

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

November 9, 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 Stewardship

Jon & Kim Abels

PRELUDE

Prelude in d minor

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Esther Hethcox

Leader: Hear the words of the Spirit, people of God:

“I have called you from the corners of the earth, to gather together.”

People: We have come from the many points of our stories to this moment.

Leader: Hear the words of the Spirit, people of God: “Where I abide, so the Lord is.

I have moved the heavens and earth to be with you, for you are my chosen ones.”

**People: Let us gather in this moment, to witness to the righteousness of our God,
and to rejoice in the splendor of God’s love.**

All: Let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Loving God,

we approach you in humility in this moment,

knowing that we are bringing all that we are and all that we are not.

In the brokenness of our world,

we have chosen self-interest and self-preservation.

We have not loved as broadly as we are called to.

We have not dreamed as boldly as we are called to.

Forgive us, O Lord,

for not believing in the fullness of your Spirit here on earth.

Embolden our own spirits,

so we might believe the change we can bring to the world you love.

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. 712 v.2** *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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: Let us pray.

**All: Enlightening God,
shine forth your Spirit of illumination and awareness
to your people this morning.
May our hearts be open to realizing your will,
our eyes be open to seeing your splendor,
and our hands be open to receiving your charge. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

(Pew Bible, NT Page 206)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 878)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Esther Hethcox

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Heartbeats”

Esther Hethcox

(silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Iona Community

John Weicher

**We believe in God above us,
Maker and Sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth
of individual and collective.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
he descended into the earth
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb;
he ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present;
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 292**

As the Wind Song

Wairua Tapu

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Esther Hethcox

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem

Jesu Joy, My Joy Forever (from Cantata 147)

J.S. Bach

Jesu, Joy, my joy forever, sweetest, comfort of my soul.

Jesus turns away my sorrow that would light and life control.

*Strong and righteous, Jesus shining, brightness, pleasure, good defining,
so I ever am aware, heart and soul, of Jesus there!*

*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)*

John Weicher

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. 309**

Come, Great God of All the Ages

Abbot's Leigh

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Esther Hethcox

***POSTLUDE**

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Matthew Corl



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 ***Peter & Barbara Fish*** to the glory of God and in celebration of their ***58th wedding anniversary*** on November 11.

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 the *Book of Common Worship*. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Mindy Douglas is preaching at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church for their 20th anniversary celebration. Mindy served as the organizing pastor from 2006-2016.

We invite those who are able to use the regular-sized bulletins as a small effort towards creation care. Large print bulletins are available for those with vision challenges or other physical concerns.

Happening Today

Prayer Shawl Group meets following worship in the Daye Meeting Room.

Children's Choir aged 6-11 will meet in the choir room immediately following the service for about 20 minutes. Ages 3-5 will not be meeting today.

FPC KIDS Pizza at the Playground is today from 3:30 - 5:00pm. Bring your bike or scooter and a water bottle to Duke Park, 106 West Knox Street Durham, NC 27701, and eat Pizza with FPC kids and parents!

Youth Group: Learning from Our Elders is at 5pm in the Youth Room.

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 at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact **Jane Wettach** for more information at janewettach@gmail.com.

Things That Matter Book Club is on Tuesday, November 11 at 4:00pm. This month Laura McNab will host and will share more details soon. The book we're reading is called "Tuberculosis Is Everything" by John Green. For more information, please contact Kathy Parkins at k.parkins@firstpres-durham.org.

You Are Not Alone is a group for people with chronic health conditions. We offer encouragement and community to each other as we navigate the ups and downs of life with health challenges. This is not a closed group; anyone is welcome to join the group at any time. We meet Tuesday, November 18 at 10:00am in the Wilson Parlor. For more information, contact Susan Dunlap at susan.dunlap@duke.edu.

First Friends is a fellowship group of FPC folks that tend to be 55 and older. Hope to see you at our next gathering on Saturday, November 22, at 6:30pm hosted by Carl Rist! Use the QR code to RSVP.



FPDS Donation Drive: As part of our ongoing efforts to teach kindness, empathy, and community awareness with our little ones at First Presbyterian Day School we'll be collecting non-perishable food items and/or products for our upcoming Donation Drive. The drive will run thru the 19th. The donated items will be shared with local families and community members in need during this season of giving. Here's a suggested list of items:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Canned fruit/veggies/meat/beans/soup/dairy | 6. Drink Mixes |
| 2. Cereal & Oatmeal | 7. Paper products |
| 3. Pasta/Rice/Lentils/Granola Bars | 8. Hygiene Products |
| 4. Oils & Seasonings | 9. Cleaning Products |
| 5. Dried fruits/beans | |

Disruption in SNAP Benefits in NC as the Federal Government Shutdown Continues

Such a disruption would leave more than 1.4 million North Carolinians – including children, people with disabilities, veterans, and working families - without access to food they need to survive. If you have extra resources to share, please consider donating to one of the following organizations:

- **Emanuel Food Pantry**, <https://www.emanuelfoodpantry.org/donate.html>
- **Central and Eastern NC Food Bank**, <https://secure.foodbankcenc.org/site/Donation2>
- **Urban Ministries of Durham**, <https://umdurham.org/>
- **Catholic Charities**, <https://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/programs/durham-community-food-pantry/>
- **Equity Before Birth:** Moms and babies are disproportionately impacted by this crisis. That's why EBB, which already works closely with families here in Durham, is raising \$30,000 for emergency grocery store gift cards for 100 families. <https://www.equitybeforebirth.com/donate>

If you need food, please find assistance with the following resource.

FIND HUNGER RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY




• Visit **Feeding America's** "Find Your Local Food Bank" and enter your ZIP code to locate a food bank in your community.

• **Call or text 211** to connect with a local specialist who can help you find food assistance and other support services in your area.

• Use the **Food Finder** map to explore nearby food pantries, including addresses and hours.

• **National Hunger Hotline:**
Call 1-866-3HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) for help locating nearby meal sites, food banks, and social service programs.

• Visit www.findhelp.org to search for food programs and other community resources.

• For those facing transportation barriers that make accessing grocery stores and food pantries difficult or impossible, **DoorDash** will deliver 1 million meals for free through their "Project DASH" network.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Jean Cary is having knee replacement surgery on November 11.

Adrienne Allison

Chris Brown

Tony Brown

Paul Cornsweet

Sam Crabtree

Susan Cyr

Barbara Gerwe

Rod Gerwe

Kerry Holbrook

Lee House

Ann Huff

Jancy Johnstone

Harriett Mitchell

Franzi Rokoske

Alfred Tisdale

Mickey Velkey

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley*

Durham Ridge: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent: *Carol Wills*

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

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

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Randy Wymer, brother-in-law of Richard Anderson

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name



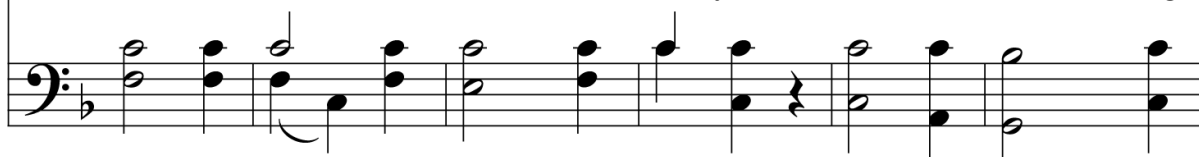
1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.



As the Wind Song

風之頌

C G

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the

stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of
hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of

God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the
God, as the green in the spring, as a

voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of
kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of

God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come

blown bring - ing life, bring - ing power to the world,
true, bring - ing gifts, bring - ing love to the world,

as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the

sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

309 Come, Great God of All the Ages

1 Come, great God of all the a - ges; make your earth - ly
 2 Come, Christ Je - sus, flesh and spir-it, sure foun - da - tion,
 3 Come, great Spir - it, in and with us, tune our ears to
 4 Come, O come, in cel - e - bra-tion, house - hold of the

mis - sion known; speak through ev - ery deed and per - son;
 cor - ner - stone; help us form the church e - ter - nal;
 hear your call; through the mov - ing of your pres - ence,
 one true God; in com - mit - ment and re - joic - ing

let your way and will be shown. Guide the church to true com -
 may your vi - sion be our own. Send a mes - sage to each
 let re - deem - ing love re - call min - is - try in ded - i -
 let us go where Christ has trod; as we act in faith and

mit - ment; give di - rec - tion now, we ask; fit us for the
 fol - lower; lead all peo - ple to your way; urge us to strong
 ca - tion, love em - bod - ied in our deeds; chal - lenge us to
 rev - erence, let us, Lord, the fu - ture see; place us in the

work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff at the top and a bass staff at the bottom. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The lyrics are written in four lines, corresponding to the musical phrases. The first line of lyrics is 'work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.' The second line is 'faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.' The third line is 'do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.' The fourth line is 'church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.' The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

This Week at a Glance!

Following Worship Prayer Shawl Group (Daye Meeting Room) Children's Music for ages 6-11 (choir room)		Later Today 4:00 PM Somesgiving (offsite) 4:30 PM FPC Kids: Pizza at the Playground (offsite) 5:00 PM Youth Groups – Learning from Our Elders (youth room)	
Monday, November 10 1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office) 4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall) 6:00 PM Property Committee (room 205) Christian Education Committee (Zoom) Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room) 6:30 PM Service & Mission Committee 7:00 PM Worship & the Arts (Zoom) Welcome & Belonging (Zoom)			
Tuesday, November 11 4:00 PM Things That Matter Book Group (offsite)		Wednesday, November 12 1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (choir room)	
Thursday, November 13	Friday, November 14 10:30 AM Yoga (room 201) 7:00 PM Youth Group: Escape Room (offsite)		Saturday, November 15
Sunday, November 16 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for children, youth, and adults.) 11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas, Preaching – Stewardship dedication & blessing of the confirmands. 12:15 PM Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor) Renovation Meeting (Fellowship Hall) Children's Music (choir room) 5:00 PM Youth Group: Friendsgiving (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:
office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>