

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 26, 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 *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord* Donald Fishel, arr. A.D. Miller

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us,
and so we find peace and give thanks.

People: The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.

Leader: Through shadow and light, through death and birth, through grief and joy,
we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*HYMN NO. 385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Old 100th

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,

in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be.

**You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

**By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 243

Be Not Afraid

Be Not Afraid

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid' (Hymn No. 243). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'. The first system shows the first two lines of the score, and the second system shows the next two lines, ending with a double bar line.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Good Shepherd,
you call us by name,
and we know your voice.**

**Open the gate for us,
that we may come and go freely,
have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:42-47

(Pew Bible, NT Page 120)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jane Wettach

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Bobby McFerrin

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk,
through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said she won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.
She sets a table before me, in the presence of
my foes,*

*She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.
Surely, surely goodness and kindness will
follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen*

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 103)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"We, Like Sheep"

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Confession of 1967*

Esther Hethcox

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator
who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Howard Goodall

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

For you are with me, you will comfort me, You are with me, you will comfort me.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*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!

MOMENT OF THANKSGIVING

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

Esther Hethcox

Leader: The grace 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. 240**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No.1

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

All People That On Earth Do Dwell (the Old Hundredth)

Johann Walther

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Happening Today

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

Meaning in the Middle will gather in the Daye Meeting Room & Wilson Parlor at 12:15pm today. We’ll enjoy pizza and good coffee together while growing in faith and community. Kids will have the option to watch a movie and there will be activities out for the older kids. **Carlo Diy** will lead. All are welcome—whether you’re new to MnM or returning for another great conversation together!

The *Diaconate* will meet in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

The *Prayer Shawl Group* will meet in Room 205 following worship.

Youth Group will meet at 5:00pm for Cookies & Care Packages at Brent's house.



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.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of *Seth Greyson Brown* by his family *Chris, Meredith, Logan, and Evelyn*. The flowers last Sunday were given to the glory of God and in celebration of *Vernon and Beth Neece's* 55th wedding anniversary on April 17.

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

The *Fourth Sunday of Easter* is always designated as "Good Shepherd Sunday" in the church year. The offertory anthem is well known throughout England as the theme song for a comedic television show called "The Vicar of Dibley." It was written by film and church music composer Howard Goodall, a distinguished music historian, writer, and broadcaster.

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.

Our *paschal candle and stained red oak stand* is a visible sign of God's enduring presence in our beautiful century-old sanctuary. Adopted by early Christians, the lit candle represents the Risen Christ's triumph over darkness and death. The beeswax candle is inscribed with a Cross and an *alpha* and *omega*, symbols attesting to Christ's presence among us always. Traditionally, the candle is lit during worship services throughout the fifty days of Eastertide from Easter to Pentecost.

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

These Days devotional books for April-June are available in the foyer.

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.

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 jane_wettach@gmail.com.

Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Freedom will have an **Interfaith Service** today at 3pm at United Church of Chapel Hill (1321 MLK Jr Blvd). Then, on **May 5**, there will be a **Faith Leaders Advocacy Day** at 8:45am at the NC General Assembly. Learn more and register for the Advocacy Day at shorturl.at/M2PY8.

Daytimers' Luncheon will gather on Tuesday, **April 28**, with guest speaker Chris Rice. Rice, an award-winning writer focused on social healing and spiritual renewal, will speak about his mentor, civil rights activist John Perkins. Daytimers, a fellowship group of retirees, will gather in Watts-Hill Hall for fellowship at 11:30am with a catered luncheon by Isaiah Jernigan of Family Meal at noon. Cost will be \$15 per person. For more information contact **Mickey Velkey** at marilyn.velkey@usa.net.

SONAM (Singers of New and Ancient Music) will join with members of the Duke String School for music about finding refuge in the storm at its spring concert on Sunday, **May 3**, at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Admission is free and donations will support the work **Families Moving Forward** does helping families with children experiencing homelessness.

Rev. Julio Ramirez-Eve's Sabbatical Art Exhibit (Part 2): Join Iglesia Emanuel members and friends on Sunday, **May 3**, at 1pm for food, community, and an art exhibit featuring original works inspired by Julio's sabbatical trip to Australia last summer, particularly by the Aboriginal artwork he saw there. The exhibit will be held at Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel (2504 N. Roxboro St).

The next **All-Church Luncheon** will be Sunday, **May 10!** Please stay after worship that day for a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, and a cap of \$25 per family, payable with cash or card the day of. No RSVP required; visit bit.ly/FPCLunch510 to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up.

"Things That Matter" Book Group: On Tuesday, **May 12**, the group will discuss *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. **Kathy Parkins** will facilitate the discussion and **Caroline Pritchett** will host. The book discussion is at 4pm. Please RSVP to Caroline at 919-491-4490 or caropritch@gmail.com. All are welcome!

First Acts - Playreading Group: All are welcome to join in to read Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" (or sit in and listen!) on Saturday, **May 16**, 9am-12pm, in the Fellowship Hall. We intend to explore the play more deeply and identify the themes from this Pulitzer Prize-winning play that are still relevant to our lives today. Visit bit.ly/41yxIBX to register and provide some additional information. Please contact **Mason Essif** at masonessif@comcast.net or **Chris Uithoven** at chris.uithoven614@gmail.com for more information.



THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

40% - Local Hunger Programs

10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about \$0.30 per month or \$3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute \$1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate \$3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate \$7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!

~*Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation* ~

Condolences:

Condolences to the family of our beloved member and friend, ***Ginny Widmark***, who passed away on April 18. The memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on May 1 at 1:00pm.

We remember in prayer:

Dan Huff, recovering from hip surgery.

Wu-Chou Su, father of ***Claire Su***, as his health declines.

Perry Black

Susan Cyr

Lee House

Fred Moore

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Ann Huff

Lori Pistor

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Harriett Mitchell

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: ***Dub Gulley, Elizabeth High, Alfred Tisdale***

Hillcrest Convalescent: ***Carol Wills, Phyllis Supple***

Brookdale Senior Living: ***Debbie Mathews***

Durham Ridge: ***Phillip Herndon***

Pruitt Health - Durham: ***Fred Callaway***

Southpoint Atria: ***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

Annie Reaves, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

Joe Quirk, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

All People That on Earth Do Dwell 385

(Psalm 100)

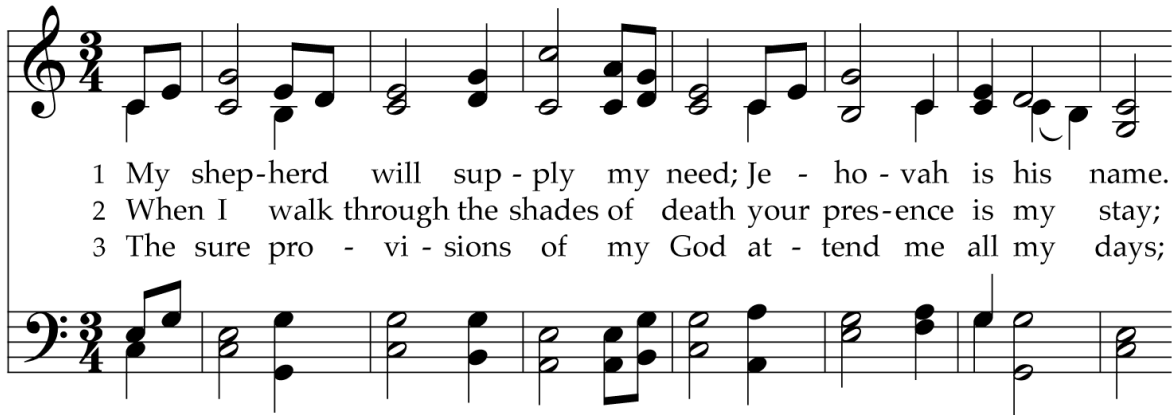
1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

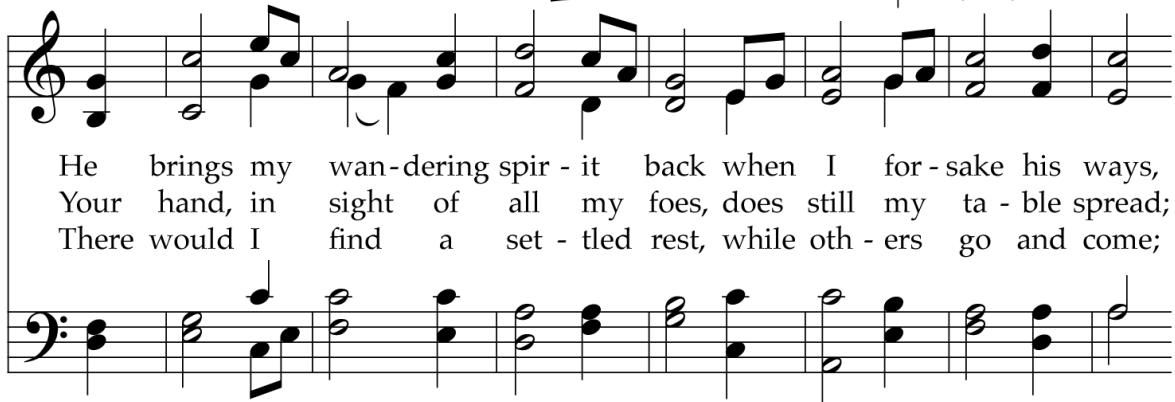
(Psalm 23)



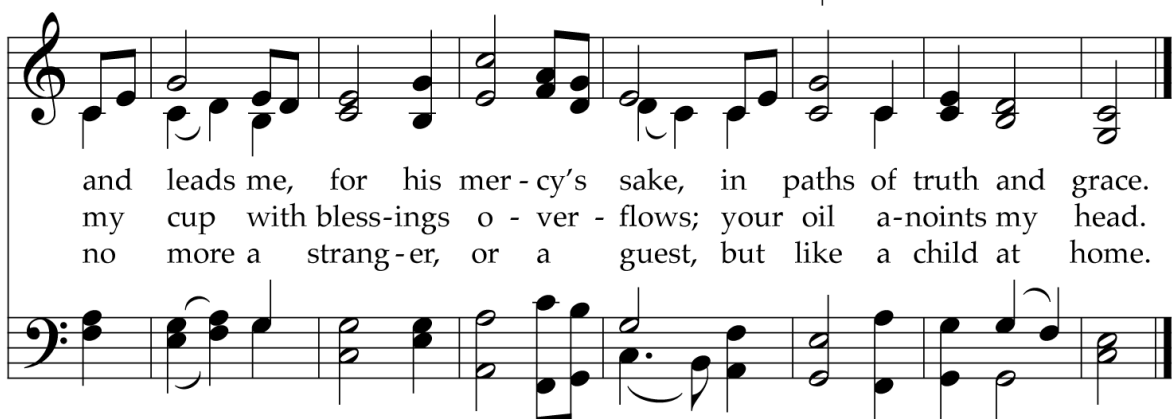
1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, April 26

Hunger for Change Offering Collected

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching

Following Worship

Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 201), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)

Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)

Meaning in the Middle Lunch (Daye Meeting Room)

Prayer Shawl Group (Room 205)

1:00 PM Confirmation Retreat Returns (Parking Lot)

5:00 PM Youth Group: Cookies & Care Packages (Brent's House)

Monday, April 27

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, April 28

11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Watts-Hill Hall)

Wednesday, April 29

1:00 PM FPC Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, April 30

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

Friday, May 1

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

1:00 PM Ginny Widmark Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

2:00 PM Memorial Service Reception (Watts-Hill Hall)

Sunday, May 3

Newsletter Deadline

9:45 AM Faith Formation (Classes available for adults, youth and children)

11:00 AM Worship with Communion: Mindy Douglas, preaching

Following Worship

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

Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)

Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale (Upper Lobby)

3:00 PM SONAM Concert (Sanctuary)

4:30 PM Youth Group: Flour War (Offsite)

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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>

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