

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 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

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

Robert J. Powell

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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. 624**

“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

Toulon

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Gentle and loving God,

through Jesus, you shared perfect human gentleness,

welcoming the weary and burdened, healing the brokenhearted,

and offering peace to those in turmoil.

You call us to follow his example,

reflecting your kindness and humility in all we do.

Forgive us when we are quick to speak in anger but slow to listen in love,

and when we respond harshly or with frustration

rather than with compassion and understanding.

Clothe us with gentleness, that we might approach others

with humility and a heart of understanding.

May our words and actions reflect your Spirit,

bringing unity, peace, and hope to a divided world.

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ben Gunn

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, you come to us without judgment, with a gentle word and a compassionate heart. May we be open to hear your word to us today, that we might live our lives with such gentleness and grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Ben Gunn

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

John 8:1-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 100)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Clothed in Gentleness”

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Matthew 11:28-30

John Weicher

We believe in a God who says,

**“Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me, for I am gentle
and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

***HYMN NO. 291**

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Spirit

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

Trad. Spiritual

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.

Long as I live and troubles rise, I’ll hasten to God’s throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.

O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

***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!***

The ***Hunger for Change*** offering will be received following the anthem.

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.

Anthem "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord"
*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.
He never will suffer the righteous to fall. He is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great and far above the heav'ns.
Let none be made ashamed that wait upon thee.*

Felix Mendelssohn

(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. 683**

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Slane

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Sonata 1 in C

Don Ignazio Cirri

Happening Today

Diaconate will meet following worship in Watts-Hill Hall.

Children's Choir will meet in the choir room immediately following worship service.

Youth Group is meeting at L Farm Church (corner of Watts & Green Sts) at 5:00pm.



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 by ***Michael Honeycutt & Paul Pasquarella*** in loving memory of ***Tom Cotton, Gary Malobisky, and Tim Selden***.

Our six-week ***sermon series*** is 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, baskets and books*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them 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.

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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/>



Save the Dates

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 and Dan Mapel and **Saturday, November 22** (see **newsletter**) hosted by Carl Rist.

Stewardship Festival will meet after worship on **October 19**. Stay for food, fellowship, games, a service project and lots of fun!

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations

Congratulations to Sarah Cunningham and Zack Czajkowski on the birth of baby boy *Archibald “Archie” Matthew Czajkowski* on Monday, September 22, 2025.

Congratulations to Katharine Somerville Whitmore on the birth of a granddaughter, *William Ambrose Valor McHenry*, born September 25, 2025, to Mattie Whitmore and Jonathan McHenry.

Congratulations to *Kayla Champion* and *Michael Atkins* who were married on Saturday, September 20, 2025.

We remember in prayer:

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas who is bedbound at 2460 Northwick Dr. Apt. 107, Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

Susan Cyr returned home last week from Duke Hospital.

Mickey Velkey recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

Beth Neece recovering from cataract surgery.

Kerry Holbrook will have brain surgery on October 1 in Los Angeles, CA.

Aaron Yates cousin of JoAnn Moore, awaiting a stem cell transplant.

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Mal King

Kathy Krahenbuhl

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Jen McGonigle

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Mickey Velkey

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*

Southpoint Atria: *Ginny Widmark*

Madge McKeithen

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

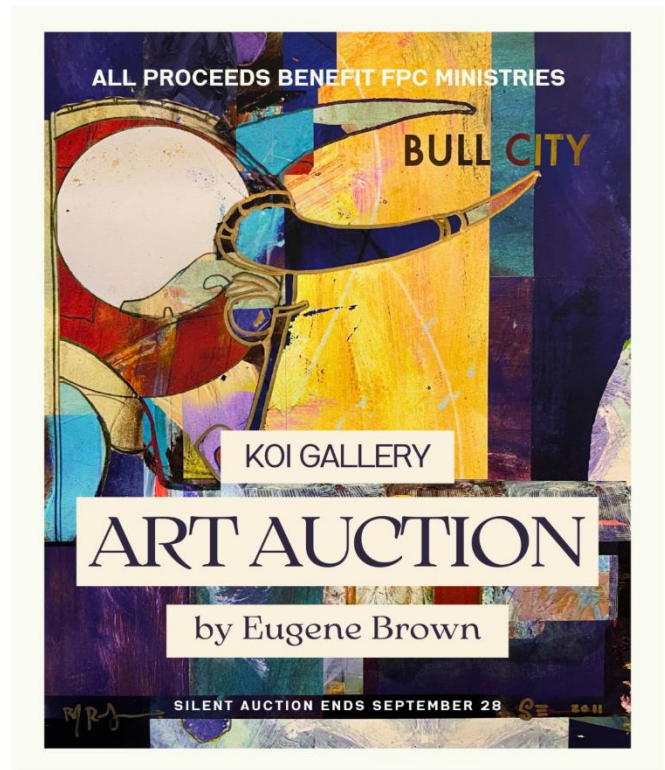
Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Art Auction

Final Day Sunday, September 28
in the Wilson Parlor

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.



FPC's Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope

Friday 10/10 - 4pm-9pm
Saturday 10/11 - 8am-8pm
Sunday 10/12 10am-7pm.

Experience the history of Durham woven together with God's story. Share with your friends and fellow FPC members everything 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, you will get to reckon with the challenges Durham has faced and witness the hope in our community and in our church.

For more information, visit www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage.
Please join this very special opportunity!

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit

Refrain



Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the



wil - der-ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id-ness,



wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the

2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the

3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried from a

4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient



deep; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the

sand; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a

hill; then you whis-pered in si - lence when the

schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

E A D G

val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -
 law and a land. When they were con - found -
 whole world was still. And down in the cit -
 cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -

A G D

ons you called to each thing, "A -
 ed with i - dols and lies, then you
 y, you called once a - gain when you
 sions; our men clear their eyes. With

Bm G

wake from your slum - bers and
 spoke through your proph - ets to
 blew through your peo - ple on the
 bold new de - ci - sions your

A D G/A D A to Refrain

rise on your wings."
 o - pen their eyes.
 rush of the wind.
 peo - ple a - rise.

683 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose



trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy: be
 strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be
 hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace: be
 voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm: be



there at our wak - ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our la - bors and give us, we pray, your
 there at our hom - ing and give us, we pray, your
 there at our sleep - ing and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

<div>Later Today</div> <div>12:15 PM</div> <div>Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)</div> <div>Children’s Music (choir room)</div> <div>5:00 PM</div> <div>Youth Group: Farm Church (offsite)</div>		Monday, September 29	
		1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor’s Office)	
		Tuesday, September 30	
		11:30 AM Legacy Luncheon Society (Croasdaile)	
		7:00 PM The Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)	
Wednesday, October 1		Thursday, October 2	Friday, October 3
1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)			8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast (Mad Hatters)
6:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force			
7:00 PM Senior Choir (choir room)			Saturday, October 4
			6:00 PM Step into Stewardship with The Somethings (offsite)
Sunday, October 5			
World Communion Sunday, Peace & Global Witness Offering			
Newsletter Deadline			
9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)			
11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching			
12:15 PM Children’s Music (choir room)			
4:00 PM Blessing of the Animals (NE lawn)			
5:00 PM Youth Group – Carried by Faith (youth room)			

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>

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