



Clothed in Love

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SERMON SERIES
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

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World Communion Sunday

October 5, 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

Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP Peace and Global Witness Offering

Andy Henry

PRELUDE

Voluntary on *Pleading Savior*

Philip M. Young

***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. 23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

Pleading Savior

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

our sins are too heavy to carry,

too real to hide,

and too deep to undo.

We look at a world undone by strife,

torn by violence, separated by hatred.

Yet you call us to walk the way of peace.

Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path

because the cost is too high,

the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh.

Forgive us our complacency and impatience.

Grant us clarity of vision to see the light,

and the strength to walk behind you.

In the power of your Spirit, we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***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

Jennie Alwood

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, as we read your word,
may your Spirit speak through it
that it may be for us the word of life. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-14

(Pew Bible, NT Page 201)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jennie Alwood

People: Thanks be to God!

PSALTER READING

Psalms 104 (*selected verses*)

(Pew Bible, OT Page 560)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Clothed in Patience"

Esther Hethcox

(*silent reflection*)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Declaration of Faith

Mindy Douglas

**We believe that at the Lord's Supper the community of believers is renewed
by the memory of Christ's life and death,
by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and by the promise of his coming again.**

Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread.

He offers us his body broken for our sake

and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours.

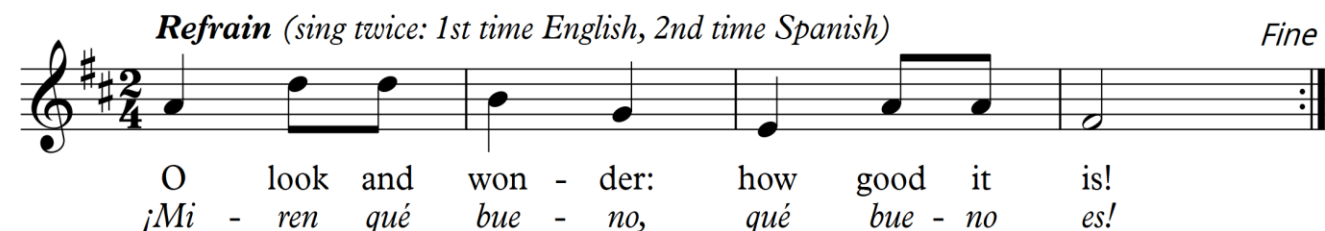
In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death.

So we celebrate his victory here and now and

anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom.

Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength

and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.



Verses (sung in Spanish by soloist)

*How good it is when siblings dwell in peace with one another;
 it is like precious oil when running fresh on Aaron's beard. (Refrain)*

*How good it is when people dwell in peace with one another,
 fresh like the morning dew that falls on Zion's holy hill. (Refrain)*

*How good it is when all earth's people dwell in peace together:
 that is where God will pour the blessing, life forevermore. (Refrain)*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

Come Before the Table

Karen Marrolli

Lesley Curtis and Rachel Spencer, soloists

Anna Blair, percussion

Soloist: *O come and share the love that makes us one.*

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee, who at this blessed feast art pleased to be.

O come and share the love that makes us one.

Choir: *Come before the table, O come before the Lord.*

Come with one spirit, come with one song.

O come as you are, knowing we all belong.

Come and share the blessing,

O come and share the promise, O come and share the love.

Come with one mission, come with one love, come with one voice.

Come all, all near and far — let all the world rejoice.

*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

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

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: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator of the universe.
You made us from the dust of the earth,
breathed into us the breath of life,
and set us in your world to love you.
We rejected your love, your peace.
We chose to live in enmity with one another
rather than peace with you and all creation.
But you did not reject us,
and you called us back to you over and over again.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All (Sung) Hymn No. 565

Sanctus

Sanctus (Haugen)

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score consists of six staves of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a repeat sign. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: We give you thanks for Jesus
 at whose birth the angels sang
 of the coming reign of peace on earth,
 who fed the hungry, humbled the mighty,
 and proclaimed the good news.
 With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,
 sharing this holy meal,
 remembering Christ's dying and rising,
 and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

All (Sung) Hymn No. 566

Memorial Acclamation 1



Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—
 this bread, this cup, this people—
 Christ's body and blood,
 that brings us peace.
 As you make us one in the Spirit,
 grant us the strength and wisdom
 to seek peace in the world.
 Keep us in the peace of Christ
 until you gather us at your table in glory.
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever. **Amen.**

All (Sung) Hymn No. 568

Amen



THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mindy Douglas & Esther Hethcox

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. Parents, please assist children as they take bread and lightly dip it into 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 Anthem (Sung in Latin)

O Sacrum Convivium

James Biery

*O Christ, come and dwell within through this sacred mystery;
we celebrate the memory of your holy Passion!
Jesus' love enfolds our hearts.
We receive your covenant of eternal glory. Alleluia.*

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: God our hope, we give you thanks
that you have given us this foretaste
of the heavenly realm of justice and peace.
Strengthen us with this food from your table
as we seek to serve you.
Lead us in lives of purpose and joy
as we await the coming again in glory
of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 526

"Let Us Talent and Tongues Employ"

Linstead

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary on *Let Us Talent and Tongues*

J. Wayne Kerr

Happening Today

The *Peace & Global Witness* offering will be received today, online or using envelopes provided. Proceeds will go to the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham.

Memorial Service for Mitzi Lesher-Thomas: 2:00pm today at FPC.

Children's Choir will not meet today.

Blessing of the Animals: 4pm at Northgate Park. Bring your pets for a blessing from Pastor Esther!

Youth Group: 5pm in the Youth Room. Carried by Faith – Our Story.



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 are given to the glory of God and in memory of *Mitzi Lesher-Thomas*, who served faithfully as our beloved associate pastor from 2020-2022.

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* and baskets 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.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from: PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Office material written by Charles A. Wiley, III. 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.

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 Date

First Presbyterian Church is a member of Durham CAN. This summer, four CAN Research and Action Teams have been working on strategies around Affordable Housing, Immigrant Rights, Violence Reduction and Education. On October 19th, 3 PM at St. Mark AME Zion Church, 531, S. Roxboro Street, members of all CAN institutions will gather for a Delegates Assembly where proposals from each of the teams will be presented to candidates for city council and mayor. Please plan to attend and support our Agenda for Change to make Durham a safer and more equitable city. To join a research team or to learn more about our Core Team, contact Susan Dunlap.

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**, hosted by Carl Rist.

***...take hold of the life
that really is life.***

(1 Timothy 6:19)



***The 2026 First Presbyterian Church
Stewardship Campaign***

Kickoff Lunch – Oct. 19, 12:15 pm

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Rod Gerwe, following surgery

Kerry Holbrook, following surgery

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Mal King

Jen McGonigle

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Harvey Estes*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills, Mickey Velkey*

Pruitt Health - Durham: *Fred Callaway*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Debbie Mathews*

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

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

The family of Charles Register, friend of Kathy Parkins

Sara Neece Silletto, daughter of Vernon & Beth Neece

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Aaron Yates, cousin of Jo Ann Moore

This Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>2:00 PM Memorial Service for Mitzi Leshar Thomas (Sanctuary)</p> <p>4:00 PM Blessing of the Animals (Northgate Park)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Group: Carried by Faith – Our Story (Youth Room)</p>	<p>Monday, October 6</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p>
<p>Tuesday, October 7 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p>	<p>Wednesday, October 8</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)</p> <p>6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir (choir room)</p>
<p>Thursday, October 9</p>	<p>Sunday, October 12 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Pilgrimage of Pain & Hope Continues</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; John Weicher, Preaching</p> <p>12:15 PM Children's Music (choir room)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Groups – Acts of Random Kindness (youth room)</p>
<p>Friday, October 10 <i>Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope Begins</i></p> <p>12:00 PM Day School Fall Festival (parking lot)</p>	
<p>Saturday, October 11 <i>Pilgrimage of Pain & Hope Continues</i></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

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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