

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 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

Minute for Stewardship

Doran and Isa Cummings

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount/Prelude in C

Nettleton/J.S. Bach, arr. B. Barker

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

One: Come, all who keep careful books of who deserves what.

All: We come with our ledgers and our calculations.

One: Come, all who've been crushed by systems that seemed so just.

All: We come bearing debts we cannot pay.

One: Come, ready to hear a confession from one who switched sides.

All: We come to hear how grace rewrites the books.

One: Let us worship the God who runs toward us while we're still far off.

All: Let us worship the God whose grace always comes first.

***HYMN NO. 624**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Toulon

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,

in your presence we confess

our sinfulness, our shortcomings,

and our offenses against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned

in wandering from your ways,

in wasting your gifts,

in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord,

for we are ashamed and sorry

for all we have done to displease you.

Forgive our sins,

and help us to live in your light,

and walk in your ways,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

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. 712**

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought Forest Green

*A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering
that all may truly live.*

*The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.*

COLLECT

Jean Cary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Sovereign God, saving Lord, reforming Spirit,
we rejoice that you have guided your church
through years of turmoil and change.
We pray that you will continue to reform us
according to the Word of God,
through the Holy Spirit,
that in our time and place,
we will take hold of the life
to which God has called us. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

(Pew Bible, OT Page 171)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jean Cary

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-9

(Pew Bible, NT Page 79)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Tony Larson

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Confessions of an Unjust Steward"

Tony Larson

(silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory Music

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Solid Rock, arr. B. Barker

*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!

The *Hunger for Change* offering will be received.

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, verse 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)*

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Anthem

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

Carl Schalk

*I thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
You kept me safely through the night, and brought me to the morning light.
Be with me through this day, I pray, and keep me safe from Satan's sway
that all I think or do or say please only you, my Strength and Stay.
Into your hands I now commend my body and soul until life's end.
Your angel keep me safe from harm until I rest in Jesus' arm. Amen.*

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

**All: 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. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Tony Larson

*POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Arr. Walter Pelz

Happening Today

Diaconate meets following worship in Watts-Hill Hall.

Children's Choirs will meet immediately following the service upstairs in the education building for about 20 minutes. All children ages 3-11 are welcome to be a part of this musical offering.



Trunk or Treat is today from **5:00pm–7:00pm!** There will be trunks, face painting, hot dogs and more! The community is invited, so spread the word!



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 by ***George Danser & Jean Cary*** in honor of their fathers, ***Jack Danser*** and ***Arthur Cary*** whose birthdays were in October.

New Member Reception:

Felicia Jennings is from Hartford, Kentucky. She attended the University of Kentucky and currently works for BlueSprig Pediatrics as their Insurance Verification and Authorization Supervisor. Felicia and husband Joshua have been married for 10 years! They have one son, Julian, who is 2.5 years old and a baby on the way, due in December. She loves to read, watch movies, cook, be outdoors, and travel!

Joshua Jennings grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. He is currently the Associate Director for Communication and Special Advisor to the Vice Provost in UNC Global Affairs. He enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, politics, and running.

We are excited to welcome **Rev. Anthony “Tony” Larson**, the Co-Moderator (with Rev. Cecelia Armstrong) of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). When not travelling the country representing our denomination, Tony serves as Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Surfside, SC. He is a UNC-CH graduate and was active in Presbyterian Campus Ministry there. He will be our preacher today as we celebrate Reformation Sunday.

We are delighted today to welcome **Benjamin Barker** as a guest musician. Benjamin Barker is a National Hammered Dulcimer Champion, as well as a Harpist and Music Teacher located in Greenville, SC. Benjamin has released two albums featuring solo hammered dulcimer: “Nothing but the Blood: Solo Hymns for Hammered Dulcimer” and “Bach: Complete Cello Suites Performed on Solo Hammered Dulcimer. Benjamin’s gifts to us are made possible through donations to the Restricted Music Fund of First Presbyterian Church.

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 written by Tony Larson and the *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

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/>



Yoga is offered, free of charge, at FPC on **Mondays at 4:30pm** and **Fridays at 10:30am**. Please let **Jane Wettach** know if you plan to attend or have questions by emailing her at janewettach@gmail.com.

Asheville Youth Mission (AYM) is an organization that hosts youth service trips with a focus on justice, generosity, creativity, and advocacy. From Friday, October 24 – Sunday, October 26 our youth are joining our friends from Trinity Avenue Pres. for a weekend serving in and around Asheville.

The next **Blood Drive** is Thursday, October 30 from 1:00 - 6:00pm in Watts-Hill Hall. For more information, contact Julie Whiddon (919-730-6673), FPC’s organizer and Red Cross volunteer.

Souls Above: You are invited to an evening of beautiful, sacred music in thanksgiving for those we hold in blessed memory. The organist for the evening is the acclaimed recitalist Chad Fothergill, Organist at Duke University Chapel. The program will last about one hour and fifteen minutes and will feature music appropriate to All Saints **Sunday, November 2, 2025**. It begins at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1200 West Cornwallis Road, Durham. For further information call 919-489-2314.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We extend our condolences to:

Jane Brawley upon the death of her sister *Ann Patrick Sanders* on October 7.

Jean Estes, upon the death of her husband *Harvey Estes*. Harvey turned 100 this spring and he and Jean celebrated their 77th anniversary on October 15.

Katie Fogleman upon the death of her grandmother, *Barbara Hardin*, on October 19.

We remember in prayer:

Chris Brown, who is recovering from surgery.

Adrienne Allison

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Barbara Gerwe

Rod Gerwe

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jancy Johnstone

Jen McGonigle

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Eric Wiebe

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills, Mickey Velkey*

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

Denise Duffy, sister of Andy Henry

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

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman.

Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece

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

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

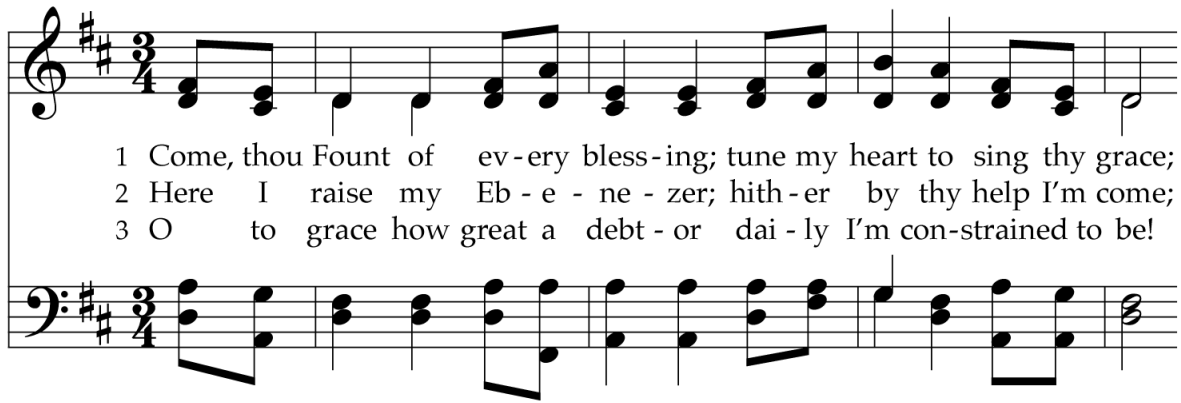
mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

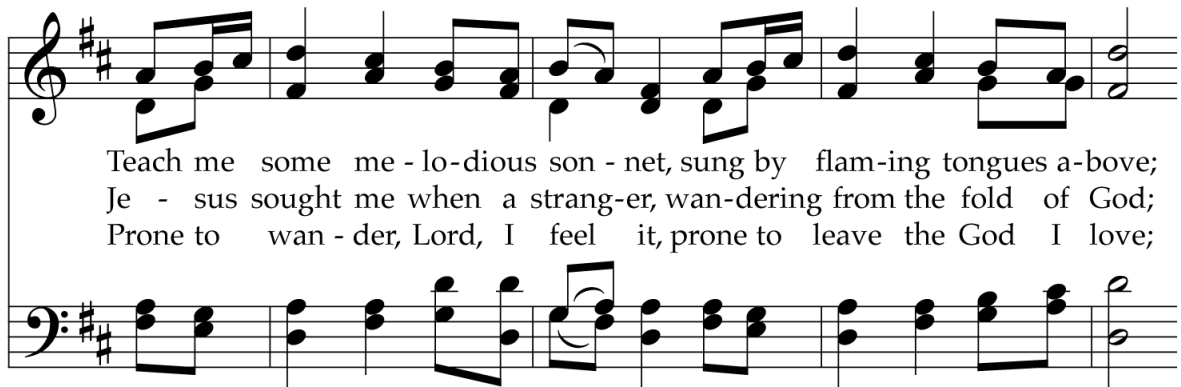
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



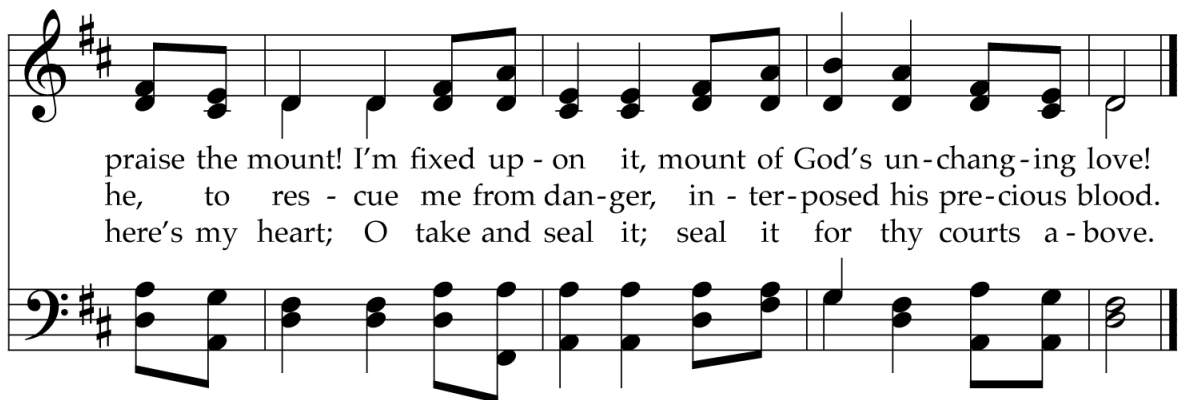
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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.

This Week at a Glance!

Later Today <i>Youth group will not meet today.</i> 12:15 PM Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall) Children's Music: Ages 3 – 5 (room 205), Ages 6 – 11 (choir room) 2:30 PM Youth return from AYM (parking lot) 5:00 PM Trunk or Treat (parking lot)		Monday, October 27 1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's office) 4:30 PM Yoga (room 201) 7:00 PM Session (Watts-Hill Hall)	
Tuesday, October 28 11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Thai Café) 7:00 PM Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)	Wednesday, October 29 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (choir room)		Thursday, October 30 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (Watts-Hill Hall)
Friday, October 31 10:30 AM Yoga (room 201)		Saturday, November 1	
Sunday, November 2 <i>21st Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints' Day (observed)</i> 9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes are available for children, youth, and adults.) Confirmation begins. 11:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion; Rev. Joe Harvard, preaching 12:15 PM Meaning in the Middle Kick-off (Watts-Hill Hall) Racial Equity Task Force Children's Music: Ages 3 – 5 (room 205), Ages 6 – 11 (choir room) 2:30 PM Youth Group: Carried by Faith – The Friends (youth rooms)			

The logo for All Saints Sunday. It features the words "ALL SAINTS" in a large, stylized, black serif font. A large, golden cross is positioned behind the letter "S" in "SAINTS". Below "ALL SAINTS", the word "Sunday" is written in a smaller, golden, sans-serif font.



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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