

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 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

Prelude in A

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: O God be merciful to us and bless us;
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

**People: Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you O God;

People: let all the peoples praise you.

*** HYMN NO. 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O Quanta Qualia

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**God of wonder and grace,
you are always doing a new thing,
yet we confess how often we resist your surprises.**

**We cling to what is familiar,
afraid of what we cannot predict or control.**

**Forgive us, Lord,
for shutting out your Spirit's prompting,
for limiting your love to what we already understand.**

**Open our hearts again—
to your mystery, your movement, your mercy.**

**Set us free from fear that we may follow Christ with joy,
trusting that wherever you lead, life will be found.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Esther Hethcox

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 a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Richard Anderson

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: God of mercy,
grant that the Word you speak this day
may take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit to your honor and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Habbakuk 3:17-18

(Pew Bible, NT Page 874)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

People: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 5:1-9

(Pew Bible, NT Page 96)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Susan Dunlap

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“By the Sheep Gate”

Susan Dunlap

(Silent reflection)

*HYMN NO. 800

Sometimes a Light Surprise

Salley Gardens

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

NEW MEMBERS SERVICE OF WELCOME

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Esther Hethcox

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Mindy Douglas

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR

OTIS LANGSTON AND ROBESON ALFRED TISDALE JENNINGS

Introduction and Words of Scripture

Esther Hethcox

Questions to the Parents:

Mindy Douglas

Pastor: Leonora and Otis, do you desire that your children be baptized?
Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith
and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents: **We do.**

Questions to the gathered Children:

Esther Hethcox

Pastor: Do you promise to be a friend to Langston and Robeson?
If they get lost, will you help them find the way?
If they fall down, will you help pick them up?
Will you share with them the stories of Jesus?

Children: **Yes.**

Question to the Congregation:

Lenore Champion

Elder: Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture
Langston and Robeson by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging
them to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

Congregation: **We do.**

*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Esther Hethcox

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

(You may be seated.)

Thanksgiving over the Water

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Leader: Let us pray.

Baptism	Nora Tubbs Tisdale
Anointing	Alfred Tisdale
Introduction	Mindy Douglas & Esther Hethcox
Presentation of Baptismal Quilt	Jane Wettach & Ashley Swavely

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give	Esther Hethcox
Offertory Anthem	Thomas Tallis

A New Commandment
A new commandment give I unto you saith the Lord.

*That ye love together as I have loved you,
 that e'en so ye love one another.*

By this shall every one know that ye are my disciples.

If ye have love one to another.

*(The **Hunger for Change Offering** is received following the anthem.)*

*Doxology with Alleluias	<i>Lasst Uns Erfreuen</i>
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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

Mindy Douglas

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. 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Marion

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Susan Dunlap

*POSTLUDE

Christ Has Arisen

*Tanzanian folk tune,
 arr. J. Wayne Kerr*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The Session of FPC has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, **June 1st** at the end of worship. We will hear a report from the nominating committee about a nominee, Jim Rogers, to fill an unexpired term of one year as an elder.



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 ***Teddie & Tony Brown*** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Rose Marrotte and Gale Gokey Brown**, their mothers.

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.

The ***Sacrament of Baptism*** is being celebrated for Otis Langston Tisdale Jennings and Robeson Alfred Tisdale Jennings during worship today. Langston and Robeson are the children of ***Otis Jennings*** and ***Leonora Tisdale***. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Nora Tubbs Tisdale and Rev. Dr. Alfred Tisdale, parents of Leonora Tisdale and grandparents of Langston and Robeson, for their participation in the baptism today.

New member: The following people were received into membership by the Session earlier today:

- **Leonora Tisdale** (she/her) grew up in Richmond, VA & Princeton, NJ. She attended Guilford College in Greensboro & continued her education through world travels & a formative time living in New Orleans. Leonora moved to Durham in 2009, earned her BSN at UNC & worked as a critical care nurse before returning to UNC to become a nurse practitioner. She is a primary care FNP by day; she is a momma/partner/daughter/friend full time. She loves the beauty & magic of the natural world & cooking/eating delicious food. Her kids bring great joy.

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: *Book of Common Worship (2018)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.



THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

40% - Local Hunger Programs

10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

The last Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!

Daytimer's Luncheon

Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 am

Bennett Pointe Grill
4625 Hillsborough Rd.

Join us for our monthly gathering.
RSVP to Mickey Velkey by today, May 25.
Email: Marilyn.velkey@usa.net
Cell: 601.750.3619



FPC Art Festival

June 8 - 15

The Worship and Arts committee is excited to showcase the wide range of talents of our FPC members and friends. 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.

First Friends Workday and/or Lunch

Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 am – 11:55 am

Lunch at 12:00 pm at Bull City Burger

Please dress for the tasks and weather. Bring your own gloves, grabber, snips, and tools for the following activities which Barbara Buckley has identified as needing to be done that day:

- Picking up trash Weeding the mulched beds Pruning the azaleas outside the Memorial Garden
- Pruning hawthornes inside the Memorial Garden
- Picking up sticks and branches from playground and its surrounding banks
- Weeding the playground banks
- Washing windows
- Power washing

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.

You may contact Emily Wilkins at emilypw@gmail.com to RSVP for lunch by June 5.

Things That Matter Potluck

Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 pm

Hosted by Kathy Parkins

The June potluck will be the “annual meeting” to vote for three book recommendations and to welcome new friends. Please let Kathy know if you can attend by email at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org

Save The Date

First Friends Potlucks

Saturday, July 12 at 5:30 pm

Hosted by Tyler and Deborah Momsen-Hudson

You may RSVP by phone or email:
919-697-1898 | dmomsenhudson@gmail.com

Saturday, August 16
Hosted by Mark Higgins

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

<i>Tony Brown</i>	<i>Dennis Buckley</i>	<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Sam Crabtree</i>
<i>Susan Cyr</i>	<i>Jeanne Hervey</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Michael Honeycutt</i>
<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Ann Huff</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>
<i>Jen McGonigle</i>	<i>Madge McKeithen</i>	<i>Harriett Mitchell</i>	<i>Kathryn Murchison</i>
<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>	<i>Keith Rokoske</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>	<i>Phyllis Verhey</i>

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
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

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

Befriend Us

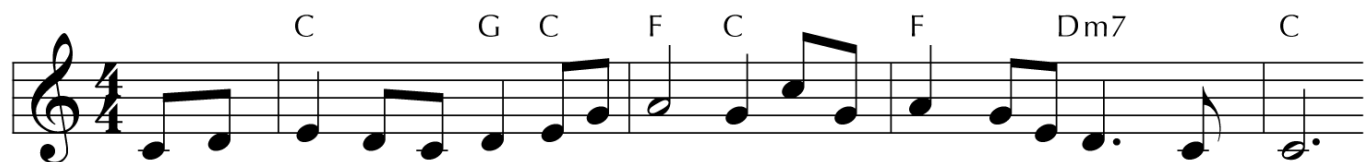
1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

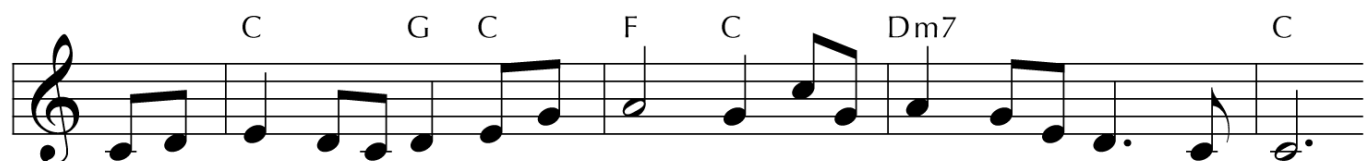
Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

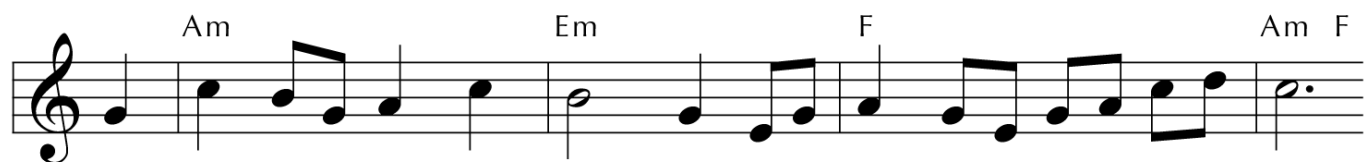
800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



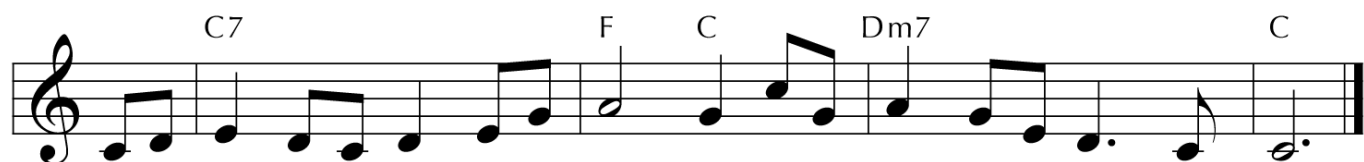
1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,

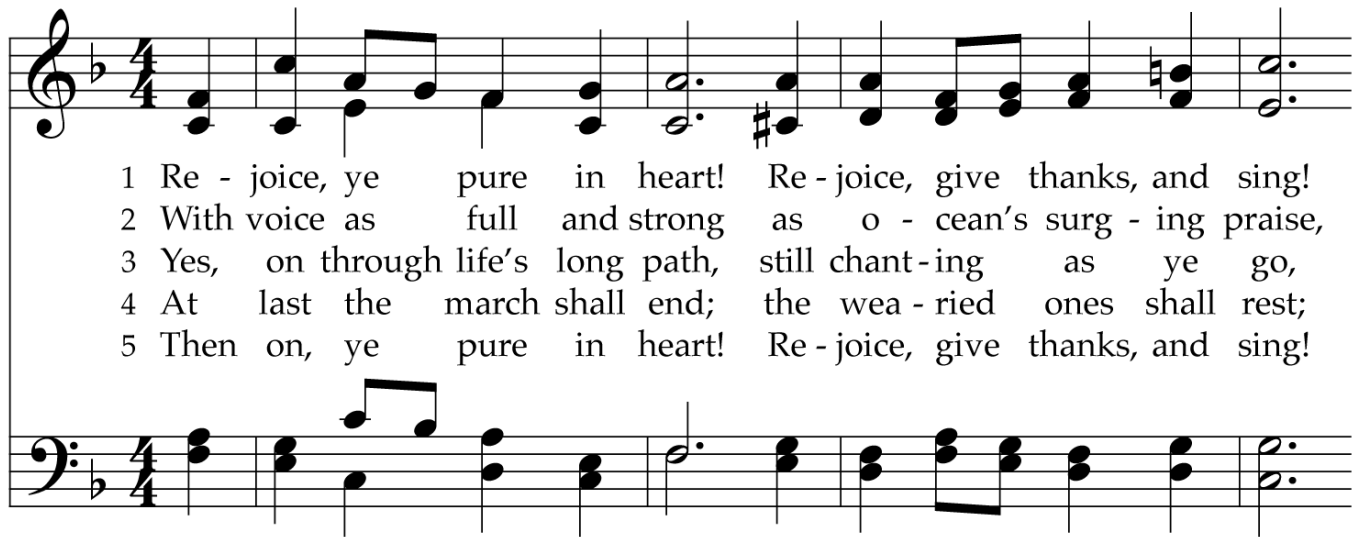


when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;

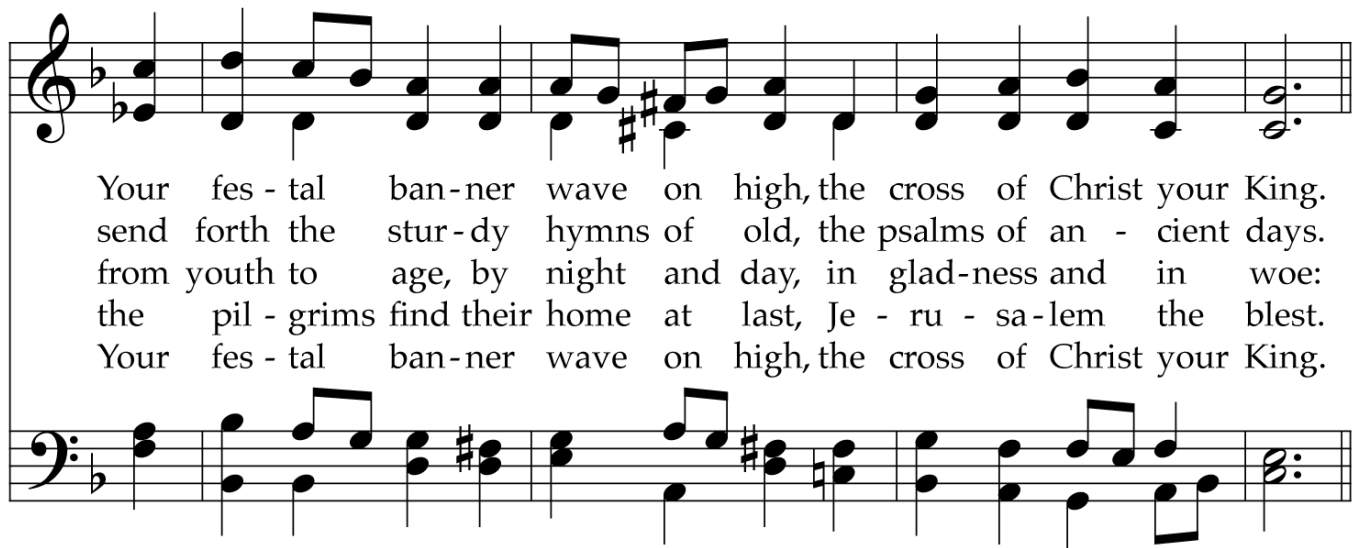


a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

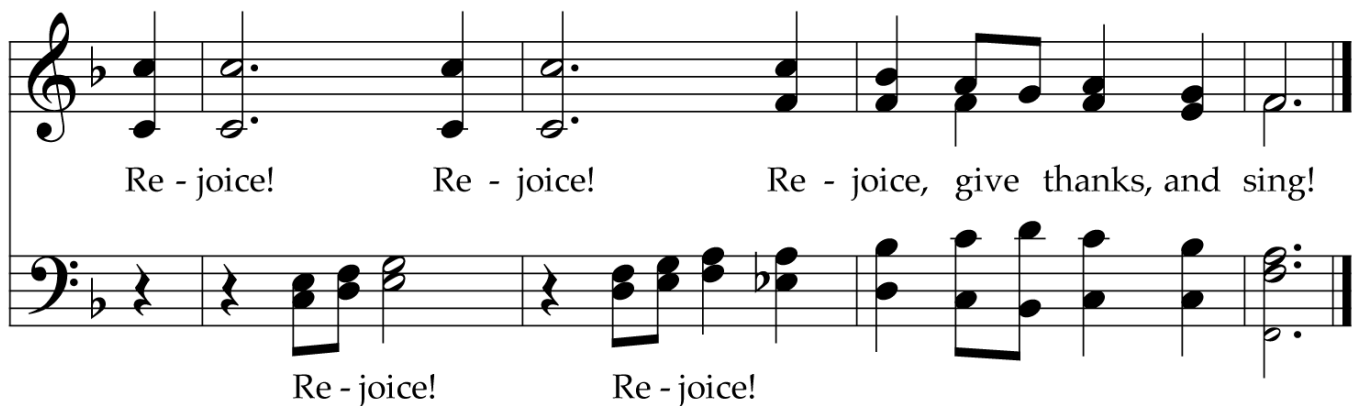


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!




Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

This Week at a Glance!		
Later Today 12:15 PM Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)	Monday, May 26 <i>Church Office is closed.</i> 	Tuesday, May 27 11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Bennett Pointe Grill)
Wednesday, May 28 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room) 7:00 PM Choir (Choir Room)	Thursday, May 29 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	Friday, May 30
Saturday, May 31 Really (Really) Free Market (parking lot)	Sunday, June 1 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults. Children and youth will not meet.) 11:00 AM Worship w/Communion; Esther Hethcox, preaching 12:15 PM Congregational Meeting 8:00 PM MnM's Fellowship (via Zoom)	

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