

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

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Esther Hethcox

Minute for Mission - Journey to Thriving program

Laurie Ray, Kathryn Murchison

**PRELUDE**

Prelude in g minor

Johann Pachelbel

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Sing praise to God, O faithful ones.

**People: Gives thanks to God's holy name.**

Leader: Hear us, O God; be gracious to us.

**People: Our souls praise you, O Lord.**

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

**\*HYMN NO. 645**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

*Mit Freuden Zart*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**God of the prophets,**

**we confess that we have failed to heed your word.**

**You summon us to follow your Spirit,**

**but we are stuck in our stubborn ways.**

**You send faithful laborers among us,**

**but we refuse to offer them welcome.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Give us listening ears, accepting hands, and open hearts,**

**to bear one another's burdens;**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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. 402**

*How Lovely, Lord*

*Merle's Tune*

*A sun and shield forever  
are you, O Lord Most High;  
you shower us with blessings;  
no good will you deny.  
The saints, your grace receiving,  
from strength to strength shall go,  
and from their life shall rivers  
of blessing overflow.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Michael Honeycutt

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God,**

**you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds from your mouth.**

**Give us a hunger for your word,  
and in that food, satisfy our daily need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 11:1-9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 640)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 10:1-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 71)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Backpack, Backpack"*

John Weicher

*(silent reflection)*

**\*HYMN NO. 719**

*Come, Labor On*

*Ora Labora*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

Blessings of the Backpacks and Briefcases

Litany

Leader: When it's nighttime and I'm picking out my clothes  
and making sure I have all my school supplies ready,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm getting on the bus or being driven to school,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I greet my teachers and friends in my class,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm playing with my friends at recess,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm struggling with something during the school day,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm telling my family about my day at school,

**Children: God is with me.**

Leader: When I'm praying at night and thanking God for my family,  
my friends, and my school,

**Children: God is with me.**

Prayer

Leader: God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands. Amen.

**People: Thank you, God, for always being by our sides.**

**We know that if we get nervous or afraid, you will be there with us.**

**When we see this tag on our bag,**

**we will remember that you are always with us.**

**We love you Jesus. Amen.**

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory

*Fugue in d minor*

Johann Pachelbel

\*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!***

## NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Words of Welcome and Introduction

\*Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, vv.1 & 2)

*The Servant Song*

***Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?***

***Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.***

***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.***

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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. 727**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (vv. 3-6)*

*The Servant Song*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in D*

Johann Pachelbel

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### *Happening Today*

*The Diaconate* will meet in Watts-Hill Hall following service.

*Birding in Angola* is at 7:00 pm in Watts-Hill Hall. See page 6 for more details.



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 ***Dorothy Dielmann Essif*** by ***Mason Essif***.

***New Members:*** The following persons were received into membership by the Session at a called meeting held prior to today's worship:

***Mary Peeler (she/her):*** Mary grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, where she attended Idlewild Presbyterian Church. She went to UNC Chapel Hill for undergrad, then moved to Baltimore for medical school and Ob/Gyn residency at Johns Hopkins. She moved back to the Triangle in August 2024 to start fellowship training in Maternal Fetal Medicine (high risk obstetrics) at UNC. She lives with her husband, Luke, in Durham with their cat Lou. She loves baking, kayaking, and gardening.

**Margaret Barbier (she/her):** Margaret and her husband, Roberto, moved to Durham 5 years ago to start graduate school at Duke -- Margaret in the MD-PhD program and Roberto in the Molecular Cancer Biology PhD program. She grew up outside of Pittsburgh before moving to Vermont to study Molecular Biology and Studio Art at Middlebury College, where she met Roberto. When they are not in the laboratory or hospital, they love to escape to the mountains with their dog Monty to go hiking and mountain biking. You can also find them talking non-stop about Vermont, Margaret oil painting, or Roberto making tiramisu!

**Katie Fogleman (she/her):** Born in Durham! Raised in Winston-Salem, NC, Katie worked as Communications Director at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a philanthropic organization that funds nonprofits working for a more just, inclusive and sustainable North Carolina. She met her husband Nick when they served as teachers in Warren County, NC, with Teach For America. Katie loves music - especially southern folk and Americana - good food, supporting the Triangle's amazing local businesses and restaurants, and traveling around the globe, though she does much less of that since the kids were born.

**Nicholas Fogleman (he/him):** Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Nick practices child psychology at UNC. He is married to Katie and they have three children (Lila, Hardin, and Hayes) and one dog (Melvin). Nick enjoys spending time with family, taking day trips to small towns, fishing, golfing, yoga, and playing and watching sports. He's a big Nebraska sports fan!

**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: *Call to Worship, Year C* and *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

### ***Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope:***

As part of being chosen for DurhamCares' Journey to Thriving grant program, FPC has been given a great opportunity to participate in the Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope at no cost on October 10-12. Through the Pilgrimage, participants discover how Durham's story, their own stories, and

God's story are woven together. Over a weekend of visiting important sites, hearing the stories of leaders who have shaped the city, and engaging in discussion with fellow pilgrims over meals and fellowship time, participants reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community. FPC's pilgrimage will be on Friday 10/10 - 4pm-9pm; Saturday 10/11 - 8am-8pm, and Sunday 10/12 10am-7pm. Registration is limited to 20 people and the registration deadline is Friday, September 26th. To register, and for more information, visit [www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage](http://www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage).



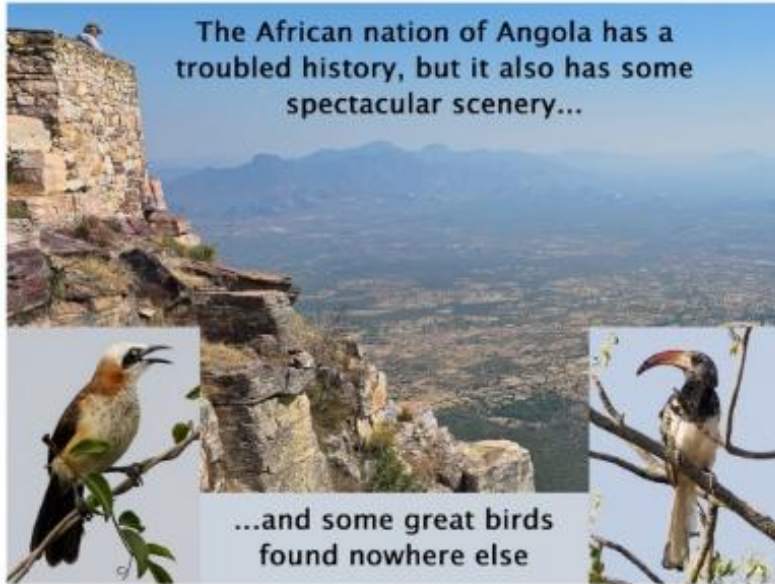
## Upcoming Community Events



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/>

**The “Somethings” (young adults) End-of-Summer BBQ:** Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm at the home of Megan and Alexis Dubiel, 1819 Umstead Road Durham, NC 27712.

**Daytimers’ Luncheon** is on August 26 at 11:30 am. Meet us at Bullock’s BBQ for fellowship.



Join David and Judy Smith for highlights from their visit to Angola on Sunday, August 24, at 7:00 pm in Watts-Hill Hall.

  
**SONAM Chorus**  
Singers of New And Ancient Music  
**with the Duke Chorale**  
Invites everyone to our  
Season Kick off Concert  
**9-13 at 4:00**  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 305 EAST MAIN ST. DURHAM  
**MUSIC ABOUT RISING UP**  
  
Donations at the concert in lieu of tickets will support the First Presbyterian Walk-In Ministry to assist our neighbors with immediate needs.

## Save the Date

**First Friends** is a fellowship group of FPC folks that tend to be 55 and older. Hope to see you at our gatherings! **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** at Amy and Dan Mapel’s home and **Saturday, November 22nd** at Carl Rist’s home.

## **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 **Kate Busa** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, September 6, at 11 a.m.**
- A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for **Keith Rokoske** will be held in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church on **Saturday, September 20 at 10 a.m.**



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

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

*Sara Neece Silletto*, daughter of Vernon & Beth Neece, who is dealing with vertigo.

*Tony Brown*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*Rory Dillon*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Mal King*

*Mitzi Leshner-Thomas*

*Jen McGonigle*

*Madge McKeithen*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Jim Rogers*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Phyllis Supple*

*Alfred Tisdale*

*Ginny Widmark*

### **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 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

*Bill Prochaska*, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su

*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss

# 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,



mur - mur stilled:  
all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
cho - sen band:  
take your part:

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are aligned with the notes: 'mur - mur stilled:' under the first two measures, 'all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!' under the next four measures, and 'cho - sen band:' and 'take your part:' under the final two measures. The melody in the treble staff consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

## Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)  
 A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

- 1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain  
 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
 3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom-y doubt and faith-less fear!  
 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)  
 Fm C7 Fm C Fm D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each  
 to young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the  
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble  
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path-way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
 A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup>

ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.  
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

# Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

## The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -  
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you  
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the  
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each  
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out  
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and  
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -



grace to let you be my ser - vant too.  
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.  
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.  
 (repeat stanza 1)

## This Week at a Glance!

<b>Later Today</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>  <b>12:15 PM</b> Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bird Slide Show (Watts-Hill Hall)		<b>Monday, August 25</b>  <b>1:30 PM</b> Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)  <b>7:00 PM</b> Session (Watts-Hill Hall)	
<b>Tuesday, August 26</b> <i>Newsletter Release</i>  <b>11:30 AM</b> Daytimers' Luncheon (Bullocks BBQ)		<b>Wednesday, August 27</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Day School and Service & Mission Meeting  <b>6:30 PM</b> Choir Potluck (offsite)	
<b>Thursday, August 28</b>		<b>Friday, August 29</b>	<b>Saturday, August 30</b>
<b>Sunday, August 31</b> <i>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Hunger for Change Offering</i>  <b>9:45 AM</b> Lectionary Class  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching  <b>6:00 PM</b> The "Somethings" End of Summer BBQ (home of Megan & Alexis Dubiel)			

### 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

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto: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**