

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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

MOMENT FOR CONNECTION

Chris Uithoven

PRELUDE

Trio No. 1 Opus 49

comp. Josef Rheinberger

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from *Psalms 105*

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

People: Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

All: Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN NO. 394**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us!

**We are intimidated by our circumstances,
distracted from your purposes,
drowning in doubts and fears.**

We are presumptuous about your will, belittling others and magnifying ourselves.

We envy the blessings of others, secretly despising their dreams.

**We have hardened our hearts to the suffering of our community,
feeding ourselves in face of the injustice that holds others captive.**

**Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts, lift us from sin
and help us to walk with you in faith, humility and love.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***REGATHERING HYMN NO. 187** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, v.1*

BRADBURY

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annie and Ruby Gentithes

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of our present trouble and promised triumph,
open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles.
Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance.
Open our minds to recall your wonderful works and miracles.
Open our hearts to glory in your name and seek strength in your Word;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM READING

Psalms 77:1-3, 11-12, 16-20

(Pew Bible, OT Page 537)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Annie and Ruby Gentithes

People: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN NO. 184

Calm to the Waves
(Played Once, Sung Twice)

CALM SEAS

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-36

(Pew Bible, NT Page 16)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Wilson Gunn

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Sea Legs"

Wilson Gunn

(silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Declaration of Faith*

Mindy Douglas

Jesus was God in the flesh.

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.

Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideals,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.

Jesus did what only God can do.

We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.

When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death

the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.

In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God with us.

*HYMN NO. 720

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Mindy Douglas

Offertory

Meditation on RESIGNATION, from *Southern Harmony*

arr. Wood

*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. 320**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

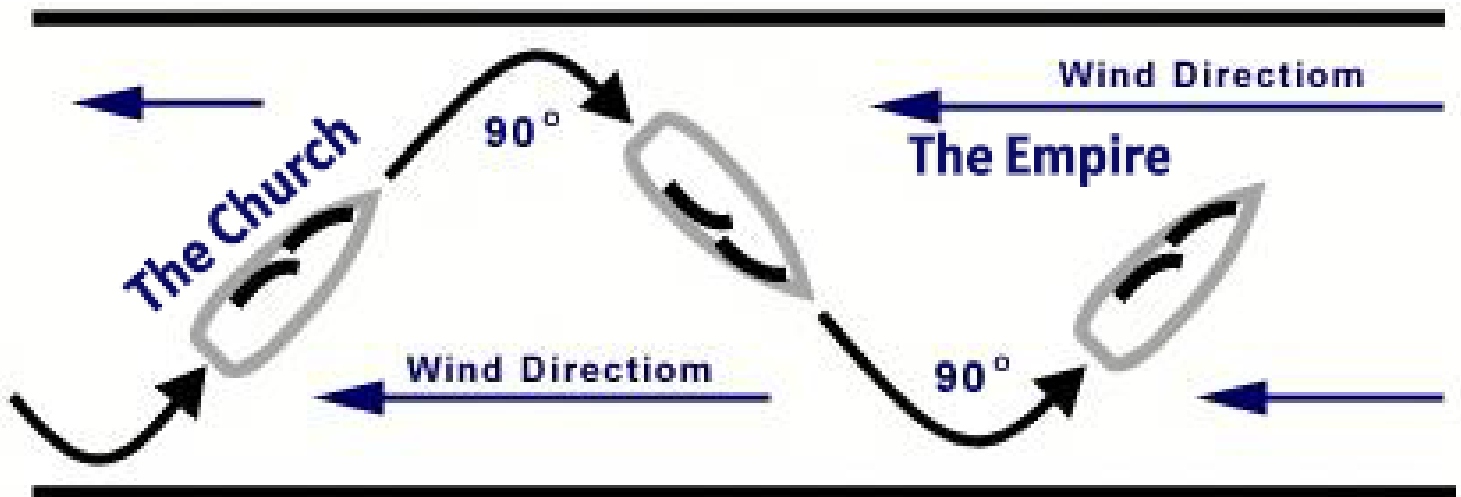
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Wilson Gunn

***POSTLUDE**

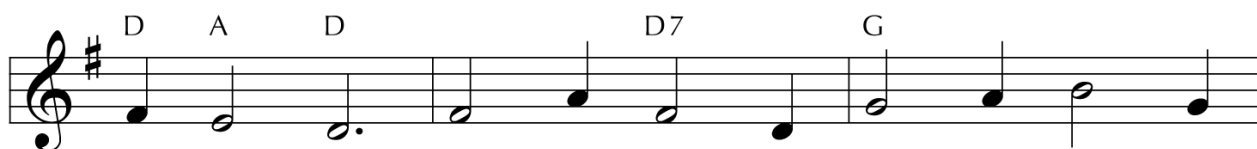
Toccata in G Major

Comp. W.H. Pachelbel





1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

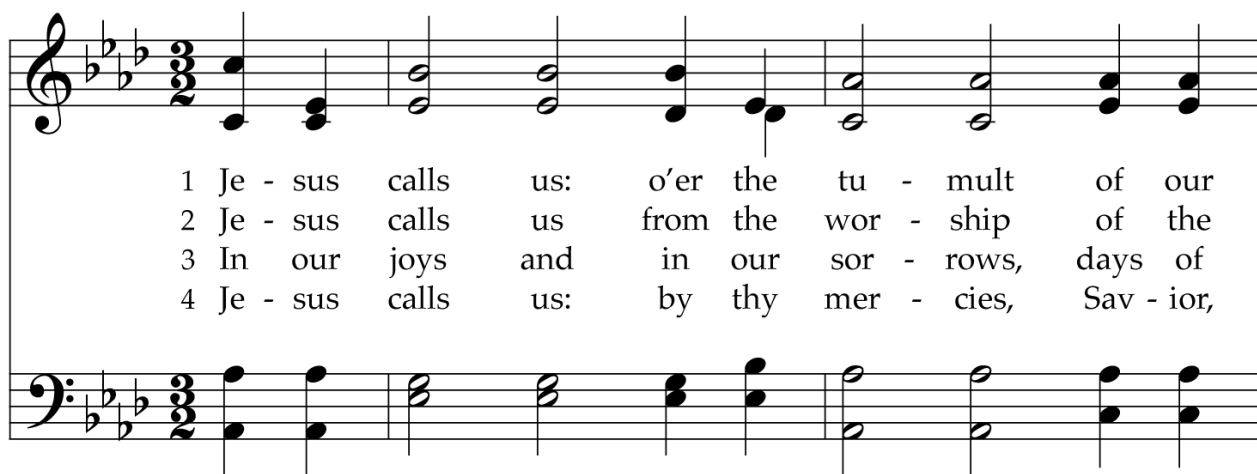


help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

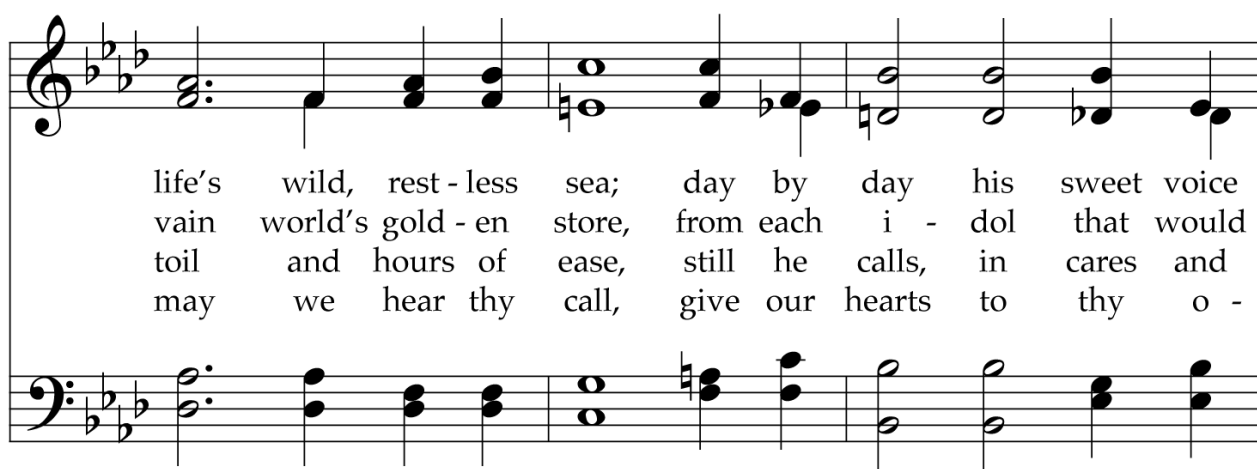
The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 6/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be

still." Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice.



1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -



sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

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.

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of ***Dorothy B. Graham*** by her daughter, ***Scottie Seawell***.

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.

We welcome to the pulpit ***Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn***. Wilson is a retired Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA) and has been active in the FPC community for many years.

Portions of today's worship resources come from *A Declaration of Faith* and the *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/>



25th Anniversary of Fill That Bus!: It's that time of year again! For 25 years, FPC has helped stock the Teacher Store with free classroom supplies for DPS educators. Last year we donated over \$1,250 in goods. Help us reach 2,400+ teachers and staff at 100% of DPS schools this year. See the supply list in our latest newsletter and drop off in our foyer by **August 14, 2026**.

New to FPC? Join Us for Presbyterian 101: 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 the Fellowship Hall. Come as you are, questions and all!

~ Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

We remember in prayer:

Joe Harvard, following surgery.

Ann Huff, following surgery.

Tony Brown

Sue Fricks

Charlie Kelley

Sara Radtke

Paul Cornsweet

Elizabeth High

Elizabeth Manceras

Franzi Rokoske

Sam Crabtree

Kerry Holbrook

Harriett Mitchell

Susan Cyr

Lee House

Fred Moore

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

Eaddie 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

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

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

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Construction Begins October 1, 2026

After years of prayerful planning, we are thrilled to share that construction on our Rebuilding Together building project has a confirmed start date: **October 1, 2026**. Made possible by the generosity of donors to the 2022 Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign, this project will greatly improve accessibility throughout our building and breathe new life into some of our most beloved shared spaces.

Why This Matters

At the heart of this work are a renovated fellowship hall, providing a beautiful and welcoming space to members and visitors alike, and a new elevator, giving church staff, members, and guests with limited mobility full access to our offices and gathering spaces for the first time. These are tangible ways we live out our calling to welcome everyone. In addition, we will add a columbarium as an extension of our existing memorial garden.

What to Expect

- Fellowship Hall and volunteer offices will close for renovation during construction.
- The kitchen will remain available for use.
- Church staff offices will be temporarily reconfigured.
- A weekly Building Update will appear in the worship bulletin and Weekly Reminders email.
- Creative use of other church spaces, with occasional programmatic events held offsite.



Rendering: Renovated Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall

What's Included in Rebuilding Together

- Refurbished Watts-Hill Fellowship Hall: new paint, new floor, lifted ceiling, updated A/V system, and new furniture
- A new elevator for full building accessibility
- Reconfigured volunteer and Walk-In Ministry offices
- A columbarium with 72 niches, extending from the memorial garden
- A renovated chapel for smaller worship gatherings
- New showers in the basement to support mission teams and emergency shelter
- Completed solar panel installation
- Roof, organ, window, and HVAC repairs to serve our building for years to come

Even as we invest in our building, we celebrate the completed mission commitments of the Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign including funding to eliminate **\$8.5 million** in medical debt across North Carolina and supporting the director position at the Emanuel Learning Center for three years.



Rendering: New Columbarium Garden

Stay Connected

Look for our weekly Building Update in the bulletin, Weekly Reminders email, and Bi-Weekly Newsletter throughout construction. Full project timeline and FAQs are coming soon. Questions? Reach out to communications@firstpres-durham.org.

This Week at a Glance!

Sunday, August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Wilson Gunn, preaching

7:00 PM Youth: The Parlour Hang-out

Monday, August 10

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

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

4:30 PM Floor Yoga

6:00 PM Christian Ed Committee (Zoom)

6:00 PM Property Committee (Room 205)

6:00 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)

6:30 PM Service & Mission (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM WATA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Youth Ministry Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

Thursday, August 13

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Walk-In Ministry

Tuesday, August 11

Friday, August 14

10:30 AM Chair Yoga

Wednesday, August 12

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

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Daye Meeting Room)

Saturday, August 15

Sunday, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Adult Faith Formation (Lectionary Class)

9:45 AM Children's Summer Faith Formation

11:00 AM Worship: Sam Miglarese, preaching

1:00 PM Youth: Fantasy Lake (Parking Lot)

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