

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 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**

Esther Hethcox

Minute for Mission: Legacy Society

Dawn Shelton

**PRELUDE**

*Sonata in g (Allegro)*  
Dayna Hagstedt, flute

G. F. Handel

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;

**People: our eyes are opened when he breaks the bread.**

Leader: Beloved, we are God's children now;

**People: when Christ is revealed, we will be like him.**

Leader: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

**People: Blessing and honor and glory to God!**

**All: Come, let us worship God!**

**\* HYMN NO. 14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*Dix*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Lord God,**

**in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done,**

**the suffering we have caused,**

**the good we have refused,**

**and the truth we have denied.**

**Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy,**

**and feed us with your grace,**

**so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Mindy Douglas

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 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 notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Ben Gunn

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: 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**

Psalm 30

(Pew Bible, OT Page 505)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Ben Gunn

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING**

John 21:1-19

(Pew Bible, NT Page 115)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Awkward"*

Esther Hethcox

*(Silent reflection)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Philippians 2:5-11

Mindy Douglas

**Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God exalted him even more highly**

**and gave him the name that is above every other name,**

**so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,**

**in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Mack Wilberg

\*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: Blessing God,

you walk with us from the Jerusalem of our failure  
to the Emmaus of your glorious revelation.

You made us to be your companions,

and you gave us food and drink that we might share your substance with you.

You created us from the dust of the earth, and you re-created us by water and the Spirit.

You called your chosen people, you sent Moses and the prophets,

and you came among us in Jesus

that we might know you in his crucified and broken body

and celebrate you in the everlasting joy of his resurrection.

And so we gladly thank you,

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: Incarnate God,  
 when your Son sat at table with his crestfallen disciples,  
 he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.  
 Come among us now in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
 that your people may discover you in the breaking of the bread,  
 that you may stay with us and make your home among us,  
 and that these gifts of bread and wine may become 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.

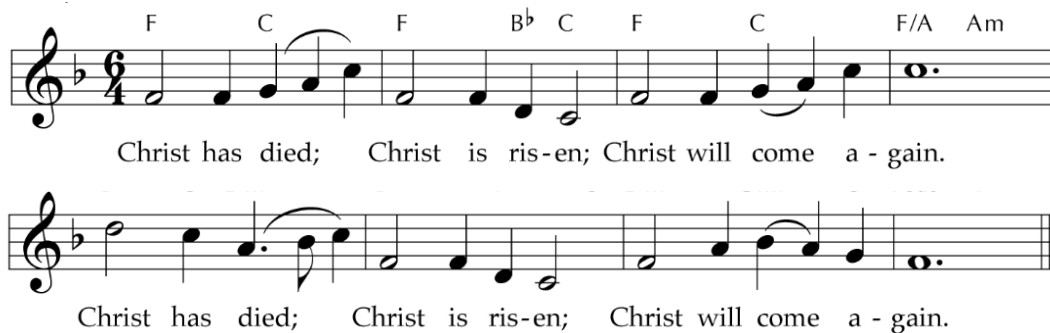
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

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*



Leader: Sharing God, in the power of your Holy Spirit  
 repeat among us your Son's actions of taking, blessing, breaking, and sharing,  
 that you may take, bless, break, and share us,  
 and that the world may recognize you in the way you act on our lives.  
 Breathe your Spirit on your church,  
 that we might feel our hearts on fire as you talk with us and explain the scriptures to us.  
 Inspire all who stand still, looking sad.  
 Open the eyes of all who are kept from perceiving you.  
 Bring your bread of life to feed all who hunger in body, mind, or spirit,  
 until the day when we live your life abundant with the communion of saints,  
 in the presence and companionship of your Holy Trinity,  
 Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **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 Music

*Sonata in g (Largo)*  
*Sonata in E Flat (Siciliana)*

G.P. Telemann  
J.S. Bach (att.)

## \*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. 69

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

*Here I Am (Schutte)*

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Esther Hethcox

## \*POSTLUDE

*Fugue in D*

*J.S. Bach*

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## *Happening Today*

***Children's Music (Following Worship):*** The children who are attending the music program can follow Kathy Parkins upstairs to begin rehearsal.

***Youth Stock Sale:*** See page 6 for more details.

***Racial Equity Task Force*** at 12:15pm in Wilson Parlor.

***Installation of Esther Hethcox*** at 4:00pm with a reception to follow.

***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.



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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 ***Caroline Davis Rourk*** to the glory of God and in memory of her grandmother, ***Margaret Smith Davis***, her brother, ***Malcolm H Rourk, III***, her parents, ***Jane Davis***

**Rourk and Malcolm Henderson Rourk, Jr.**, her uncle, **William Javan Davis** and her boyfriend, **Christopher Michael Whitworth**, USMC.

**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: *Book of Common Worship, Eucharistic Prayers, Feasting on the Word*, and *Glory to God (hymnal)*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926. **Thank You** to **Dayna Hagstedt** and **Dan Huff** for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning.

Everyone is invited to this Sunday's meeting of ***FPC's racial equity task force*** after church in the Wilson Parlor. Among other issues, we will be talking about this summer's Faith and Community series on the book "How We Learn to Be Brave" beginning June 1.

***Youth Stock Sale:*** Our Second Annual Stock Sale is happening now! This is our youth fundraiser for summer trips. 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.

***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](mailto:araney1@nc.rr.com) or Floalice Reaves [floaliceraves@yahoo.com](mailto:floaliceraves@yahoo.com).

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### ***~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~***

#### **We remember in prayer:**

***Michael Honeycutt*** who is hospitalized for tests.

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

***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***

***Laura McNab***

***Harriett Mitchell***

***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

***Michael Gilmer***, neighbor of Becky Martin

***Jennifer Hervey***, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

***Donna Johnson***, mother of Ann Huff

***Katie Jackson***, wife of Matthew Hirsch

***Aaron Pritchard***, friend of Kathy Parkins

***Wu-Chou Su***, father of Claire Su

***Jim Vacca***, father of Jamie Chambliss

## This Week at a Glance!

<p><b>Later Today</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p><b>12:15 PM</b> Children's Choir (Choir Room) Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor) Youth Stock Sale (Foyer)</p> <p><b>4:00 PM</b> (Sanctuary) Installation of Esther Hethcox Reception to Follow</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> (offsite) Youth Groups: Flour Wars <i>Rain Date is 5/18/2025</i></p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> (via Zoom) MnM's Fellowship</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, May 6</b> <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p><b>8:00 AM</b> (Watts-Hill Hall) Where We Find Hope and Light in These Times</p> 	<p><b>Wednesday, May 7</b></p> <p><b>1:00 PM</b> (Mindy's Office) Program Staff Meeting</p> <p><b>4:30 PM</b> (Room 201) Yoga</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> (Choir Room) Choir</p> <p><b>Thursday, May 8</b></p> <p><b>Friday, May 9</b></p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b> (Room 201) Yoga</p> <p><b>Saturday, May 10</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> (NE Lawn) Grounds Workday</p> <p><b>4:00 PM</b> (Forest Hills Park) Spring Fling</p>
<p><b>Monday, May 5</b></p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b> (Daye Meeting Room) Presbyterian Women Circle &amp; Bible Study</p> <p><b>1:30 PM</b> (Mindy's Office) Worship Planning</p>	<p><b>Sunday, May 11</b> <i>Mother's Day, Senior Blessing, Youth Stock Sale</i></p> <p><b>9:45 AM</b> Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)</p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship; Mindy Douglas Preaching</p> <p><b>12:15 PM</b> Children's Music (Choir Room)</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Youth Groups</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> 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**