



Christ in Majesty, by Godescalc

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

August 23, 2026

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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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

Siciliana

comp. William Walond

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mindy Douglas

Leader: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

People: **We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

***HYMN NO. 634**

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God,

we confess that we are conformed to this world.

We conform to this world's frantic pace,

too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.

We conform to this world's reckless waste,

exploiting what you entrust to our care.

We conform to this world's shallow values,

oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,

preferring the latest instead of the lasting.

Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 399**

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: God of revelation,
mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth;
only your Spirit can give that gift.
Be in our breath and voices, be in our ears
and understanding,
that through these words your Word
may be known. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

(Pew Bible, NT Page 18)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Michael Honeycutt

People: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:1-8

(Pew Bible, NT Page 161)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Mindy Douglas

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Transformed by Grace”

Mindy Douglas

(silent reflection)

*HYMN NO. 285

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

BRIDEGROOM

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Esther Hethcox

Offertory

Cornet Voluntary

comp. John Travers

*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!

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Candidates for the Office of Elder

Rory Dillon*

Becky Martin*

Candidates for the Office of Deacon

Sibu Admay*

Rachel Bethune

**Indicates officer is being ordained and installed. All others have been ordained previously and are now installed for a term of service. Terms are three years unless otherwise noted.*

Statement of Ordination

Presentation of Elder and Deacon Candidates

*Profession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his 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.

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Welcome and Charge

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

John Weicher

Leader: Lord, 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. 700**

I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I’M GONNA LIVE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Toccata in E minor

comp. Johann Pachelbel

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Continued on Page 6

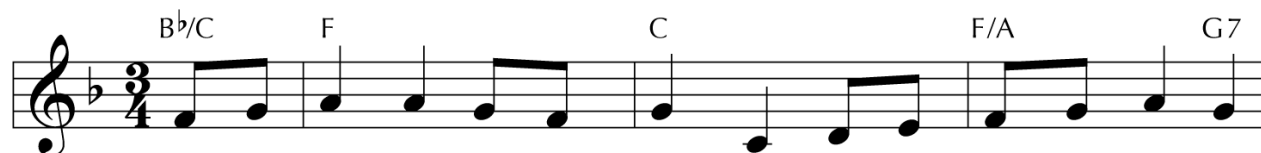
Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

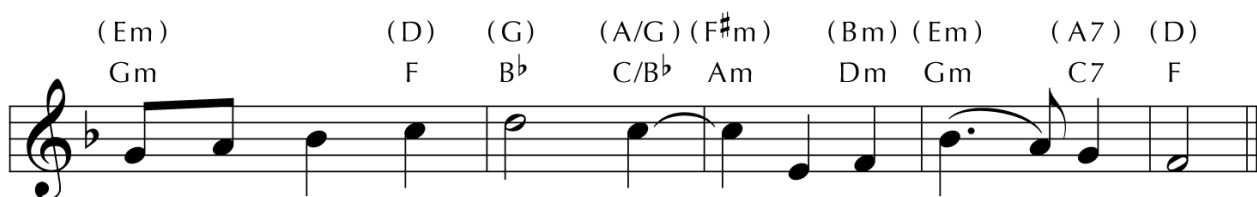
and give him the glory: great things he has done!



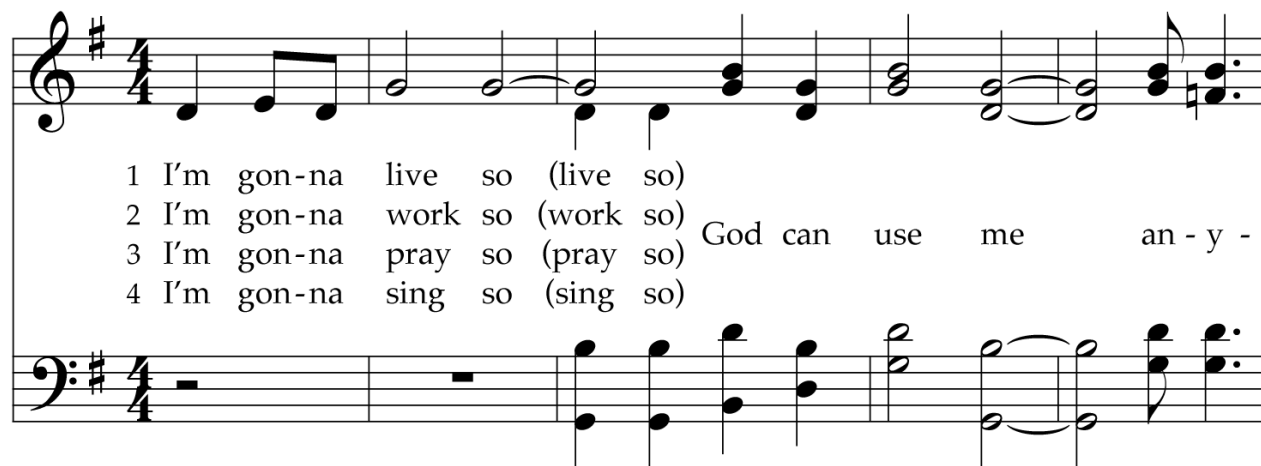
1 Like the mur-mur of the dove's song, like the chal-lenge of her
 2 To the mem-bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease-less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



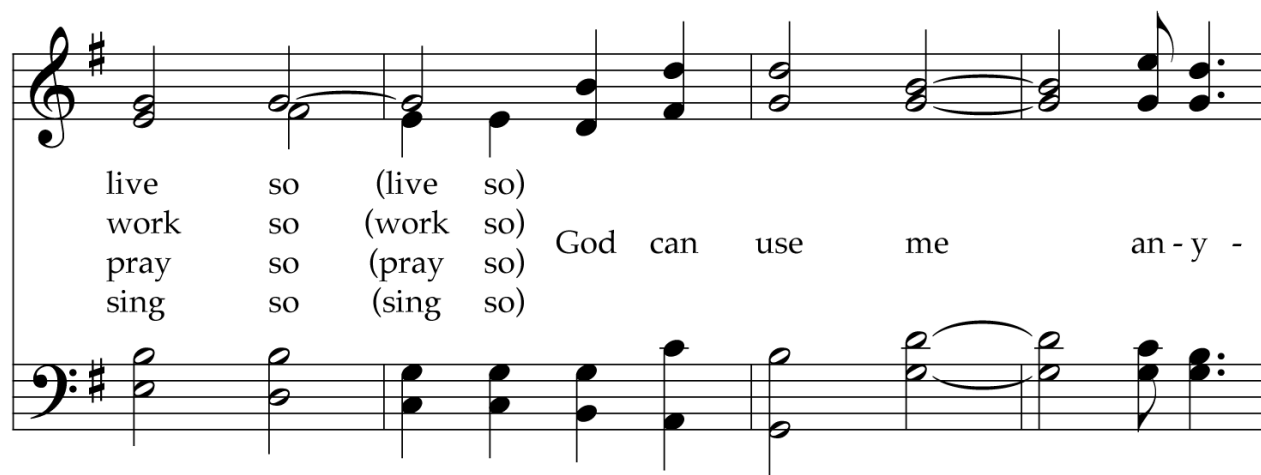
new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:



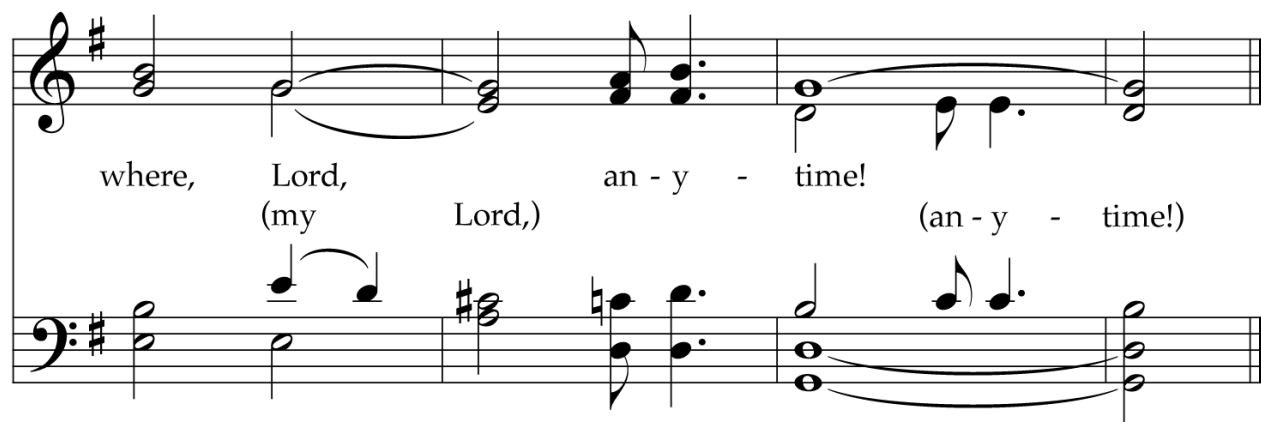
1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na



live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

Worship Notes



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.

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of ***Laura Sappenfield to Daniel Proffer*** yesterday by the bride's parents, ***Marie and David Sappenfield***.

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

Portions of today's worship resources come from *Feasting on the Word*. 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.

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/>



New to FPC? Presbyterian 101 Continues: Curious about the robes, stoles, or what "session" means? Join Pastors Mindy, Esther, and Susan for a conversation on Presbyterian theology, polity, worship, and how to get connected. This is a 3-week class that runs **August 16, 23, and 30 at 9:45 a.m.** in Room 205. Come as you are, questions and all!

Youth Summer Trips Stock Brunch: You are invited to a light lunch today, **Sunday, August 23, in Fellowship Hall after worship** to hear stories and see pictures from this summer's youth trips to Asheville, Nicholas County (WV), and Montreat. You need not have bought stock to join us—we'd love to see you. All are welcome!

The Somethings End-of-Summer BBQ: Join The Somethings for an end of summer cookout today **Sunday, August 23, from 4:00–7:00 p.m.** at **Margaret & Roberto’s** house (see Discord for address). All are welcome, bring a side dish or essential like plates, drinks, or condiments if you are able!

Mary Berry’s Ordination: You are joyfully invited to **Mary Berry’s** ordination at FPC on **Sunday, August 30 at 4:00 PM**, as she is ordained a Teaching Elder in her role as Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Campbell University Divinity School, with the support of FPC and New Hope Presbytery. Please RSVP for the reception following the service: <https://evite.me/9ykpz5yPzy>.

Fellowship Night at the Durham Bulls: Enjoy a late summer evening at the ballpark before fall routines resume! The Fellowship Committee has reserved a block of 30 seats for the game against the Norfolk Tides on **Saturday, August 29 at 6:45 p.m.**, in Section 117 by 3rd base, at \$22 each. Purchase tickets here: <https://www.gofevo.com/s/other/Sarahcunninghams2?purl=c0f9f37894b8>.

Fall Book Club: How the Word Is Passed: Join FPC’s Racial Equity Task Force this fall for a book club tour by Zoom, from Monticello to the African American History Museum in DC, reading Clint Smith’s “How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America,” one of the New York Times’ top ten books of 2021. Six sessions run every other **Thursday, 7–8 p.m., September 10 through November 19**; please have your book ready before the first meeting. To get the Zoom link or sign up to lead a discussion, RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/wZ3U4YpmVKkMRQUZ6>.

Fellowship Activity Survey: As we prepare for our upcoming renovation, which will restrict use of the Fellowship Hall, the Fellowship Committee wants to know what fellowship activities interest you—for members of all ages. The survey takes just a couple of minutes; **Today is the last day to respond!** Take the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/fpc-fellowship-survey> or use the QR code.



Building Update: Rebuilding Together: Construction on our Rebuilding Together building project begins **October 1, 2026**. Funded by the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, the project will improve accessibility, renovate the Fellowship Hall, add an elevator, reconfigure volunteer/Walk-In Ministry offices, add a columbarium and basement showers, plus several other additional renovations. Once construction begins, the Fellowship Hall and volunteer offices will close, the kitchen stays open, staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured, and some events may move offsite. Questions? Email communications@firstpres-durham.org.

Choir Rehearsals Set to Begin!! Our official choir season rehearsals begin on **Wednesday the 2nd of September** in the choir room (upstairs in the Faith Formation hallway and around the corner) at **7:00 p.m.** Of course we welcome all our current members, plus a few new faces. If you have any experience singing in a choir (no matter how long ago) you are also welcome! For more information contact our Minister of Music, **Matthew Moore**, at music@firstpres-durham.org or find him after church on Sunday.

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Congratulations to:

Laura Sappenfield and Daniel Proffer who were married in our sanctuary yesterday. Laura is the daughter of **Marie and David Sappenfield** and grew up at First Presbyterian Church.

Madge McKeithen, who welcomed granddaughter **Leona Nell James-Levy**, born to Madge's son **Nick Levy and Madeline James**.

We offer our condolences to:

Family and friends of **Donna Holladay**, who died this week.

We remember in prayer:

Jenni James, following surgery

Tony Brown

Sue Fricks

Lee House

Fred Moore

Paul Cornsweet

Joe Harvard

Ann Huff

Sara Radtke

Sam Crabtree

Elizabeth High

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Susan Cyr

Kerry Holbrook

Harriett Mitchell

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

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Eddie Cheatham, mother-in-law of Donald Turner

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

Larry Hethcox, father of Esther Hethcox

Carl Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley

Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch

Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff

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

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

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

Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood

Joe Quirk, stepfather of Tim O'Brien

Annie Reaves, great-niece of Floalice and Robert Reaves

Vivian Turner, mother of Donald Turner

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Presbyterian 101 Class (Room 205)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching,
Blessing of the Backpacks,
Ordination & Installation of Officers

12:15 PM Youth Summer Trips Stock Brunch (Fellowship Hall)

12:15 PM Diaconate Meeting (Room 205)

4:00 PM Somethings End-of-Summer BBQ (Offsite)

Monday, August 24

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

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

4:30 PM Floor Yoga

6:30 PM Fellowship Committee (Room 205)

7:00 PM Session (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, August 26

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

Thursday, August 27

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

Friday, August 28

10:30 AM Chair Yoga

Tuesday, August 25

11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Bennett Pointe Grill—
4625 Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC 27705)

Saturday, August 29

6:45 PM Fellowship Night at the Durham Bulls (Offsite)

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Presbyterian 101 Class (Room 205)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

10:00 AM Children's Faith Formation Teacher Training

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching,
Hunger for Change

4:00 PM Mary Berry's Ordination

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
Matthew Moore, Minister of Music
Donald Turner, Facilities Associate
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