this way, please read more on the GoFundMe Site: <https://gofund.me/fdde6aae>

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer 439

(Psalm 103)



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:



5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
and are steadfast in God's way;
unto those who still remember
the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!

167 Forty Days and Forty Nights



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,



for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.



Hope of the World

734



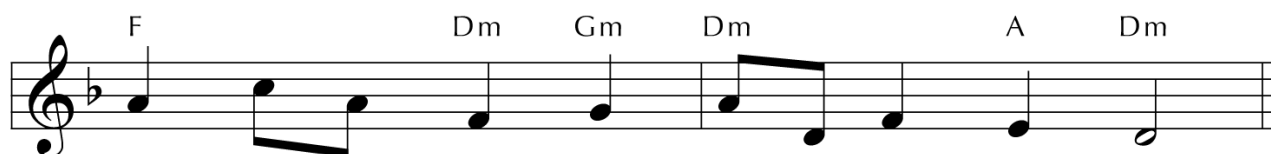
1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
 5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
 show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:
 from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:
 who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;
 we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
 lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
 take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.
 thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 PM Children's Choir (Choir Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 – 7:00 PM Chosen Family: Senior Projects (Youth Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Something for Lent (Home of Jane Williams)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 PM Session: Safe Boundaries Viewing (Room 205)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM MnM's/Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, March 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:30 PM Program Staff Meeting (Mindy's Office)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Mindy's Office)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Property Committee (Room 205) Christian Education Committee via (Zoom) Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee (Zoom/Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Worship & Arts Committee (via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 11 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 PM Things that Matter Book Club (Home of Jane Williams)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, March 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 PM Yoga (Room 201)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Choir (Choir Room)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 13</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, March 14 <i>5:00 PM Youth Beach Trip Begins - HS</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, March 16 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:45 – 10:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Worship & Congregational Meeting Mindy Douglas, Preaching</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15 – 12:45 PM Children's Music (Choir Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 PM Youth Beach Trip Returns</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, March 15 <i>9:00 AM Youth Beach Trip - MS</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 AM Session: Safe Boundaries Viewing (Room 205)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 PM Bill Hendrickson Service and Reception (Sanctuary & Watts-Hill Hall)</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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