



©2025 Mason Armstrong, 11th Grade

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

APRIL 6, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 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

O Lamb of God, Most Holy

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

People: we were like those who dream.

Leader: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

People: We rejoiced: "The Lord has done great things for us."

Leader: May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

People: come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN NO. 503

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

O Quanta Qualia

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**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

Leader: Amen.

*Those who are able, please stand.

(please be seated as the singers move to chancel steps)

Anthem

Si Iniquitates Observaveris
(men's voices, sung in Latin; Psalm 130:3)

Samuel Wesley

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mindy Douglas

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us.

**Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal Word that does not change.**

**Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

(Pew Bible, OT page 171)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

(Pew Bible, NT page 106)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Staring at Beets"

John Weicher

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Then, is not Christ with us unto the end of the world, as he has promised us?

People: **Christ is true human and true God.**

**As a human he is no longer on earth,
but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit,
he is never absent from us.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

The Lamb

Roland E. Martin (2009)

*Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild; he became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!*

–William Blake (1789)

*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.***

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

John Weicher

PRAYER OF GREAT 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.

Leader: Extravagant God,

you poured out your life in your covenant with your chosen people,

and you poured out your life-blood in the ministry and death of your son Jesus Christ.

You meet our meanness with your grace, our scarcity with your abundance,

and our suspicion with your generous trust.

And so we give you thanks, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

singing a hymn of your unending praise:

HYMN 209 v. 5

My Song Is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

***Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.***

Leader: Sharing God, we gather today to celebrate Jesus' resurrection,
in faith that even now you are preparing a feast to celebrate our resurrection with you.
Send down your Holy Spirit,
that this bread of sustenance and wine of joy
may be for us the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.
Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Abundant God, when we know the price of everything and the value of nothing,
may this meal remind us of the limitless joy you take in us.
When we are full of criticism of others and hatred of ourselves,
may this sacrifice show us the goodness you see in us all.
Renew the hearts of all your people,
that your whole church, seeking together the justice of your kingdom,
may discover in the stranger the gifts that only come from you,
through whom, and with whom, and in whom come all honor and glory,
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Ecumenical version ★

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas & John Weicher

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The bread and the elements are gluten free and were prepared in a gluten-free area. We use grape juice in the cup. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. As you are able, come forward to receive communion. **The server will give you a piece of bread, which you dip in the cup.** 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

Ave Verum Corpus
(Sung in Latin)

W.A. Mozart

*Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for all humanity,
from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:
Be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death!*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

John Weicher

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
All: **Almighty God, we give thanks that by your Spirit
we have been united with Christ
through these gifts of bread and cup.
May they be fuel for our wilderness journey,
and may they empower us to follow Christ’s example
of what it means to be your servant. Amen.**

***HYMN 830**

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesu, Meine Freude

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

POSTLUDE

Lord of the Dance

Noel Rawsthorne

HERE’S WHAT’S HAPPENING TODAY!

No *Children’s Choir* this week after Worship.

Prayer Shawl Group will meet in the Daye Meeting Room following worship.

Youth Groups will meet in the lobby following worship for our downtown lunch.

Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (8:00pm via Zoom): 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!



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 by ***David*** and ***Marie Sappenfield*** in memory of David’s grandmother, **Laura Moore Sappenfield**, and his mother, **Nancy Payne Sappenfield**.

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.

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.

★**The Lord’s Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated:** From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular or common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

Today’s **bulletin cover** was created by 11th Grader **Mason Armstrong**. Throughout Lent, bulletin art will be in grayscale or pencil, as a mark of the solemnity of the season.

Thanks to **Dan Huff** for preparing the Wesley anthem for men’s voices of the choir.

Portions of today’s worship resources were reprinted from: *Feasting on the Word, New Book of Common Worship, Call to Worship, and Eucharistic Prayers*. The text of the offertory anthem is by William Blake, English visionary poet and painter. It comes from a collection of his poems called “Songs of Innocence.” Many musicians have set these texts to music and “Little Lamb” is especially fitting during Lent. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

These Days devotional books for April-June (regular and large print) 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 donor card** (by the offering plate, or US mail) **with your donation by next Sunday, April 13.**

Flower Donation Opportunities Available: There are open dates for worship flower donors during the next few months. To sign up, click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter, or on the link on the homepage of the FPC web site.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

Congratulations to **Laura McNab** upon the birth of a great granddaughter, **Francesca Wren Madsen**, daughter of **Chloe** and **Xander Madsen**, on Tuesday, April 1.

Congratulations to **Morgan Markwood** and **Clare Stull** on their engagement.

Condolences:

We extend our care and concern to **Andy Henry** upon the death of his brother, **Daniel Paul Henry**, on March 29.

We remember in prayer:

Tom Bloom, is recovering from a hospital stay.

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Wil James, suffered a stroke and is in hospice care.

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff, is recovering from a hospital stay.

Tony Brown

Dennis Buckley

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Diane Lesman

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

Patricia Mumford, friend of Emily Wilkins

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



Palm/Passion - Sunday April 13

9:45a.m. Pre-Palm Parade Party

10:15a.m. Palm Parade Downtown Durham (with St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Trinity United Methodist Church)

11:00a.m. Worship using Scriptures and songs about Christ's passion.

Maundy Thursday - April 17

Heidi Biermann, preaching

Please join us for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at **7:00 p.m.** The service will conclude with the traditional stripping of the chancel in the darkened space and a setting of "Were You There" will be sung.



Good Friday - April 18

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

Though there is no service on Good Friday at First Presbyterian, you are invited to attend another service taking place nearby:

St. Philip's Episcopal (down one block towards the East) will host the **Way of the Cross** at **noon.** This is an outdoor service which will begin at the front of the church and end at Trinity United Methodist Church.

St. Philip's will also pray the *Good Friday Liturgy* in the church at 7:00p.m.

Duke Chapel will observe Good Friday with a Tenebrae ("Darkness") service at 7:30p.m.

Online resources include services at the National Cathedral (Cathedral.org) at noon and at 7p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 20

10:00a.m. Egg Hunt

10:15a.m. Easter Brunch

11:00a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be received on Easter Sunday to provide relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters and war.



newsletter

Submission Deadline

The Newsletter Submission Deadline is *today April 6*. If you have any updates, news, or photos that you'd like to share with our friends here at FPC, please submit them to office@firstpres-durham.org. *Include a short description, graphic (photo) and other timely information.*



Presbyterian Women Circle

Monday April 7, at 10:30a.m.

A Daytime circle/Bible study that meets on the first Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Membership in Presbyterian Women is open to all women of the PC (U.S.A.) who choose to participate in or be supportive of PW in any way.



Come to the Table

Thursday, April 10 from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Come to the Table is hosting a conversation with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove entitled "Food & Myths That Divide," which will tackle the power of narratives and how they can both uplift and harm communities.

Wilson-Hartgrove will explore how myths have been used to stigmatize and oppress poor people and people of color and will offer insights into how moral fusion can serve as a transformative solution. Register at the following website <https://www.tfaforms.com/5161570> for this conversation at First Presbyterian Church (305 E Main St., Durham, NC 27701) on April 10th from 7-8:30 p.m.



First Friends Potluck

First Friends Potluck

Saturday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening together at the home of Paul Baldasare and Jane Wettach. Bring a dish to share. Let us know your coming by using the Evite link here <https://evite.me/ynthAqf3Kj> or emailing Jane at janewettach@gmail.com.



Free Community Drop-In Day Pauli Murray Center

Saturday, April 12 10am-2pm

You're invited to a free Community Drop-In Day at the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice in Durham on Saturday, April 12 from 10am–2pm! Drop by anytime during the open house to explore the childhood home of Pauli Murray—a groundbreaking Black, queer legal scholar, poet, Episcopal priest, and human rights activist whose work shaped the civil rights and women’s rights movements! Staff will be onsite to welcome guests, share resources, and answer questions! This is a public, open-to-all event—no RSVP needed, and this opportunity is graciously sponsored by Durham Library Fest!



Community Prayer Summit

A strategic Plan for perilous Times

Saturday, April 12 9:30 a.m.

Join the summit at St. Joseph AME Church located at 2521 Fayetteville St. Durham, NC 27707. Registration cost: \$25

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 Prayer Shawl Group (Daye Meeting Room) Youth Groups: Downtown Lunch (Lobby) NO Children's Choir</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 PM Organist Robert Parkins Farewell Recital (Duke Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, April 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Mindy's Office)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, April 8 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Somethings Prayer Service (Wilson Parlor)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)</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>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, April 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Come to the Table (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, April 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM First Friends Potluck (Home of Paul Baldasare and Jane Wettach)</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, April 13</p> <p>9:45 AM Pre-Palm Parade hot cross buns & activities for all ages.</p> <p>10:15 AM Palm Parade</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching</p> <p>12:15 PM Children's Choir (Choir Room)</p> <p>5:00 PM High School Youth Group: Mystery Adventure w/TAPC</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</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>.

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