

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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

PRELUDE

Alleluia, No. 1 (Give Thanks to the Risen Lord)

A.D. Miller

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Praise the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.**

Leader: Praise the name of the Lord,
and the Lord's glory shall be praised,

**People: for people near and people far, for people present and people to come,
for the young and for those wise with age.**

Leader: Come, let us praise the Lord.

People: Come, let us worship God.

*** HYMN NO. 23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

Pleading Savior

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Susan Dunlap

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

you command us to love one another,

yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace.

You command us to care for all of creation,

yet we neglect the earth

and abuse nature through carelessness or greed.

You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,

yet we too often walk our own way.

Forgive us, O God.

Guide us as we work toward

a new heaven here on earth.

Lead us to reconciliation

and a vision for your beloved community,

as we share your love with your people everywhere.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*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 the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. It consists of two systems of music, each with 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 includes the lyrics 'Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!'. The second system repeats the same lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carl Rist

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: O God of promise,
your word made flesh in Jesus Christ
is trustworthy and true.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
may it rise up in us this day like a gift
from the spring of the water of life
to refresh our thirsty souls. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:31-35

(Pew Bible, NT Page 108)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Carl Rist

People: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 11:1-18

(Pew Bible, NT Page 130)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Ever-widening Circles of Grace”

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Hispanic Creed

Susan Dunlap

**We believe in the Church universal because it is a sign of God's reign,
whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues
where all the colors paint a single landscape,
where all tongues sing the same praise.**

**We believe in the reign of God – the day of the Great Fiesta
when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
when all people will join in joyful banquet,
when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.**

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves:
to believe for those who do not believe,
to love for those who do not love,
to dream for those who do not dream,
until the day when hope becomes a reality.**

***HYMN NO. 766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

Mc Kee

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

The Children's Choir will teach us a song.

Kathy Parkins

*"Lord, keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears,
May angels guard us while we sleep, till morning light appears."*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

The Gift of Love

*English Folk Tune,
arr. Hal Hopson*

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, spirit come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.*

*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

Susan Dunlap

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. 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D

Herman Hesse,
arr. Callahan

Happening Today

Youth Stock Sale: See page 5 for more details.

Bird Slide Show: Join David and Judy Smith for a photographic visit to Colombia today at **7:00 pm in Watts-Hill Hall.**

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 to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Jane Z. Buckley** from **Dennis Buckley, Barbara Buckley, Elizabeth McKeehan** and **Bill Buckley**.

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.

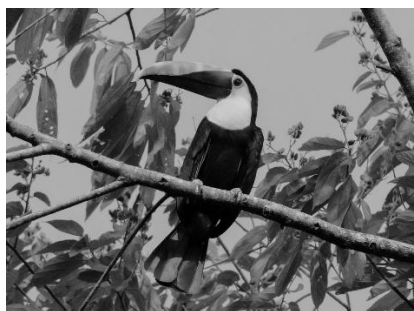
Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

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.

Portions of today's worship resources were printed from: *Call to Worship, Year C, Vol. 55.1*, and *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Vol. 1*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Youth Stock Sale: Our Second Annual Stock Sale ends today! FPCers can support our youth who are participating in Appalachia Service Project, CROSS, and the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. A stock entitles its holder to a letter from one of the youth during their trip, sharing first-hand about their experience. We will also hold a stockholder brunch late in the summer, complete with presentations from youth, slideshows of the trips, and brunch cuisine. **To purchase a stock**, stop by the table in the foyer after worship. Stocks are \$30 for an individual or \$45 for a family (donations always accepted). You can pay via cash, check, card, or online via the church website.



Yellow-throated Toucan

Bird Slide Show

Today at 7:00 pm | Watts-Hill Hall

Colombia has more bird species than any other country, which makes it the birdiest country in the birdiest continent in the world. It's also a magnet for traveling birders, such as our own David and Judy Smith. Join them for a photographic visit to Colombia *TODAY*, May 18, at 7:00 pm in Watts-Hill Hall.

Daytimer's Luncheon: Join us for our monthly gathering on Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 am at Bennett Pointe Grill located at 4625 Hillsborough Rd. You may RSVP to Mickey Velkey by May 25. Contact information - email: Marilyn.velkey@usa.net or cell: 601.750.3619

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.

Church Work: If landscaping and gardening are your thing, feel free to join us on Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 am - 12 noon. Contact [Barbara](#) to learn more about the work to be done. In conjunction with the First Friends outdoor weeding event, the Property Committee will be holding an **indoor workday** of elbow grease and tidying. We have a list of areas that could benefit from detail-cleaning and general tidying. Come for 30 minutes or two hours, we could use you for any number of minutes you can spare.

Things That Matter Potluck will be Hosted by Kathy Parkins on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00. This is our "annual meeting" to vote for three book recommendations and to welcome new friends. You may contact Kathy at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We extend our condolences to:

Richard & Shirley Boulden and their family on the passing of Richard's mother, ***Peggy Boulden***, on April 24, 2025.

The family & friends of Nancy McClure, former chef at the First Presbyterian Day School, who passed away on May 13, 2025.

We remember in prayer:

Jeanne Hervey is recovering from a surgical procedure.

Harriett Mitchell has moved to the William M. Dunlap Center for Caring in Raleigh: 200 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607. Cards are welcome.

Kathryn Murchison had a hospital visit this week.

Bob Paul was hospitalized this week

Keith Rokoske is at home after being hospitalized with an infection after his recent surgery.

Tony Brown

Dennis Buckley

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Michael Honeycutt

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jenni James

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Jen McGonigle

Madge McKeithen

Franzi 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

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece.

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Larry Todd, friend of Kathy Parkins and Wendy McCorkle

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>12:15 PM Youth Stock Sale (Foyer)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Groups: Kickball</p> <p>7:00 PM Bird Slide Show (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, May 19</p> <p>11:45 AM Coalition for Affordable Housing & Transit (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>7:00 PM Session (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, May 20 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p>10:00 AM You Are Not Alone (Wilson Parlor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Day School Board Meeting (Zoom) Finance & Investment Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, May 21</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>4:30 PM Yoga (Room 201)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir (Choir Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, May 22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, May 25 <i>Hunger for Change</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults. Children and youth will not meet.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; Susan Dunlap, preaching</p> <p>12:15 PM Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, May 23</p> <p>10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, May 24</p>	



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26
in observance of Memorial Day.

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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