

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

9th Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (arr. four hands)
Leigh Wynkoop and Kathy Parkins, piano

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

People: **Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

Leader: “Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”

People: **The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

***HYMN NO. 403**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Unser Herrscher

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

whose loving-kindness endures forever:

we confess that often we have failed

to receive and give love;

to care for others as we care for ourselves;

to forgive and accept forgiveness.

We remember good intentions that were not put into actions;

harsh words that were hurtful;

selfish purposes that caused pain;

persistent pride that would not yield.

We acknowledge our failure to accept the hope you offer us in Christ.

Hear us, O Lord,

as in this silence, we make our confession to you.

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. 733** *We All Are One in Mission* *Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein*

Now let us be united

and let our song be heard.

Now let us be a vessel

for God's redeeming word.

We all are one in mission;

we all are one in call,

our varied gifts united

by Christ, the Lord of all.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Candace Gunn

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray.

All: **God of Hope,**

by faith we know that you have created the world,

and that what is seen is made by things that are not visible.

Open our eyes to your presence among us

that we may hear your word with clarity

and a sureness of hope,

as we follow you in all righteousness.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PSALTER READING

Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

(Pew Bible, OT Page 519)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Candace Gunn

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

(Pew Bible, NT Page 225)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Esther Hethcox

(silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM /NEW MEMBER SERVICE

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Presentation

Questions

Renunciations

Question to the Congregation

Elder: Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jahnai Goodwin and Mikayla Swain by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of this church?

Congregation: We do.

(Please stand as you are able.)

***PROFESSION OF FAITH (in unison)**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his 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.

*Thanksgiving over the Water

(Please be seated.)

Baptism

Anointing

Welcome and Gifts

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, verse 2)

The Servant Song

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring
(arr. for four hands)

J.S. Bach

*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 (in unison)

John Weicher

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. 816	<i>If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee</i>	<i>Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott</i>
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		Esther Hethcox
*POSTLUDE	<i>If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee</i>	J.S. Bach



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 memory of ***Dorothy B. Graham*** on her birthday by **Scottie Seawell**.

We thank Leigh Joyner Wynkoop for sharing her musical gifts with us today. As a child, Leigh played piano, clarinet, and bassoon and sang in the church choir. A music and math major at Duke, she studied music theory and organ with a certain Robert Parkins (though her feet would not cooperate on the pedals). After a few years teaching high school math, she attended the physician assistant program at Duke when her twin sons started kindergarten and now works as a PA in primary care at the Durham Veterans Affairs. A choral singer for many years, she finds that music is her most direct route to the divine.

The ***Sacrament of Baptism*** is being celebrated during worship for ***Mikayla Swain*** (she/her) and ***Jahnai Goodwin*** (she/her) who received approval from the Session to become members of First Presbyterian Church. Mikayla was born in Damariscotta, Maine, and now works as a real estate broker. In her free time, she loves playing tennis and hanging out with her fur baby. Jahnai was born in Palo Alto, CA, but was raised in Sunnyvale, and graduated from Shaw University in 2023. She now works as a software engineer. Her mom's extended family lives in North Carolina, but her mom lives in California and her dad lives in Iowa. In her free time, she loves camping, golfing, fishing, and going to the gym.

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.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

August Memorial Services

We gather in faith and remembrance to honor those who have passed. These memorial services provide an opportunity for family, friends, and our community to come together in prayer, reflection, and gratitude for the lives of our loved ones. You are welcome to join us in offering support, sharing memories, and finding comfort in the presence of one another. Below is a list of upcoming services.

- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for **Dennis James Buckley** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, August 16 at 11 a.m.** Condolences may be shared with **Barbara Buckley** (daughter) at 3019 Annandale Rd., Durham, NC 27705 <https://www.hallwynne.com/obituaries/dennis-buckley> **Volunteers** help make a memorial reception more meaningful for the grieving family. Sign up by using the QR code to support this reception located in Watts-Hill Hall.
- **Marilyn Turner Hedgpeth's** service will be on **Saturday, August 23 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Covenant (Charlotte) Sanctuary located at 1000 E Morehead St, Charlotte, NC 28204. We will show the live stream at First Presbyterian Church at the time of the service. All are welcome. You may also view the live stream at home here: <https://www.covenantpresby.org/live>



Upcoming Community Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



First Friends Summer Potluck: Saturday, August 16 at 5:30 pm. Join us at the home of Mark Higgins, located at 842 Inglenook Rd., Durham, NC 27707. First Friends is a fellowship group made up mainly of adults over 55, but FPC members & friends of any age are always welcome!

The "Somethings" (young adults) End-of-Summer BBQ: Sunday, August 31st at 6:00 pm. Location is TBD.

Save the Date



SONAM and Duke Chorale Kick-Off Concert

Saturday, September 13th, 2025 at 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Durham

Join the *Duke Chorale* and *Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM)* for their first concert of the season! The program will feature American Folksongs, songs of peace, and music from Carmina Burana. Admission is free, with a suggested donation accepted at the door in lieu of tickets. All proceeds go to *First Presbyterian Church's Walk-In Ministry*, which provides resources for Durham residents in need. We hope you'll join us! Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues.



Youth Stock Brunch

The Youth Stock Brunch is coming up, and you're invited (whether or not you bought stock - no, really!). In this second year, we have made some changes. Like last year, FPC youth who participated in three of our summer trips—the Appalachia Service Project trip to Perry County, Ky, the CROSS Missions trip to Charlotte, and the Montreat Youth Conference—are throwing a brunch, showing pictures and telling stories from their experiences. New this year, the whole church is invited, not just those who have bought stock in the trip. The brunch and presentations are **Sunday, August 24, 9:30-10:30am** in Watts-Hill Hall.

To RSVP, please email John Weicher at j.weicher@firstpres-durham.org by Sunday, August 17 so we can properly prepare. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out via the same method.



How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news!
Isaiah 52.7

ANNOUNCING: FPC's Western NC Hurricane Recovery Mission

With our friends at [Fuller Disaster ReBuilders](#), we will travel to help our North Carolina neighbors rebuild from the Hurricane Helene disaster and to engage in fellowship with our FPC friends. No building skills are required.

If the Spirit is calling you, use the link below to register.

Here are some details:

Who: YOU! (Must be 16+ years)
When: September 14-19
Where: Swannanoa, NC (near Black Mountain, NC)
Cost: \$200 (financial assistance available)

Contact Andy Henry with any questions:
andrew.joseph.henry@gmail.com, 919-599-9405.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

John Weicher celebrates his 20th ordination anniversary this week. Congratulations John!

Condolences:

We extend our love and care to *Bill Busa* and family upon the death of *Kate Busa* who died August 3, 2025. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on *Saturday, September 6*, at *11 a.m.* Condolences may be mailed to Bill Busa and the family at:

8106 Willardville Sta Rd.
Bahama, NC 27503

We remember in prayer:

Rory Dillon is in the hospital recovering from an appendectomy.

Jim Rogers is home after hospitalization following a heart attack.

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood.

<i>Tony Brown</i>	<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Sam Crabtree</i>	<i>Susan Cyr</i>
<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Ann Huff</i>	<i>Mal King</i>
<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>	<i>Jen McGonigle</i>	<i>Madge McKeithen</i>	<i>Harriett Mitchell</i>
<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>	<i>Keith Rokoske</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>	<i>Phyllis Supple</i>
<i>Ginny Widmark</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 Arrowood

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

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

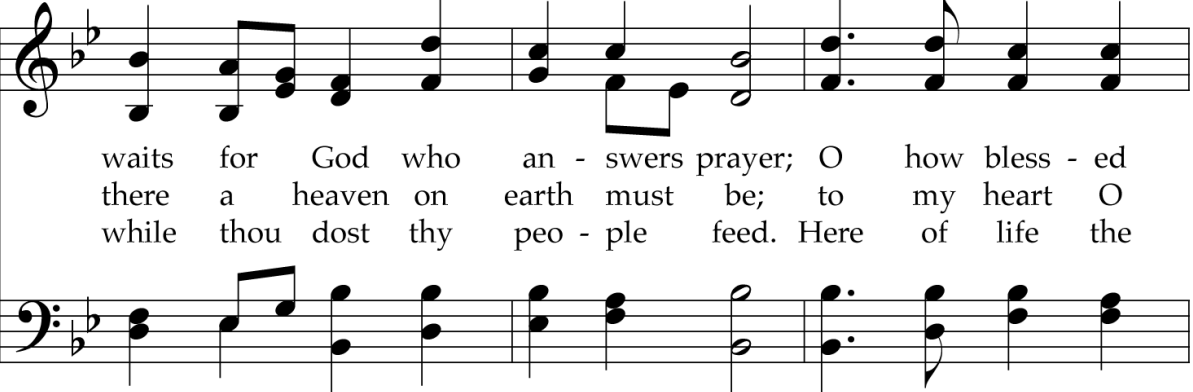
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be



en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

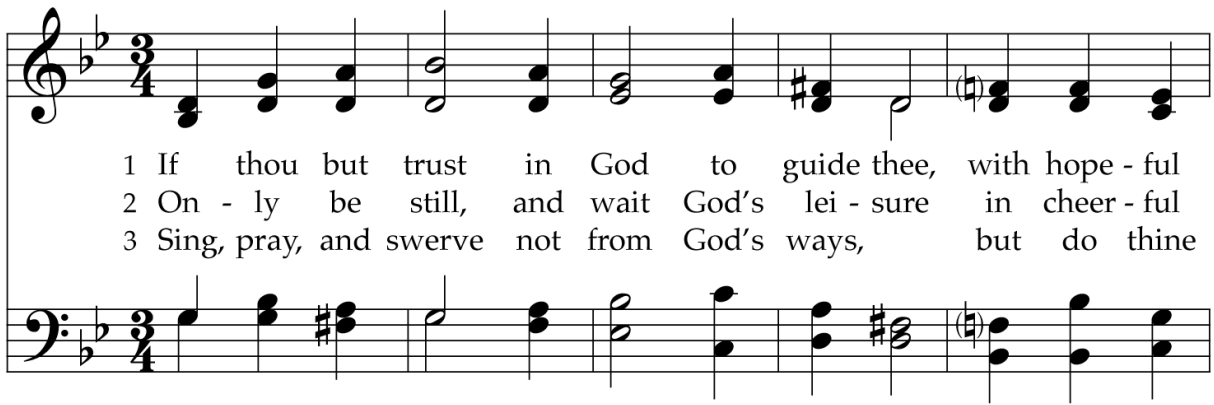


waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

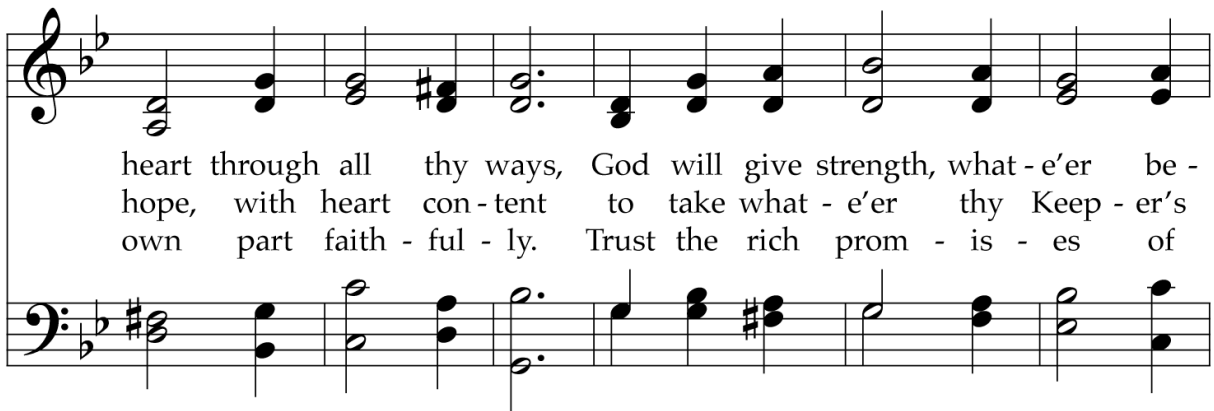


is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

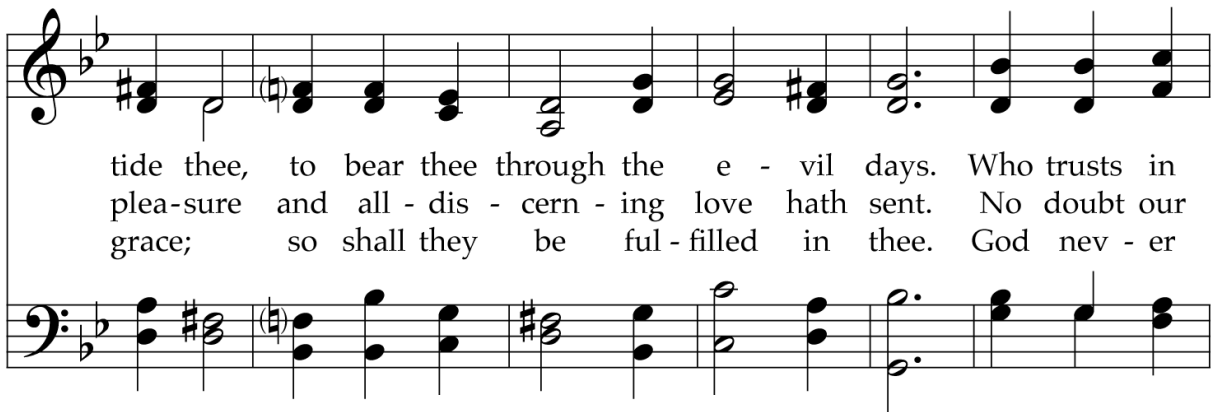
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 816



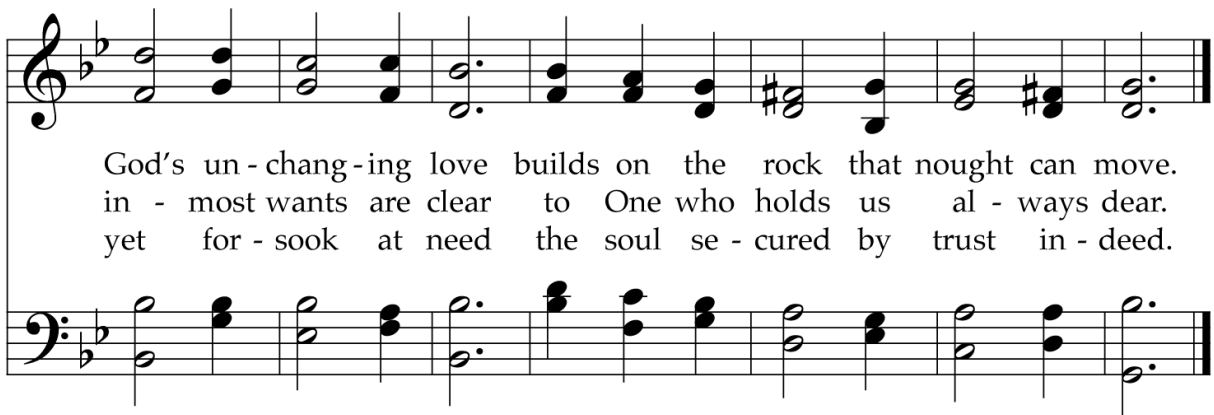
1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

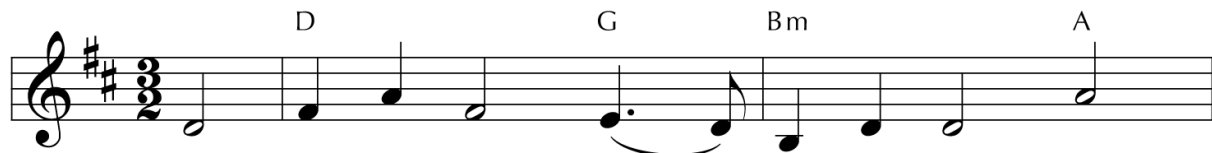


tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

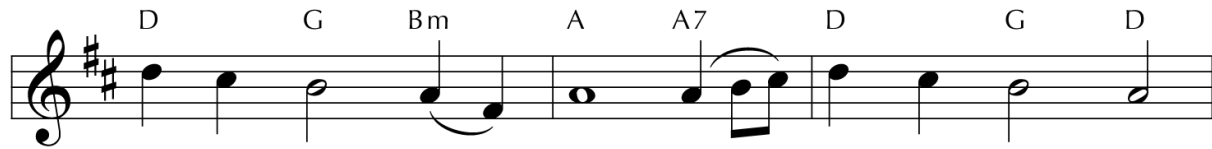


God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

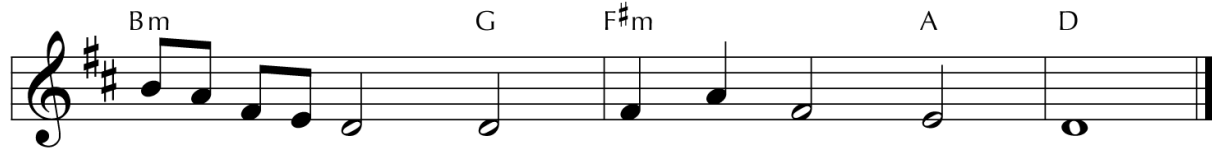
817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

This Week at a Glance!

Later Today
Newsletter Deadline

12:15 PM
Retirements Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

Monday, August 11 1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office) 6:00PM Property Committee (Room 205) 6:30 PM Service & Mission (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM Worship and the Arts Committee (via Zoom) Welcome & Belonging (via Zoom)	Tuesday, August 12 <i>Newsletter Release</i> 11:00 AM Program Staff Retreat (offsite) 7:30 PM Youth: Hangout Home-Made Ice Cream (offsite)
Wednesday, August 13 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)	Thursday, August 14 Friday, August 15
Saturday, August 16 11:00 AM Dennis Buckley Memorial Service (Sanctuary) Reception to follow 5:30 PM First Friends Potluck (Home of Mark Higgins)	Sunday, August 17 <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children and adults.) 11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching 12:15 PM Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor) 1:00 PM Youth: Fantasy Lake (parking lot)

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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