

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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

Canzona in G

D. Buxtehude

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Praise the Lord who is our provider.

People: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Leader: God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

People: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Leader: Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are God's acts.

People: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

*HYMN NO. 624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Toulon

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Cris Rivera

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin.

We have complained in the face of your mercy.

We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice.

We have not done your will.

Teach us humility.

Teach us gratitude.

Infuse your Spirit into our being

so that we might be reconciled to you.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 260

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (verse 3)

Hyfrydol

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea

where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

COLLECT

Richard Anderson

**Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares,
but to love that which is above,
and even now, while we live among transient things,
to hold fast to those things that shall endure;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

John 6:30-35

(Pew Bible, NT Page 98)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Richard Anderson

People: Thanks be to God!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16 (selected verses)

(Pew Bible, OT Page 62-63)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Jacqueline Lapsley

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Exodus for Journeying in Hard Times”

Jacqueline Lapsley

(silent reflection)

*HYMN NO. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mindy Douglas

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR WESLEY MADISON KEESLER

Words of Scripture

Mindy Douglas

Introduction

Esther Hethcox

Presentation

Mimi Dunn

Questions to the Parents:

Roxana Atwood

Leader: Roxana and Andrew, do you desire that your child be baptized?

Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Do you renounce evil and affirm your reliance on God's grace?

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents: **We do.**

Questions to the Children:

Mindy Douglas

Pastor: Do you promise to be a friend to Wesley?

If he gets lost, will you help him find the way?

If he falls down, will you help pick him up?

Will you share with him the stories of Jesus?

Children: **Yes**

Questions to the Congregation:

Mimi Dunn

Elder: Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Wesley by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

Congregation: We do.

*Profession of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Esther Hethcox

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and 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, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**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.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

John Weicher

Baptism

Roxana Atwood

Anointing

Mindy Douglas

Introduction

Mindy Douglas

Presentation of Baptismal Quilt

Jane Wettach

Hymn No. 486 (*verses 1,3*)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Kingdom

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

***Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.***

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Cris Rivera

Offertory Anthem

It Is Good to Give Thanks (from Psalm 92)

Jane Marshall

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O most High.

To declare thy love in the morning, and thy faithfulness by night.

To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For thou, Lord, hast made us glad by thy work.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, O most High.

*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!

BLESSING OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

John Weicher, Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox

**All: O God, bless these graduating folks in all these ways,
and in ways we don't even know yet that they'll need.**

Be with them always, as only you can be. Amen.

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. 485**

We Know That Christ Is Raised

Engelberg

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Jacqueline Lapsley

***POSTLUDE**

Fantasy on "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Welsh tune, arr. Paul Manz

Happening Today

We are thrilled to welcome one of the leaders of the denomination to our pulpit today! **Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley**, the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary (see page 6 for her bio). Our own **Cris Rivera** is currently enrolled at Union, and they are one of our liturgists today.

Today's *baptism* is for **Wesley Madison Keesler**, infant son of **Roxana and Andrew Keesler**. Assisting in the service today is Wesley's great-grandmother, the **Rev. Dr. Roxana Atwood**. We welcome Dr. Atwood and the family members and friends joining us for this service today.

The next **All-Church Luncheon** is today! Please stay after worship 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!

Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale: Our Third Annual Stock Sale is happening now! This is our fundraiser for three of our youth summer trips: Appalachia Service Project, Asheville Youth Mission, and the Montreat Youth Conference. A stock entitles its holder to a letter from one of the youth during their trip, sharing first-hand about their service and/or faith formation experience. We will also hold a stockholder brunch late in the summer, complete with presentations from youth, slideshows of the trips, and brunch cuisine. To purchase a stock, stop by the table in the foyer after worship. Stocks are \$30 for an individual or \$45 for a family (donations always accepted). You can pay via cash, check, card, or online via the church website at bit.ly/FPCdonate.

In our worship today, we offer a **special blessing** to our high school graduates: **Mason Armstrong, David Carrasco, Giselle Cowden, Isa Cummings, Mary Ellis Merritt, Gretchen Sims, Evelyn Walters, and Cora Williamson**.

Children's Choir will eat first after church before a brief rehearsal upstairs in the Christian Education building. Children's plates are already prepared and can be picked up in the kitchen to expedite the process. Children are invited to eat together in one of the parlors.

Youth Group will meet at 12:30pm for a goodbye to youth advisor Parker Stiles (Wilson Parlor).



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 donated by *Caroline Davis Rourk* to the Glory of God and in loving memory of *Margaret Smith Davis, Malcolm Henderson Rourk, Jr, Jane Davis Rourk, Malcolm Henderson Rourk III, William Javan Davis, and Christopher Michael Whitworth.*

Flower Donation Opportunities Available: There are open dates for worship flower donors in July. To sign up, visit 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.

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 *Book of Common Worship and Feasting on the Word: Year A, Vol 2*. 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 janewettach@gmail.com.

"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.

Welcome new FPC Staff! We are excited to introduce two new staff members who officially began their work with us this week:

Janet Askew is the new **Business Administrator** and is looking forward to getting to know everyone. She worked with Mindy for ten years at Chapel in the Pines and is still employed with CITP. Previously, she worked in accounting for Music Maker Relief Foundation and the American Red Cross. She and her husband, Keith, live in Hillsborough, and they have two adult sons who both live in Wilmington. One of her sons recently got married. She is glad to have another female in the family! Her favorite thing to do is spend time with her family.

Brandi Kirkland is originally from Jacksonville, Florida, and has been in the Triangle with her husband and two teenage daughters for the last ten years. Her background is in children and youth ministry, and she has been working in churches for the last 13 years, which has been one of the greatest honors of her life. In 2019 she also began working as a church consultant with Ministry Architects, where she quickly recognized the deep need for communications and marketing support for the churches she was working with. Brandi is passionate about Jesus and His goodness and using the skills she has gained as a consultant to help churches share that message with their communities. After learning more about FPC Durham and its mission, she was excited to apply and interview, but even more excited to accept the role of **Communications Associate**. She cannot wait to help FPC “bear witness to God's love and justice” in Durham, in the Triangle, and around the world.

About Today’s Guest Preacher

Jacqueline E. Lapsley is President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC. She was called to the position in 2023 after serving at Princeton Theological Seminary for 25 years.

A noted Old Testament scholar, Dr. Lapsley earned her Ph.D. from Emory University, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, an M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her A.B. from Smith College.

Dr. Lapsley’s bold vision for theological education is intentionally focused. “The diversity of the world God creates, redeems, and sustains must be reflected on our campuses in order to shape leaders for the world God so loves. The gospel calls us to speak into the difficult challenges facing society, including issues of justice, equity, and belonging. Theological education helps people thrive wherever they are called.”

Jacq Lapsley is married to Rev. Greg Bezilla, an Episcopal priest; they have two adult children. She is a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

~*Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation* ~

Celebrations:

We celebrate with *Margaret Keller* and her family as she receives the *Lincoln Community Health Center's Foundation Legacy Award* this week. Congratulations, Margaret!

We remember in prayer:

Amy Mapel, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Tony Brown

John Fricks

Ann Huff

Fred Moore

Paul Cornsweet

Sue Fricks

Dan Huff

Lori Pistor

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Susan Cyr

Lee House

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

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 and

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

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

We Know That Christ Is Raised 485

Capo 3: (D)

(Asus) (A)

(A/G)

(D/F#)

F

Csus C

C/B \flat

F/A



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D)

(A)

(D)

(E7)

(A)

F

C

F

G7

C



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am)

(D)

(G)

(Em)

(Bm)

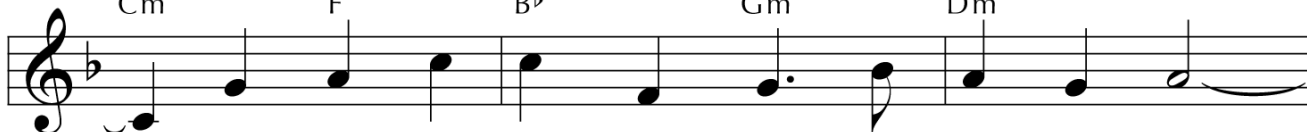
Cm

F

B \flat

Gm

Dm



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3

(Em)

(D) (Asus) (A)

(Em)

(D)

Gm

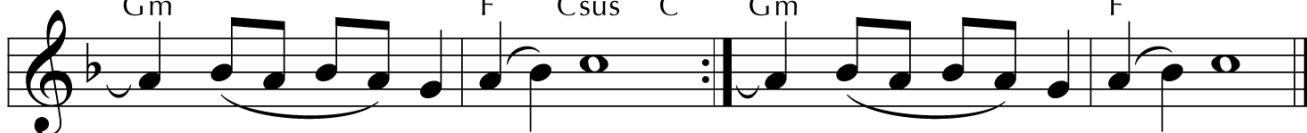
F

Csus

C

Gm

F



Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day; Senior Blessing; Baptism

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

11:00 AM Worship: Rev. Jacqueline Lapsley, preaching

Following Worship

All-Church Luncheon (Watts-Hill Hall)
 Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)
 Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale (Upper Lobby)
 Youth: Celebrating & Blessing Parker (Wilson Parlor)

Monday, May 11

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

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

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

6:00 PM Christian Ed Committee (Zoom)
 Personnel Committee (Daye Meeting Room)
 Property Committee (Room 205)

7:00 PM WATA Committee (Zoom)
 Welcome & Belonging Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 12

4:00 PM Things That Matter Book Club (Offsite)

Wednesday, May 13

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

Wednesday, May 13 cont.

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, May 14

9:00 AM Walk-in Ministry

7:00 PM Youth Confirmation: Dessert with Session (Watts-Hill Hall)

Friday, May 15

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Saturday, May 16

9:00 AM First Acts Playreading Group: Our Town (Watts-Hill Hall)

7:00 PM Vox Virorum Concert (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 17

Ascension & Confirmation Sunday; Newsletter Deadline

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

11:00 AM Worship: John Weicher, preaching

Following Worship

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

Following Worship cont.

Youth Summer Trips Stock Sale (Upper Lobby)
 Fellowship Committee (Wilson Parlor)

5:00 PM Youth Group: Senior Blessings (Offsite)

CHURCH STAFF

Janet Askew, Business 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
Brandi Kirkland, Communications Associate
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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