

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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**

*Prelude on Gibbons' Song*

Healey Willan

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 65)

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord is the author of our salvation,  
the hope of all the ends of the Earth and of the oceans far away.

**People: God makes firm the mountains; they are girded with God's might.**

Leader: The Lord stills the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**People: Those who dwell at the ends of the earth  
will tremble at God's marvelous signs;  
the Lord makes the dawn and dusk sing for joy.**

**All: Let us worship the Lord!**

**\*HYMN NO. 367**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*St. George's Windsor*

**\*CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mindy Douglas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Patient and persistent God,  
we come, polished and presentable,  
to this comfortable room  
as if we knew what to expect,  
as if this were a safe and predictable place,  
as if we could simply observe.**

**Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.**

**In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.**

**Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts  
until we bloom and spill with your passion  
to serve in a world that is wasting.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*REGATHERING HYMN NO. 399**

*God Welcomes All*

*Themba Amen*

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

## COLLECT

Chris Uithoven

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God,  
in you there are no shortages and nothing lacking.  
We thank you for giving us nourishment  
from the flourishing fields of creation.  
Form and reform us by your Word,  
that we may rejoice in your bounty  
and share your inheritance of abundance,  
all the days of our lives. Amen.**

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:1-11

(Pew Bible, NT Page 157)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Chris Uithoven

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

(Pew Bible, NT Page 13)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Cris Rivera

People: **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*“Wonder, Wander, Tend the Soil”*

Cris Rivera

*(silent reflection)*

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Declaration of Faith*

Esther Hethcox

**Christ calls us to be disciples.**

**In forming his people and sending them into the world**

**Jesus called individuals to be disciples.**

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,**

**to understand and obey his teachings,**

**and to follow him in life and death.**

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.**

**Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ**

**is God’s undeserved gift to each of us.**

**It is also God’s demand upon every one of us,**

**never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.**

**Forgiven by God and supported by one another,**

**we strive to become more faithful and effective**

**in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

\*HYMN (See insert)

*Wherever I May Wander*

*New England*

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

## DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory

*Offertory on "St. Columba"*

Healey Willan

\*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!*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

John Weicher

Leader: Satisfy us with your love in the morning,

**People: and we will live this day with joy and praise.**

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. 714

*God of the Fertile Fields*

*Italian Hymn*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Cris Rivera

\*POSTLUDE

*Open Wide the Gates*

Max Drischner

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## *Today at FPC*

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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.

*Cris Rivera* is an inquirer for ministry under the care of the Presbytery of New Hope. They, along with their spouse, *Beth Stringfield*, have been active members of First Presbyterian Church since 2005. At FPC, Cris has served as an elder, deacon, preacher, faith formation instructor, and youth leader, while also contributing to the Finance, Stewardship, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, and Creation Care Committees. They hold an MA in Public Theology from Union Presbyterian Seminary, where they are currently pursuing an M.Div./M.A.C.E. dual degree. Professionally, Cris is the Director of Finance and Operations for the Durham Public School Foundation. Outside of school and work, Cris enjoys hiking, cooking, and sharing highs and lows on Instagram.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of *Mary Ann Ruegg's* 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on July 18 by *Barbara* and *Peter Fish*.

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

**A special thanks** to our guest organist, Gordon Campbell. Gordon is a member at FPC and a regular substitute organist. Thank you, Gordon!

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

**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.

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## Upcoming 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/>



**First Friends July Event:** Join us Saturday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m. for First Friends, hosted by Franzi Rokoske and Catherine Dumas at Franzi's home, 2510 Wrightwood Ave. Neomonde Mediterranean will provide falafel and chicken kabobs; sides, salads, desserts, or drinks to share are welcome. Park on the street, as the driveway is reserved for accessible parking. RSVP at <https://evite.me/bxv2GvhKfG>.

**Ladies Tea:** All ladies of FPC Durham are invited to join the Fellowship Committee for well-brewed teas and delightful tea-time treats on Saturday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m. To bring a treat to share, savory or sweet, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/ladies-tea-2026>.

**Yoga** resumes this week. Contact **Jane Wettach** for more information at [janewettach@gmail.com](mailto:janewettach@gmail.com).

**FPC Blood Drive:** Save the date and give the gift of life! FPC Durham is hosting a blood drive Thursday, **July 23** from **1:00–6:00 PM** and we'd love your help. More info on how to sign up is coming soon. For now, mark your calendars and stay hydrated!

**Urban Ministries of Durham:** We need volunteers to help us make and serve breakfast and lunch at Urban Ministries of Durham. We make bag lunches twice a month from 9:30 to 10:30, and we make and serve breakfast once or twice a month from 7:00 to 9:00. We will team you with a seasoned volunteer who will guide you through. If you are interested in being on the sign-up list, please contact **Jancy Johnstone**, 919.824.6489 or [jancyjohnstone@gmail.com](mailto:jancyjohnstone@gmail.com).

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

**We remember in prayer:**

**Christy Gudaitis**, as she recovers from surgery.

**Janet** and **James Ouzts**, sister and brother-in-law of **Celia Dickerson**.

**Jim Rogers**, as he recovers from surgery.

**Vivian Turner**, **Donald Turner's** mother, as she recovers from surgery.

**Tony Brown**

**Paul Cornsweet**

**Sam Crabtree**

**Susan Cyr**

**Sue Fricks**

**Elizabeth High**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Lee House**

**Ann Huff**

**Elizabeth Manceras**

**Harriett Mitchell**

**Fred Moore**

**Franzi Rokoske**

**Care Communities:**

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

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Carol Wills**

Brookdale Senior Living: **Debbie Mathews**

Chatham Ridge Assisted Living: **John Fricks**

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

**Minnie Sue Douglas**, mother of Mindy Douglas

**Rosalynn Farrell**, mother of Rachel Bethune

**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

**Edward & Meryl Keenan**, brother and sister-in-law of Mary-Jo Keenan.

**Anthony Ketcham**, brother in-law of Wil James

**Sandra Mikush**, mother of Katie Fogleman

**Ana Sofia Ochoa**, family member of Becky Martin

**Patrick O'Neill**, father of Brianna Bennett

**Rebecca Todd ("Toddie") Peters**, mother of Sophie Peters

**Bill Prochaska**, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

**Annie Reaves**, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

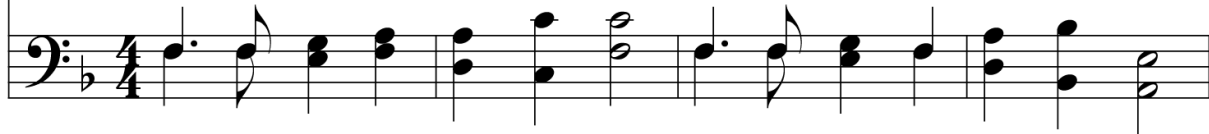
**Joe Quirk**, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

**Jim Vacca**, father of Jamie Chambliss

**Newton Wong**, nephew of Paul Lee



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



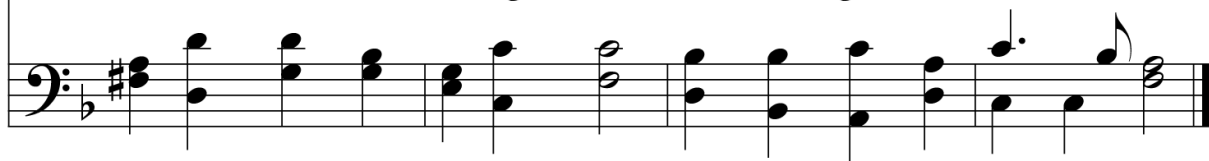
All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

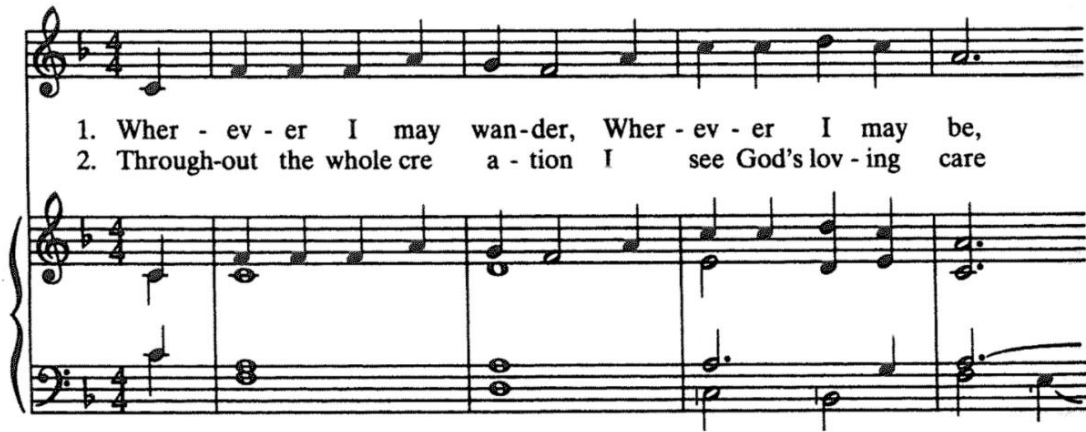
The first system of the hymn consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music: a dotted quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, a dotted quarter note B4, and a dotted quarter note C5. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures: a dotted quarter note G2, a dotted quarter note F2, a dotted quarter note E2, and a dotted quarter note D2. The lyrics "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;" are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of the hymn also consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures: a dotted quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, a dotted quarter note B4, and a dotted quarter note C5. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. It contains four measures: a dotted quarter note G2, a dotted quarter note F2, a dotted quarter note E2, and a dotted quarter note D2. The lyrics "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

Wherever I May Wander

New England



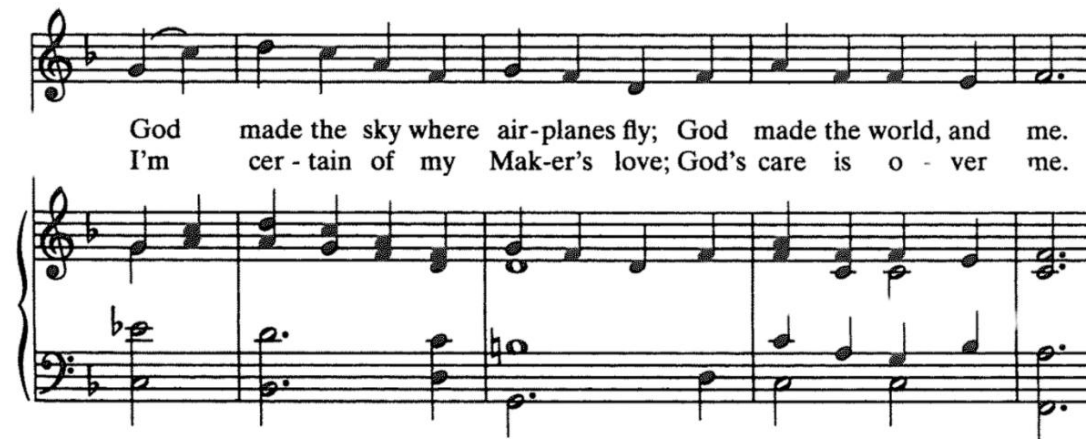
1. Wher - ev - er I may wan - der, Wher - ev - er I may be,  
2. Through - out the whole cre a - tion I see God's lov - ing care



I'm cer - tain of my Mak - er's love; God's care is o - ver me.  
For ev - ery - one in ev - ery land, God's chil - dren ev - ery - where.



God made the great high moun - tains, And made the wide blue sea;  
Wher - ev - er I may wan - der, Wher - ev - er I may be,



God made the sky where air - planes fly; God made the world, and me.  
I'm cer - tain of my Mak - er's love; God's care is o - ver me.

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

## This Week at a Glance!

**Sunday, July 12**  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

**9:45 AM** Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

**9:45 AM** Children's Summer Faith Formation

**11:00 AM** Worship: Cris Rivera, preaching

**Following Worship**

**12:15 PM** FPC Racial Equity Task Force (Wilson Parlor)

**Monday, July 13**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-In Ministry

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

**4:30 PM** Yoga

**7:00 PM** WATA Committee (Zoom)

**Wednesday, July 15**

**1:00 PM** Program Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)

**Thursday, July 16**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** Walk-in Ministry

**6:15 PM** Youth Summer Book Club (Daye Meeting Room)

**7:00 PM** Somethings Summer Book Group

**Tuesday, July 14**

**8:30 AM** Youth Leave for Massanetta (Parking Lot)

**4:00 PM** Things That Matter Book Group (Offsite)

**Friday, July 17**

**10:30 AM** Yoga

**5:30 PM** Youth Return from Massanetta (Parking Lot)

**Saturday, July 18**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM** Deacon Retreat (Fellowship Hall)

**6:00 PM** First Friends (Offsite)

**Sunday, July 19**

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

**9:45 AM** Faith Formation  
(Lectionary Class for Adults. Children's Class.)

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

### CHURCH STAFF

*Janet Askew*, Business Administrator  
*Lenore Champion*, Director of Children's Ministry  
*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  
*Brandi Kirkland*, Communications Associate  
*Donald Turner*, Facilities Associate  
*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>.

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