



© MASON ARMSTRONG, 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADER

# Palm & Passion Sunday

First Presbyterian Church  
Durham, North Carolina

March 29, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Palm & Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

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

PRELUDE

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*David Lasky*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 118)

Matthew Eggleston & Laurie Ray

Leader: Let us enter God's gates of justice with thankful hearts!

**People: We are all welcome in this moment of celebration.**

Leader: This is a day to celebrate God's incredible love.

**People: Let us wave our branches with joy and worship God!**

Leader: As we extinguish the sixth Lenten candle, we are reminded of a moment of great joy and celebration in our Savior's story. We are reminded that although we approach what is the heaviest week in the Christian faith story, joy will come as the morning.

Let us celebrate the arrival of our humble Messiah.

Leader: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People: Hosanna in the Highest!**

\*HYMN NO. 196

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

Palm Procession *(Children may go to the nursery or remain in worship.)*

\*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**God of heaven and earth,**

**we give you thanks for sending us Jesus Christ in your name.**

**Even though we profess to follow him,**

**we confess that in times of trial we, too, often deny him.**

**Forgive us and heal us, we pray.**

**Help us to put our faith not in the princes of this world,**

**but only in the Prince of Peace.**

**In Jesus' name we pray.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 224

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*Rockingham*

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cordi Ramont

**Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty,  
quiet within us every voice but your own.  
Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ  
that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
we may receive grace to show Christ's love  
in lives given to your service. Amen.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Cordi Ramont

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

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:11-54

Mindy Douglas

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

## SERMON

*"A Week Like No Other"*

Mindy Douglas

*(silent reflection)*

## SOLO

*The Crucifixion (from "Hermit Songs")*  
Lesley Curtis, soloist; Deborah Coclanis, piano

*Samuel Barber*

*At the cry of the first bird  
They began to crucify Thee, O Swan!  
Never shall lament cease because of that.  
It was like the parting of day from night.  
Ah, sore was the suffering borne  
By the body of Mary's Son,  
But sorer still to Him was the grief  
Which for His sake  
Came upon His Mother.*

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From Philippians 2:5-11

Esther Hethcox

**We believe in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 209**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

*Love Unknown*

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Esther Hethcox

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Invitation to Give

John Weicher

Offertory Anthem

*O Sorrow Deep!*

*David Hurd*

*O sorrow deep!*

*Who would not weep with heartfelt pain and sighing!*

*God the Father's only Son in the tomb is lying.*

*The Paschal Lamb, like Isaac's ram, in blood was offered for us,  
pouring out his life that he might to life restore us.*

*Blest shall they be eternally who ponder in their weeping  
that the glorious Prince of Life should in death be sleeping.*

*O Jesus blest, my help and rest, with tears I pray thee, hear me:  
now and even unto death, dearest Lord, be near me.*

\*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.***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(in unison)*

John Weicher

Leader: The peace of our 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. 221**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

*Passion Chorale*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

**POSTLUDE**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*James Biery*

***Happening Today***

Durham's 52<sup>nd</sup> **CROP Hunger Walk** is later today with registration opening at 1:30pm. Walkers will step off at 2:30pm from Duke Chapel. FPC's team will meet in front of Duke Chapel at 2:00pm. Thanks to all of the sponsors and walkers for your efforts to alleviate hunger both here in Durham and in 30 other countries with acute hunger needs. Join the FPC team and be a part of the walk, or donate to sponsor a team member: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/first-presbyterian-church-11>

**Easter lilies** will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. Members are invited to donate toward the lilies in honor or memory of a friend or family member online at [bit.ly/FPCdonate](https://bit.ly/FPCdonate), or by completing a lily card and returning it along with cash or a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo: Lilies **by the end of today**. Contributions in excess of the money needed to purchase lilies for the sanctuary will be contributed to the One Great Hour Of Sharing offering. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, lilies will be taken to homebound members and friends. **Cards with envelopes are available in the foyer through the deadline of Palm Sunday, March 29.**

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

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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.

Our thanks to *Lesley Curtis* and *Deborah Coclanis* for their musical contributions to today's service.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given by *Gordon Campbell*, in memory of *Dr. Walker H. Campbell*, his uncle.

*Today's bulletin cover* was created by 12th grader *Mason Armstrong*, originally in 2024. It depicts that last moment of joy during Jesus' entry into Jerusalem before all the other events of the week unfold.

Today's lay liturgist is *Cordi Ramont*, a confirmand. Members of the current confirmation cohort have been leading worship in this way throughout Lent.

This week we continue our practice of extinguishing candles as we move through our Lenten journey together. The Lenten "wreath" is covered in red cloth and passion flowers, a traditional symbol of the martyrdom of the apostles (as well as the passion of Christ). We extinguish a red candle which represents the Holy Spirit and the collected saints of the church universal. The liturgists are a deacon and an elder, the two biblically ordained jobs that the apostles were given in Acts. ***This week we invite you to ponder your God-given talents as an apostle of Christ.***

***Flower Donation Opportunities Available:*** There are open dates for worship flower donors during the next few months. To sign up, visit [bit.ly/FPCflowers26](https://bit.ly/FPCflowers26) or click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter.

The *Paschal Banner* was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten and Easter 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.

***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 *Lectionary Liturgies*. The Call to Worship was written by Esther Hethcox. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

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### ***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/>



**“Wilmington on Fire,”** a documentary about the 1898 Wilmington Massacre, will be screened at FPC on Sunday, **April 12** at 3:00-5:30pm. All are invited. Historians **David and Vera Cecelski** will attend and facilitate a discussion following the viewing. Racial Equity Task Force is sponsoring the event.

**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 [jane\\_wettach@gmail.com](mailto:jane_wettach@gmail.com).

**First Friends:** Save the date for First Friends in April! Join us on **April 25** at the home of **Jane Wettach** and **Paul Baldasare**. More details coming soon. First Friends is a community of 55+ individuals who gather monthly for fellowship.

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### ***Job Listings***

**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:** 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 [bit.ly/3Q1ekLc](http://bit.ly/3Q1ekLc) for more details and send their cover letter/resume/references to [adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org).

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

**Celebrations:**

Congratulations to *Mary Peeler* and *Luke Kortepeter* upon the birth of their son *Leo Thrasher Kortepeter* on March 21.

**We remember in prayer:**

*Elizabeth High* is recovering at the Croasdaile Pavilion from a brief stay in the hospital.

*Newton Wong*, nephew of *Paul Lee* and *Mason Essif*, is encountering complications from a liver transplant.

*Tony Brown*

*Paul Cornsweet*

*Sam Crabtree*

*Susan Cyr*

*John Fricks*

*Sue Fricks*

*Joe Harvard*

*Kerry Holbrook*

*Lee House*

*Ann Huff*

*Kelli Hunnicut*

*Bob Lewis*

*Vickie Luboff*

*Elizabeth Manceras*

*Harriett Mitchell*

*Fred Moore*

*Peggy Needham*

*Franzi Rokoske*

*Nora Tisdale*

*David Verner*

*Phyllis Verhey*

**Care Communities:**

Croasdaile Pavilion: *Dub Gulley, Alfred Tisdale*

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**

*Ashley Alvord*, colleague of Sharon Hirsch

*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

*Anthony Ketcham*, brother of Wil James

*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



### **Palm & Passion Sunday - March 29**

**9:45 a.m.** Pre-Palm Parade Party (Watts-Hill Hall)

**10:05 a.m.** Palm Parade Downtown Durham (with St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Trinity United Methodist Church)

**11:00 a.m.** Worship

### **Maundy Thursday - April 2**

*John Weicher*, preaching



Please join us for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at **7:00 p.m.** The service will conclude with the traditional stripping of the chancel in the darkened space.

### **Good Friday - April 3**

Though there is no service on Good Friday at First Presbyterian, you are invited to attend another service taking place nearby:

**St. Philip's Episcopal** (down one block towards the East) will host the *Way of the Cross* at noon. This is an outdoor service which will begin at the front of the church and end at Trinity United Methodist Church.

**St. Philip's** will also pray the *Good Friday Liturgy* in the church at 7:00 p.m.

**Duke Chapel** will observe Good Friday with a *Tenebrae ("Darkness") service* at 7:30 p.m.

Online resources include services at the National Cathedral (Cathedral.org) at noon and at 7:00 p.m.

### **Easter Sunday - April 5**

**9:45 a.m.** Egg Hunt

**10:15 a.m.** Easter Brunch (outside if weather permits) – Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up. Learn more and sign up at [bit.ly/FPCeaster26](http://bit.ly/FPCeaster26).

**11:00 a.m.** Worship with Holy Communion

The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be received on Easter Sunday to provide relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters and war.



## This Week at a Glance!

### Sunday, March 29

*Palm & Passion Sunday • Easter Lily Deadline*

#### Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)

**2:30 PM** Durham CROP Walk (Duke Chapel, meet at 2pm)

### Monday, March 30

**9:00 AM** Walk-in Ministry

**1:30 PM** Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

**4:30 PM** Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

**7:00 PM** Session (Watts-Hill Hall)

### Tuesday, March 31

**7:00 PM** Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, April 1

**1:00 PM** All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

**6:00 PM** Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)

**7:00 PM** Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

**9:00 AM** Walk-in Ministry

**7:00 PM** Maundy Thursday Service: John Weicher, preaching

### Good Friday, April 3

**10:30 AM** Yoga (Room 201)

### Sunday, April 5

*Easter Sunday • Newsletter Deadline*

**9:45 AM** Easter Egg Hunt (Back Lawn)

**10:15 AM** Easter Brunch (Outside, weather permitting)

**11:00 AM** Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

#### Following Worship

No Children's Music Today

## CHURCH STAFF

*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](mailto: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**

# All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;  
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*to Refrain*

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.  
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

# My Song Is Love Unknown 209

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from heav - en's throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way, and his sweet prais - es  
 4 Un - heed - ing, we will have our dear Lord made a -  
 5 Here might I stay and sing, no sto - ry so di -

me, love to the love - less shown that they might love - ly  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its Sav - ior  
 sing, re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to our  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of life to  
 vine: nev - er was love, dear King, nev - er was grief like

be. O who am I that for my sake my  
 know. But O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who  
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all our breath, and  
 slay. Yet stead - fast he to suf - fer - ing goes, that  
 thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I

Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 at my need his life did spend!  
 for his death we thirst and cry.  
 he his foes from thence might free.  
 all my days could glad - ly spend.

# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;  
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.