

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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

PRELUDE

Be Still, My Soul
Mary Gayle McClune, soloist

Stephen Paulus

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 121)

Fogleman Family

Reader: Where do we find our help?

People: **All help comes from our Creator God.**

Reader: The Lord is our keeper.

People: **God will protect us always and everywhere.**

Reader: As we extinguish the second Lenten candle, we recall that we are not alone in our suffering. God understands and is with us in every moment of our journey. In whatever deserts we might experience, we follow a God who sits with us in sand and desolation.

*HYMN NO. 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we come before you
in need of forgiveness and grace.**

**You call us to trust in you completely,
but we do not.**

We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.

**We justify our actions and words,
though we know they are not what you require.**

**We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers,
preferring old habits to risky change.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Help us to be born again and anew into the life of Christ,
trusting that you have included us by grace
in the family of faith.**

In Christ's name, we pray.

Silent Confession

Kyrie (sung by all)

Trad. Chant, arr. by John Harper



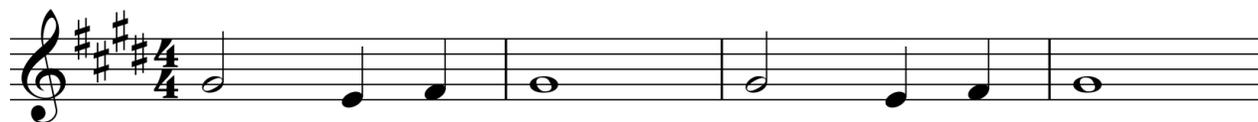
**Those who are able, please stand.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 414**

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Psalm 46



Be still and know that I am God.



Be still and know that I am God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Tate Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **We are smart, thoughtful, and faithful,
and yet, we are like Nicodemus.**

There is so much of your Word we do not understand.

Dear God, please send your Spirit

to shed light on these words

and the deep meanings behind them. Amen.

PSALTER READING

Psalm 121

(Pew Bible, OT Page 571)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Tate Weicher

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

(Pew Bible, NT Page 93)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

John Weicher

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Very Truly”

John Weicher

(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Nicene Creed

Esther Hethcox

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

***HYMN NO. 459**

O Word of God Incarnate

Munich

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Esther Hethcox

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Music

Et Misericordia (from Magnificat, BWV 243)

J.S. Bach

Mary Gayle McClune, alto; Dan Huff, tenor

And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations.

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below,

Praise God above ye heavenly host,

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

Leader: May the God of great adventures be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

People: We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

Leader: Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

People: We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.

Leader: You went into the shadows of nothingness,

bearing your Light of creation, Keeper of all,

so that life might burst forth where there was none:

white sands at the edge of blue green seas,

shale formed under the crust of the earth,

warm mornings and frigid nights to mark the seasons.

You blessed your children with creation's gifts
so we might prove to be a blessing to others,
but we watched the comings and goings
of sin and death, allowing ourselves
to be blown about by them.

Prophets responded to your call to them,
daring to bring us those words we did not want to hear,
calling us back to a way of life we had abandoned,
but we knew that we preferred life
in the absence of your presence.

For this reason, you sent Jesus into the world,
so that we, along with all creation, might be saved.

With those who toss and turn in the night,
with those who have responded to your call,
we lift our thanksgivings to you:

ALL (sung):

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: Holy One, you are the God of blessings,
and Jesus Christ is your Faithful One.
The One who could truly boast,
he humbled himself to become like us.
The One who was truly righteous,
he emptied himself to fill us with grace.
The One who had spoken life into existence,
he embraced death on the cross,
so that we might be justified
through your grace and wonder.
As we continue on the journey to Jerusalem,
as we seek to leave our comfortable lives to follow,
we would talk about that mystery we call faith:

All (sung):



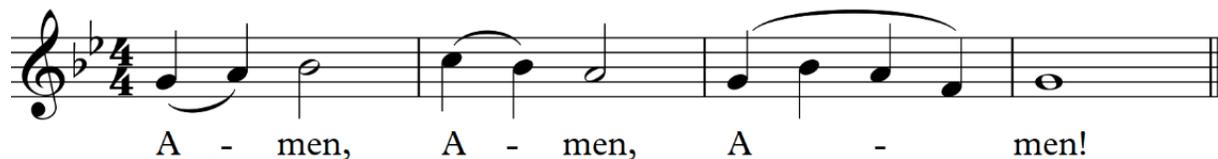
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.



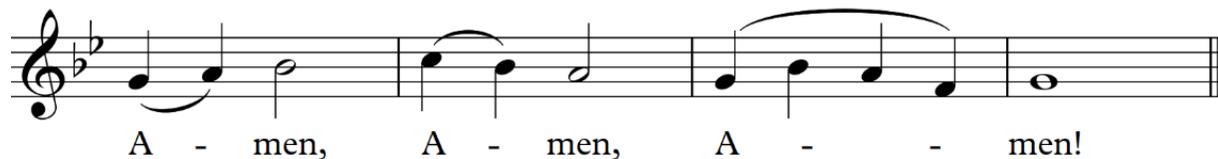
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: What then are we to say, Keeper of our lives?
It is your Spirit poured out upon us
and upon the gifts of the table
which brings us new life.
It is the brokenness of the bread
which gives us life,
that life poured out for those who have no hope,
for those who wander in the shadows.
It is the grace of the cup,
which overflows with your gifts,
so we might go to be a blessing
to all forsaken by the world.
And when our journey has ended
and we find ourselves in that land
which you have prepared for us,
we will sing our glad songs to you forever,
God in Community, Holy Three in One.

All (sung):



A - men, A - men, A - - men!



A - men, A - men, A - - men!

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

John Weicher, 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 Hymn

Agnus Dei

G. Palestrina

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

***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: **O God of the common table,
we know that this sacrament is not just about our connection with you,
but also about the world and your love for it.
Sustain us as we go back into it,
so that we might love it, too,
in some echo of the way that you do. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 523**

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Bicentennial

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Weicher

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in G

Henry Heron

Happening Today

Children’s Choir will meet following worship in the Christian Education building.

Racial Equity Task Force will meet following worship.

Youth Group: We’re headed to Spring Haven Farm at a special time, 3:30-5:30pm, to spend some quality time with some new four-legged friends, baby goats. We’ll meet in and return to the FPC parking lot, and the cost is \$15. As always, friends are welcome.



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.

Today's flowers are given by *Phyllis Verhey* to the glory of God and in loving memory of *Allen Verhey*.

This week we continue our practice of extinguishing candles as we move through our Lenten journey together. The Lenten “wreath” is covered in purple cloth and dried wheat. As the winter grain stores ran low at this time of year, people historically used Lenten fasting to sharpen their “hunger” for Christ. This week, we extinguish a purple candle which represents the theme of temptation. We remember how temptation and struggles emerge in all the deserts of our lives, and how God is with us every step of the way. This week we invite you to ponder your own hardships that have felt like a barrier between you and God—in what moments of your life might you invite God to sit with you?

Thank you to *Mary Gayle McClune* and *Dan Huff* for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning. Mary Gayle is Senior Lecturer in Voice at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, and long-time friend of our own Dan Huff. We are delighted to have them both singing for us this morning.

The *Lenten Banner* was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of *Bess Bryant* and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

★*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.

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 *Feasting on the Word and Lectionary Liturgies*. 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 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.

Minister of Music Search: As we begin our search for FPC's next Minister of Music, the search committee wants to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey (QR code) which invites you to reflect on your experience of music at First Pres and share your hopes for its future. Your responses will guide and inform our search, conversations, and decisions. Thanks in advance for your participation.



Seeking a Communications Associate: As you may recall from Mindy's recent email, our beloved church Administrative Assistant, Sybil King, will retire on June 30 of this year. Hoping to enhance the work she has so capably done for us, FPC is now seeking a skilled addition to our administrative team whose primary duty will be to support our mission by utilizing all aspects of communicating with our congregation as well as the greater community. Full benefits and salary commensurate with experience will be provided. Successful candidates will be proficient in social media/digital platforms and able to manage an array of communications for our active church. FPC members, their family members and/or close church friends should not apply but if you know of others who might be interested, encourage them to visit <http://firstpres-durham.org/2026/02/recruiting-for-church-communications-associate> for more details and send their cover letter/resume/references to adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org.

Retirements committee: David Sappenfield, Al Arrowood, George Bernhardt, Brady Dennis, Deborah Hamlin-Aggrey, Michael Honeycutt, Deborah Momsen-Hudson, Alice Raney, Laurie Ray, Kati Ruark, Jane Williams.

PW Circle meets on Monday, March 2 at 10:30am. A daytime circle/Bible study that meets on the first Monday of each month at the church. Membership in Presbyterian Women is open to all women of the PC(U.S.A.) who choose to participate in or be supportive in any way.

Men of Faith Breakfast gathers for coffee, calories and conversation on Friday, March 6 at 8:00am at Mad Hatter's located at 1802 W. Main Street. Friends are welcome.

McPherson Lectureship: After losing out to the snow last month, we are thrilled to announce that the McPherson Lectures have been rescheduled for March 8-9! Dr. Donyelle McCray of Yale Divinity School will join us to speak and preach about non-traditional, expansive forms of proclamation and about Pauli Murray, Durham's unofficial patron saint.

First Friends: Save the date for First Friends in March & April! Join us on **March 21**, at the home of Barbara Buckley and Scott Randell. More details coming soon. Then, on **April 25** join us at the home of Jane Wettach and Paul Baldasare. First Friends is a community of 55+ individuals who gather monthly for fellowship.

Spring Workday is Saturday, March 21 from 8-11am. Please join the Property Committee for a Spring Workday. We will clean out sump pumps, pick up trash on the grounds, and tidy up the area outside of the playground. Please bring work gloves, trash grabbers, weed-eaters, and weeding tools. For more information contact Barbara Buckley at barbjbuckley@gmail.com.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

Stephen Lorimer, son of **Marcia and Bill Lorimer** (deceased December 2017) and brother of **David Lorimer**, was married to **Anna Stark** on January 31, 2026, in Wanaka, New Zealand. Steve and Anna live in London.

Condolences:

Our prayers are with **Michael Honeycutt** and his family as they face the loss of Michael's cousin's son.

We remember in prayer:

Elizabeth Manceras, recovering from hospital stay.

Anthony Ketcham, brother of Wil James.

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Lee House

Vickie Luboff

Franzi Rokoske

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Ann Huff

Harriett Mitchell

Alfred Tisdale

Sam Crabtree

Joe Harvard

Kelli Hunnicut

Fred Moore

Phyllis Verhey

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Bob Lewis

Peggy Needham

Linn Wakeford

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley**

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

Amanda Briggs, friend of Mindy Douglas

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

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

Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison

Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish

Sandra Mikush, mother of Katie Fogleman

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

Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Tanya Watkins, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

Lord, Who throughout These 166 Forty Days

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas-ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 523

Refrain D Bm G F#m D/F# Em A D

You sat-is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat;

Bm F#m Em A D *Fine*

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Bm G F#m G A7 Bm

1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Em A Em Em7 A *to Refrain*

so when you call your fam - ily, Lord, we fol - low and re-joice.
 that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

This Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Following Worship Racial Equity Task Force Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:30 PM Youth Group: Baby Goat Party (Parking Lot)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, March 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 AM Walk in Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle & Bible Study (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, March 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Somethings Lenten Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, March 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 AM Walk in Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:00 PM All Staff (Daye Meeting Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM Chancel Choir (choir room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, March 5</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, March 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 AM Men of Faith Breakfast (Mad Hatter's)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, March 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00 PM Women's Voices Concert (Sanctuary)</p>	
<p>Sunday, March 8 <i>Third Sunday in Lent, McPherson Lectureship, Newsletter Deadline</i></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children) Donyelle McCray, speaking in Watts-Hill Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 AM Worship: Donyelle McCray, preaching</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Following Worship Children's Music: ages 3-5 (room 205), ages 6-11 (choir room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:00PM McPherson Community Lecture</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 PM Youth Group: Learning from Our Elders</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:
office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: *https://firstpres-durham.org*.

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