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## **SERMON SERIES**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

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

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

September 21, 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**

*"Be Still My Soul" (Finlandia)*

*Arr. J. Wayne Kerr*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from 1 John 4)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

**People: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

Leader: God's love was revealed among us in this way:

**People: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

Leader: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

**People: If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.**

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 32**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*Ellacombe*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Holy One,**

**no words can express the depth of our need**

**or reveal the extent of our sin.**

**But you know us completely, O God.**

**When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,**

**you forgive our transgressions.**

**You rescue us from evil,**

**and clothe us with love.**

**Humbly, we thank you;**

**for no words can express our gratitude**

**for the gift of your salvation.**

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. 389**

*Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord*

*Hal'luhu*

*Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!*

*Come and sing the praise of the Lord: sing hallelujah!*

*Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God, hallelujah!*

*Let all that lives, all that has breath, sing the praise of God.*

**COLLECT**

Richard Anderson

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** Good and gracious God,  
you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us;  
you are the hope of the world.  
Give us strength, that we might serve you;  
make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Job 38:1-7

(Pew Bible, OT Page 484)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**EPISTLE READING**

Colossians 3:12-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 18:9-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 81)

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

**People:** Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

*"Clothed in Humility"*

John Weicher

*(silent reflection)*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Philippians 2:5-11

Mindy Douglas

Let the same mind be in you that was in 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.

**\*HYMN NO. 819**

*Be Still, My Soul*

*Finlandia*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Mindy Douglas

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Anthem

Jane Marshall

*Awake my heart, and render  
 to God thy sure defender,  
 thy Maker, thy preserver,  
 a song of love and fervor.*

*Awake, My Heart and Render*

*Confirm my deeds and guide me:  
 my day, with thee beside me,  
 beginning, middle, ending,  
 will all be upward tending.*

*My heart shall be thy dwelling,  
 with joy and gladness swelling;  
 thy word my nurture giv'n  
 to bring me on toward heaven.*

**\*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)*

Esther Hethcox

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. 203**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

*Chereponi*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary in a*

*Anon (English, 18th cent.)*

## Happening Today

**Silent Auction** in Wilson Parlor. See *page 5* for more information.

**Children's Choir** will meet immediately following the service upstairs in the education building in the choir room for about 20 minutes. All children 6-11 are welcome to be a part of this musical offering.

**Youth Groups** meet at 5:00pm in the youth room.

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Sign In

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.



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 and celebration of the life of **Keith Rokoske** by **Franzi Rokoske**.

This week, we continue our six-week **sermon series** based on Colossians 3:12-14. In this passage, Christians are invited, through their baptisms, to put on a new metaphorical garment that sets them apart in the way they live. It is a garment of love that shows itself through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love. Each week, we will explore stories that open our hearts to recognize the ways we are to follow Jesus by exhibiting these traits as we live our lives together in the world. From youngest to oldest, we are the whole people of God, the Body of Christ, called to put on love in all its beauty and grace, as we worship and serve God in the world.

**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: *Lectionary Liturgies* and *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926. Bulletin cover logo created by Lauren Wright-Pittman and used for the 2025 PAM Worship & Music Conference. Used with permission.

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## 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/>



**Art Auction** bidding continues today. Enjoy 50 pieces of unique art on display in the Wilson Parlor. In addition, a new Apple Laptop 13 inch M4 will also be available for purchase. The highest bidder wins. You may place a bid until September 28. All proceeds support the ministries of FPC. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church.



**Sign up now for FPC's  
Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope**  
**Registration deadline: Friday, September 26th**  
FPC's free participation in the October 10-12 Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope is open. You are invited to sign up for this once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the history of

Durham woven together with God's story from Stagville plantation to Black Wall Street to a special visit to the Carolina Theater to hear a piece of the story of Durham's Civil Rights movement. 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, we will get to reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community and in our church. 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 this Friday, September 26th. To register, and for more information, visit [www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage](http://www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage). Please share with your friends and fellow FPC members and join this very special opportunity!

## **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** hosted by Amy & Dan Mapel and **Saturday, November 22** hosted by Carl Rist.

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

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

<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>Carter Momsen Hudson</i>	<i>Ann Huff</i>
<i>Mal King</i>	<i>Kathy Krahenbuhl</i>	<i>Mitzi Leshner-Thomas</i>	<i>Jen McGonigle</i>
<i>Madge McKeithen</i>	<i>Harriett Mitchell</i>	<i>Jim Rogers</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>
<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>	<i>Ginny Widmark</i>	<i>Mickey Velkey</i>	

### **Care Communities**

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes*  
Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*  
Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

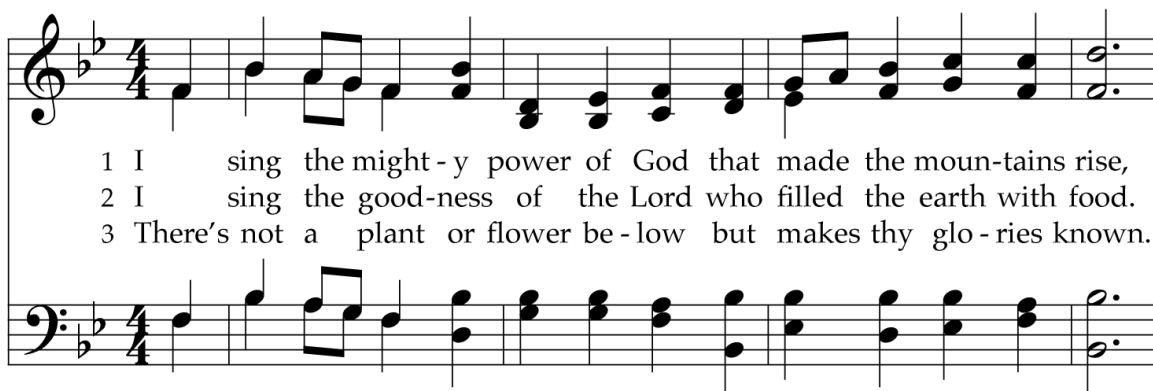
Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*  
Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

### **Family and Friends of the Congregation**

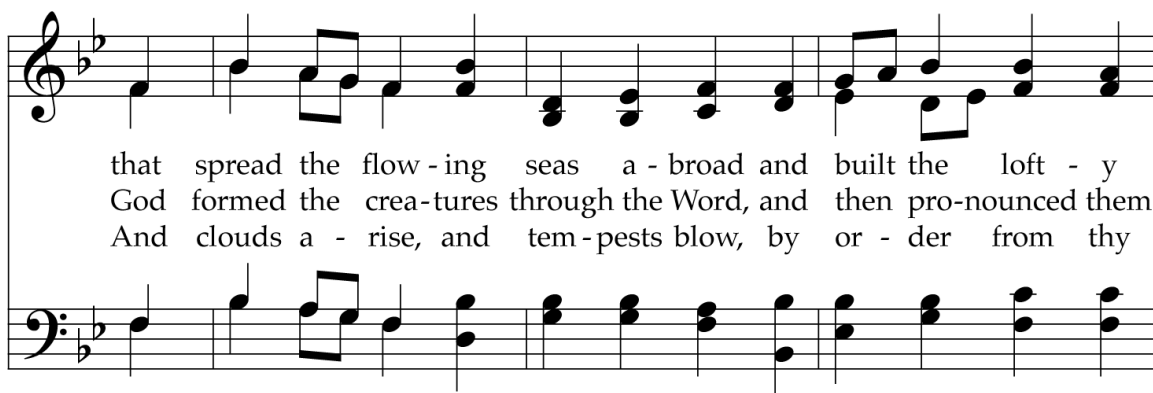
*Julia Allen*, grandmother of Amy Wilson  
*Evan Breyer*, grandson of friends of Jo Ann Moore  
*Francisca Cristobal*, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood  
*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings  
*Linda Foster-Momsen*, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson  
*Cheryl Fowler*, friend of Cheri Reece  
*Jennifer 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  
*Bill Prochaska*, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood  
*Sara Neece Silletto*, daughter of Vernon & Beth Neece  
*Wu-Chou Su*, father of Claire Su  
*Jim Vacca*, father of Jamie Chambliss



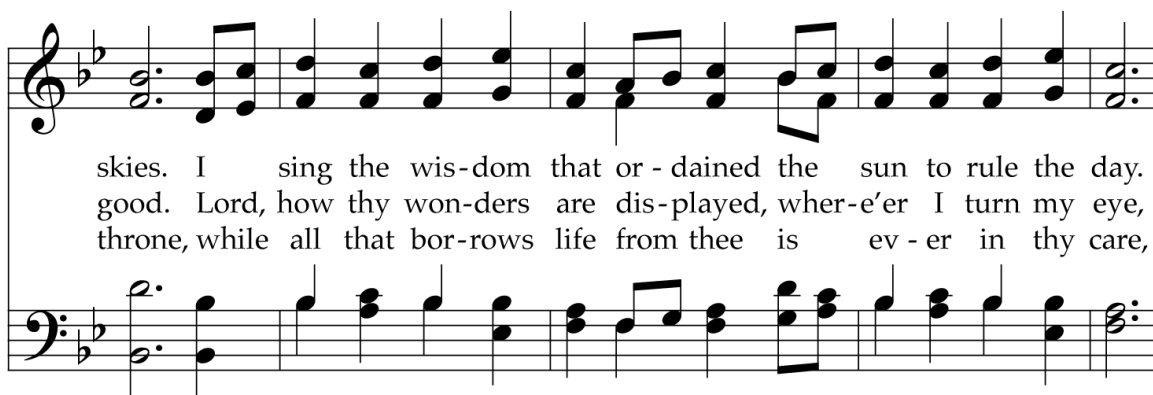
# 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



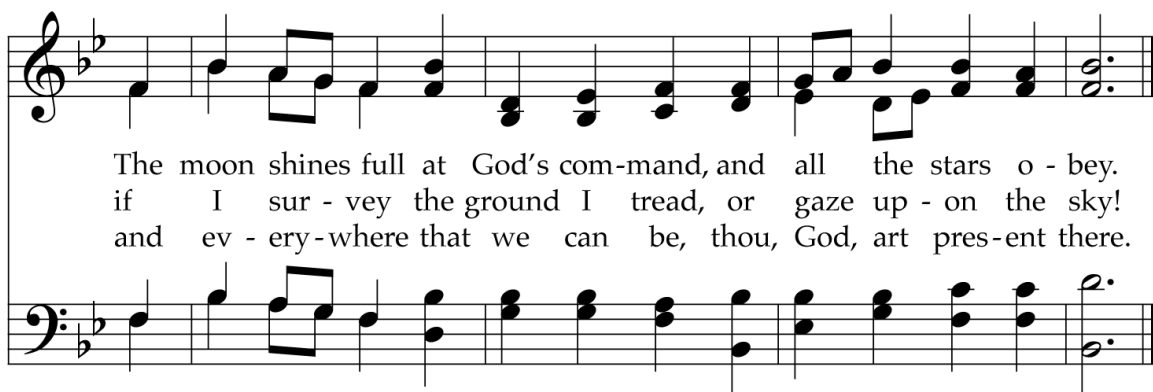
1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.  
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y  
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them  
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.  
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,  
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.



# 203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Capo 3: (D) (A7)  
*Refrain* F C7

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

(D) (D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
 F F/A Gm7 C7 F *Fine*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

(D) (Bm) (Em) (A)  
 F Dm Gm C

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their

2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and

3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should

4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

(D) (Bm) (Em7) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm Gm7 C7 F *to Refrain*

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.

race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.

love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

feet; this is the way we should live like you.

## Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take  
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.  
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.  
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,  
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;  
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.  
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend  
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

## This Week at a Glance!

### Later Today

*Newsletter Deadline, First Friends Beach Trip Ends*

**12:15 PM**

Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)  
Children's Music (choir room)

**5:00 PM**

Youth Groups – High Schoolers vs Middle Schoolers vs.  
Advisors (youth room)

### Monday, September 22

**1:30 PM**

Worship Planning (Pastor's office)

**7:00 PM**

Session (Watts-Hill Hall)

### Tuesday, September 23

*Newsletter Release*

**10:00 AM**

You Are Not Alone (Wilson Parlor)

**7:00 PM**

The Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, September 24

**1:00 PM**

Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's office)

**7:00 PM**

Senior Choir (choir room)

### Thursday, September 25

### Friday, September 26

*Somethings Beach Trip Begins  
Durham PRIDE Weekend*

**5:00 PM**

PRIDE: Justice Concert & Rally (CCB Plaza)

**7:00 PM**

The Lake Trio (Sanctuary)

### Saturday, September 27

**11:30 AM**

PRIDE Parade

### Sunday, September 28

*16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**9:45 AM**

Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)

**11:00 AM**

Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching

**12:15 PM**

Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)

PRIDE: Food Truck & Vendor Market (Durham Central Park)

Children's Music (choir room)

**5:00 PM**

Youth Groups – Farm Church (Watts & Green Streets)

## 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* or visit our website: *https://firstpres-durham.org*.

**305 EAST MAIN STREET    DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701    919.682.5511    ORGANIZED 1871**