

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 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

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Christopher Tambling

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: As the Creator and Savior are one,

People: may we all be one.

Leader: So that the world will see Christ,

People: may we all be one.

Leader: So that the nations will know the love of God for them,

People: may we all be one.

Leader: As the body of Christ for the sake of the world,

People: may we all be one.

All: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Power,

you call us to your everlasting springs

to be drenched and reformed, but we fail to heed you.

We do not turn with love to our neighbors, to ourselves, or to you.

Forgive us for our failings,

shield us from our due,

and guide us into unity with all

for the sake of the whole world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 243**

Be Not Afraid

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

COLLECT

Kerry Holbrook

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God,
you are indeed the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
We give thanks that you have revealed yourself in Jesus Christ,
whom we have come to know only by your grace.
Christ prayed for the world to know your loving
care through his disciples.
Inspire us to serve as one among them.
Make our lives examples
of your steadfast love for your people. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 22: 12-14,
16-17, 20-21

(Pew Bible, NT Page 260)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Kerry Holbrook

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

John 17:20-26

(Pew Bible, NT Page 111)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Present Love”

Esther Hethcox

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Declaration of Faith

Mindy Douglas

Christ calls us to live in the presence of God.

Jesus lived with a constant sense of God's presence.

He put God's claim on his life above all else.

He joined others in God's worship and praise.

He drew strength from the Scriptures.

He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule.

Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love our neighbors whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

***HYMN NO. 536**

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

Surge Ecclesia

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

How Shall I Sing that Majesty?

Coe Fen, arr. J.D. Daniels

*How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?*

*Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;*

*How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!*

*Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.*

*a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.*

*Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.*

*Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;*

*They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;*

*Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;*

*ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?*

*for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.*

*thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.*

***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 LORD'S TABLE

Esther Hethcox

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: God who keeps promises,

you declared your wonders in the heavens

but made known your character in calling a people.

You shaped your people's life through Elijah, Jeremiah, and the prophets.

Then in Jesus you made yourself fully known to us,

and in his death and resurrection you healed the past through forgiveness
 and released the future through the gift of life eternal.
 In the power of the Spirit you called into being your church,
 never closer to you than when we gather at this table
 as we long to gather at your heavenly banquet,
 with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
 singing the hymn of your unending praise:

All (Sung): Hymn No. 552

Sanctus

Land of Rest

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: Revealing God,

you came among us in the flesh and blood of Jesus,
 and you come among us now
 in the materials of daily sustenance and joyful celebration.

Send down your Holy Spirit,

that these gifts of friend and neighbor may become your church, and these offerings of
 bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
 who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
 broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
 "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and
 for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung): Hymn No 553

Land of Rest

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Embodied God, you met us in the body and blood of your Son Jesus,
and you meet us now with the elements on this table.
Show us your face and the face of one another in the body and blood of your church,
that we, your people, may be taken by you, blessed through you,
broken for you, and given for the life of your world.
Bring us to your presence on the last day,
and hasten that time when every tear is dried from every eye,
all secrets are transformed to your glory, all oppression is healed by your grace,
and you are all in all. **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.**

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 Hymn No. 516

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Kingdom

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mindy Douglas

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

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

All: **God of abundance,**

**with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.**

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mindy Douglas

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Esther Hethcox

***POSTLUDE**

Voluntary in C

William Walond

Happening Today

Congregational Meeting: We will hear a report from the nominating committee about nominee, **Jim Rogers**, to fill an unexpired term of one year as an elder. Jim and Patti moved to Durham in December of 2020. They joined FPC by letter of transfer on December 11, 2022. Jim is retired and an ordained elder who has served on the property committee. He enjoys flying, amateur radio, cycling, and driving.

Pride Decoration: Following worship, join the Welcome & Belonging committee on the front steps to decorate the outside of the church for pride month! There will be decor to hang and chalk to write messages of love. Let's bear witness to God's beautiful love together, FPC!

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.



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.

The **flowers** today are given by **Jon & Kim Abels** in memory of **Weldon Abels**, loving father and grandfather to Jon, Kim, Lily, and Grace.

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 first and second floors 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.

Our **Paschal Candle and stained Red Oak Stand**, crafted by Marklin Candle Design of Contoocook, New Hampshire and given in memory of **Elder Ed Kwon**, was originally dedicated on April 30, 2017. This candle stands as a visible sign of God's enduring presence in our beautiful century-old sanctuary. Rooted in Passover (Pesach) and adopted by early Christians, the lit Candle represents the Risen Christ's triumph over darkness and death, his resurrection, to become the Light of the World.

The paraments and communion tablecloth used in worship today were given by **Ruth and Russell Roberson** in memory of their mothers: **Zenobia Teresa Cox Haislip** and **Myrtle Taylor Roberson**, both of whom were quilters, for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of First Presbyterian Church of Durham, North Carolina December 31, 1871 - December 31, 2021. They were designed and sewn by **Beth Taylor**, a fabric artist and modern quilter. She created the unique communion cloth and paraments for First Presbyterian by including personal items of meaning and significance donated by members. Beth and her husband **Robert Parker** are former members of First Presbyterian Church and now live in the mountains of Virginia.

★ **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—in the 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.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: *Call to Worship, 2016, Year C, Vol 49:1, Call to Worship, 2024-2025, Year C, Vol. 58.1, Feasting on the Word, Year C, Vol. 1, Eucharistic Prayers*, by Sam Wells and Abigail Kocher. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The Worship and Arts committee is excited to showcase the wide range of talents of our FPC members and friends at the FPC ART FESTIVAL from June 8-15. Word is spreading about the all-ages show and it is shaping up to include photography, paintings, sculpture, and furniture. Representing the daintiest entry so far, one of our members has agreed to share her beautiful handmade reproduction medieval buttons. We hope to exhibit an exceptional variety of visual arts and crafts, so please consider connecting with us to share your talents. For more information, please contact Alice Raney araney1@nc.rr.com or Floalice Reaves floaliceraves@yahoo.com.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Chris James, recovering from surgery.
Harriett Mitchell, returned home from hospice care.
Joyce Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece.
Tish Rokoske, Keith Rokoske's mother, hospitalized after a fall.

Tony Brown	Dennis Buckley	Paul Cornsweet	Sam Crabtree
Susan Cyr	Kerry Holbrook	Michael Honeycutt	Lee House
Ann Huff	Jenni James	Mitzi Leshner-Thomas	Jen McGonigle
Madge McKeithen	Kathryn Murchison	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

Julia Allen , grandmother of Amy Wilson	
Evan Breyer , grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore	
Francisca Cristobal , relative of Al and Judy Arrowwood	
Kim Cummings , father of Drew Cummings	
Linda Foster-Momsen , mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson	
Cheryl Fowler , friend of Cheri Reece	Aaron Pritchard , friend of Kathy Parkins
Jennifer Hervey , daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey	Wu-Chou Su , father of Claire Su
Katie Jackson , wife of Matthew Hirsch	Larry Todd , friend of Kathy Parkins and Wendy McCorkle
Donna Johnson , mother of Ann Huff	Jim Vacca , father of Jamie Chambliss
Martha Neece , sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece	

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.



536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen



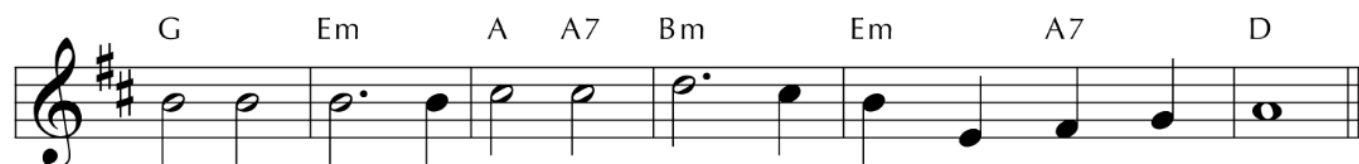
1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age



meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -

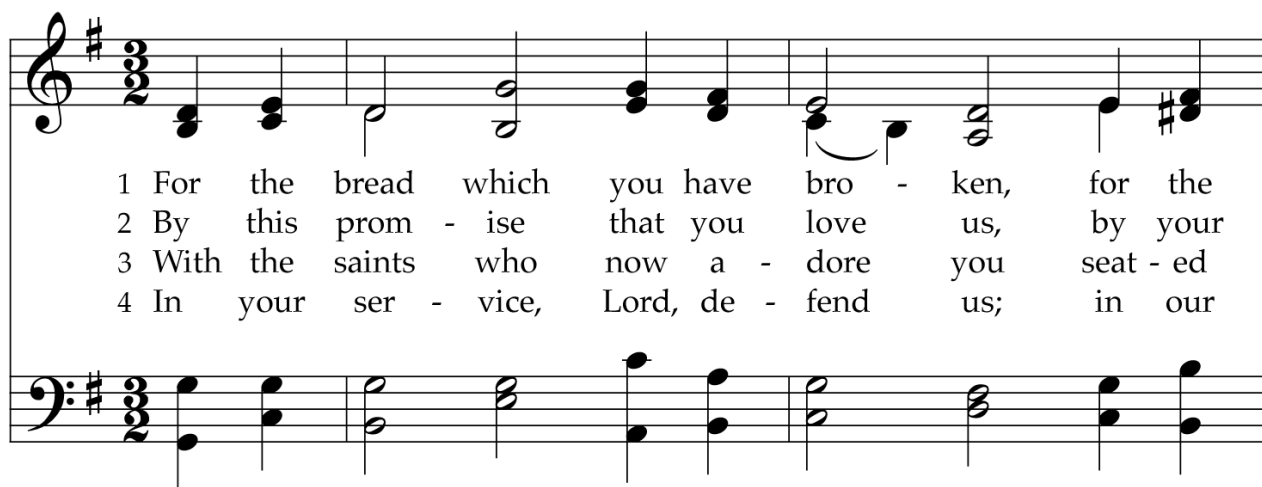


vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -

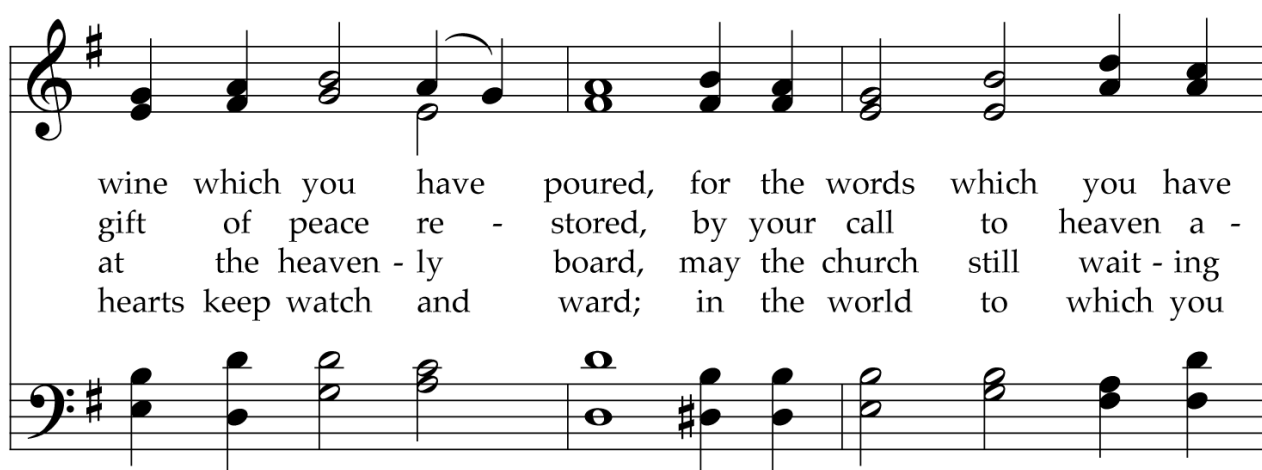


lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have broken, for the
 2 By this promise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now adore you seated
 4 In your service, Lord, defend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace restored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heavenly board, may the church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - broken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B \flat F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)
Gm7 B \flat Am7 B \flat Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B \flat F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

This Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>12:15 PM Pride Decoration (sanctuary, front steps)</p> <p>1:30 PM Youth: ASP Training (offsite)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p>Monday, June 2</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>7:00 PM Examination of New Officers (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 3 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p>
<p>Wednesday, June 4</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>6:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor & via Zoom)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (Choir Room)</p>	<p>Thursday, June 5</p> <p>7:00 PM Service & Mission Retreat (Daye Meeting Room)</p>	<p>Friday, June 6</p> <p>8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast (Mad Hatters)</p>
	<p>Saturday, June 7</p> <p>9:00 AM Grounds Workday (NE Lawn)</p> <p>12:00 PM Lunch at Bull City Burger</p>	
<p>Sunday, June 8 <i>Day of Pentecost, Art Exhibit Begins</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children and adults.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas Preaching, Ordination and Installation of Officers</p> <p>1:30 PM Youth: ASP Training (offsite)</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>.

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