

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

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

Moment for Adult Faith Formation

Kathryn Lester-Bacon

PRELUDE

O Lamb of God Most Holy

J.S. Bach

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the waters of baptism,
People: God marks us as kindred in God's name.
Leader: In the waters of baptism,
People: the heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.
Leader: In the waters of baptism,
People: God names us Beloved.
Leader: In the waters of baptism,
People: God claims us as God's own.
All: Let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 401**

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: Still-speaking God,
as these words from Scripture are read,
may it be to us as if the heavens are opening,
and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove,
revealing your love for us as your children. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 671)

Jennie Alwood

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

(Pew Bible, NT Page 2)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"A Wild Day at the River"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

***HYMN NO. 493**

Now There Is No Male or Female

Omni Die

**Those who are able, please stand.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Solo

The Baptism of Christ
Lesley Curtis, soloist

John Weicher

Rachel Aarons

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came down from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

*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!

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM VOWS

*Invitation

Esther Hethcox

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.

We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.

We allow the past to hold us captive.

In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.

Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in grace.

*Silent Confession

*Baptismal Vows

Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

Leader: You whose hearts are heavy, consider now this invitation:
Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you desire to turn from the ways of sin?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce all evil,
and all powers in the world
which defy God's righteousness and love?

People: I renounce them.

Leader: Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

People: I do.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word
and showing his love to your life's end?

People: I will, with God's help.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

John Weicher

Leader: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God, the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

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 again to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost?

People: I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

John Weicher

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: God of hope, in your Holy Spirit,

you hovered over the face of the waters in creation,

and in your pillar of fire you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea.

Through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise.

In your Son's baptism at the Jordan

we see your creative and liberating purpose at work

amid our human flaws and failures,

and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice.

Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ

yet raise us to new life with him forever.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels,

and in the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

All (sung):

Sanctus

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: Blessing God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved,
send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace.

By the power of that same Spirit,
make these gifts of bread and wine be for us
the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.
Great is the mystery of faith.

All (sung):

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.

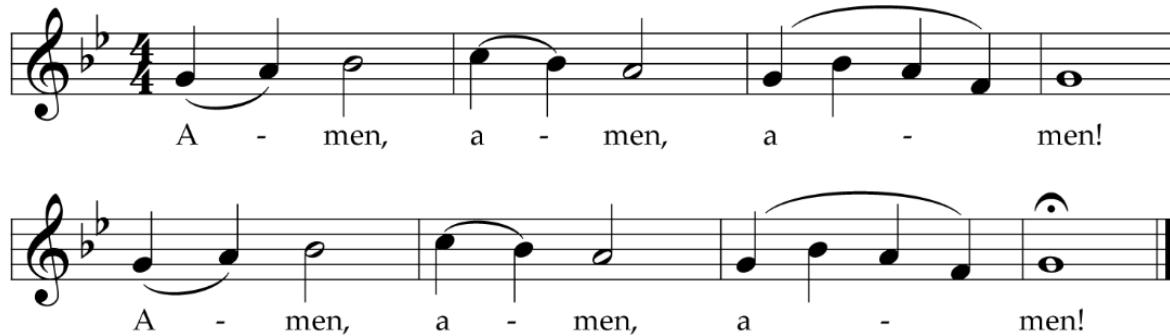
Leader: God of glory, our heavenly Parent,
you have opened your heaven and come among us.

Be close to those who ache for your liberating power in the midst of travails
and seek your open heaven.

Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking, and restoring touch
of your Spirit and look for your kingdom to come.

Bless all who long to be called beloved, by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child,
and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring,
until all stand in your presence, and sing your name,
and are enfolded in your embrace, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, ever one God.

All (sung):



THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

★Ecumenical Version

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

Esther Hethcox, John Weicher

***THE BLESSING OF WATER AND SHARING OF THE BREAD**

(You are invited to come forward (if you are able), take a stone from the font, and receive the blessing of water (on your forehead or the back of your hand. You may then move to a station to receive the elements. 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Spiritual, Arr. Hal Hopson

***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 of abundance,

with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world

and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 484**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

Rustington

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

Pleading Savior
arr. Philip Young

Happening Today

Children's Choir will meet in the Christian Education Building immediately following service for about 20 minutes.

Youth Group will meet in Watts-Hill Hall at 5:00pm. Bring a favorite Bible passage.



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 ***Alice Raney*** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her grandmother ***Ethel Carr Lipscomb***, mother ***Ethel Lipscomb Girvin*** and sister ***Ethel Carr Lipscomb Girvin***.

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.

The paraments and communion tablecloth used in worship today were given by ***Ruth and Russell Roberson*** in memory of their mothers: ***Zenobia Teresa Cox Haislip*** and ***Myrtle Taylor Roberson***, both of whom were quilters, for the 150th Anniversary of the founding of First Presbyterian Church of Durham, North Carolina December 31, 1871 - December 31, 2021. They were designed and sewn by ***Beth Taylor***, a fabric artist and modern quilter. She created the unique communion cloth and paraments for First Presbyterian by including personal items of meaning and significance donated by members. Beth and her husband ***Robert Parker*** are former members of First Presbyterian Church and now live in the mountains of Virginia.

★***The Lord's Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated:*** From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular or in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from ***Call to Worship, Eucharistic Prayers, and Feasting on the Word***. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation~

Celebrations:

Patrick Flynn Hammond was born on December 31, 2025 to parents **Kaitlin & Charlie**, and great-grandmother **Peggy**.

Condolences:

We extend our love and concern to **Caroline Thompson** (Nathan Thompson's daughter) and all those who loved **Zoe Welsh**, a science teacher at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, who recently died from injuries following a home invasion.

We remember in prayer:

Wil James is in Winston Salem caring for his mother following a hospital stay.

Dan Hudgins returning home from surgery following fall.

Mary Lou King, sister of Al Arrowood, has been hospitalized.

Tony Brown

Susan Cyr

Jeanne Hervey

Harriett Mitchell

Phyllis Verhey

Jean Cary

Barbara Gerwe

Kerry Holbrook

Karen Romines

David Verner

Paul Cornsweet

Peggy Hammond

Lee House

Franzi Rokoske

Sam Crabtree

Joe Harvard

Ann Huff

Alfred Tisdale

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Golley**

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

Denise Duffy, sister of Andy Henry

Gera Fleming, mother of Christyn Klinck

Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece

Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey

Donna Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish

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

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401

D A C G Gm Dm

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

C G D A C G

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way: here in this place the new light is shin - ing;

Gm Dm C D C Gm D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.

A C D G A C

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D G A D A C G

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

Gm Dm C D C Gm D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

493 Now There Is No Male or Female

1 Now there is no male or fe-male; now there is no free or slave;
 2 Cru - ci - fied with Christ the Sav-i-or, bap-tized in his ho - ly death,
 3 Death has no do - min-ion o'er him, so for us death holds no power;

now there is no Jew or Gen-tile in the earth Christ died to save.
 and as Christ was raised to glo - ry we have new life on this earth.
 life's own wa-ters now have marked us, born to God this ver - y hour.

Christ has set us free for free-dom: we no more sing slav-ery's creed;
 Power of wa-ter and God's nam-ing, turn-ing us from dark to light,
 From this mo-ment and for - ev - er dead to sin, a - live in Christ,

old sub - mis-sions can-not claim us; Christ has set us free in - deed.
 joins us to those who be - fore us, ran the race and fought the fight.
 born of wa - ter and the Spir-it, now in Christ we find our life.

484 Out of Deep, Unordered Water

1 Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre -
 2 Wa - ter on the hu - man fore - head, birth - mark
 3 Stand - ing round the font re - minds us of the

at - ed light and land, world of bird and beast and,
 of the love of God, is the sign of death and
 He - brews' climb a - shore. Life is hal - lowed by the

lat - er, in God's im - age, wom - an, man.
 ris - ing; through the seas there runs a road.
 knowl - edge God has been this way be - fore.

There is wa - ter in the riv - er bring-ing life to tree and plant.

Let cre - a - tion praise its giv - er: there is wa - ter in the font.

This Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>Following Worship Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Groups – Youth Sunday I</p>	<p>Monday, January 12</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's office)</p> <p>4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>5:00 PM Emergency Preparedness (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p>6:00 PM Property Committee (room 205) Christian Education Committee (zoom)</p> <p>6:30 PM Service & Mission (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship and the Arts Committee (zoom) Welcome & Belonging</p>	
<p>Tuesday, January 13 <i>Newsletter Release</i></p> <p>4:00 PM Things That Matter Book Group (offsite)</p> <p>7:00 PM Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 14</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 Chancel Choir (choir room)</p>	<p>Thursday, January 15</p>
<p>Saturday, January 17</p>	<p>Sunday, January 18 <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children.)</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship; Mindy Douglas, preaching</p> <p>12:15 PM Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor) Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Groups – Youth Sunday II</p>	

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 by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/>



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>.

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