

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2018

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minute for Mission: CROP Hunger Walk

Mindy Douglas

Jody Maxwell

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Robert Powell

INTROIT

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 84:1,4)

Sarah Finbow

Leader: Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.

People: **And let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

***CONFESSION OF SIN** (remain standing)

Sam Miglarese

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed to be your holy people, set apart for your divine purpose. We are moved more by private ambition than by concern for social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We speak in your name without nourishing our souls, without relying on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image.

Silent Confession

Kyrie (Hymnal No. 575)

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

J. Christopher Pardini

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Pardon

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Amy Dillon

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

** Those who are able, please stand.*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

(Pew Bible, OT Page 139)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

(Pew Bible, NT Page 192)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

(Pew Bible, NT Page 94)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"God's Offensive Love"

Mindy Douglas

(Silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from The United Church of Canada)

Sam Miglarese

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN NO. 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

***THE PEACE**

Hymn

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Confitemini Domino

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone can give us peace.

Share the Peace

(As we pass the peace, please be mindful that it is still flu season.

Signs of hospitality and reconciliation may be expressed verbally, if desired.)

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(Children through 1st grade enter during the sharing of the peace.)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

(Following "A Time with Children," children can remain in worship, return to the nursery, or go to the choir room for Children's Choir.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Marilyn Hedgpeth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love,

People: **And let your saving grace be near.**

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.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem (sung in Latin)

O Nata Lux

Thomas Tallis

English translation: *O Light of light, by love inclined, Jesu, redeemer of mankind, With loving-kindness deign to hear from suppliant voices praise and prayer. Thou who to raise our souls from hell didst deign in fleshly form to dwell, Vouchsafe us, when our race is run, in thy fair Body to be one.*

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***CLOSING PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All: **Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

***HYMN NO. 826**

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Prelude in a minor

J. S. Bach

Everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for lunch following today's worship. Donations are appreciated to offset the cost of the meal (\$8 per person / \$24 max per family). Don't forget to sign up in the foyer to support Durham's 44th Annual CROP Hunger Walk.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that we may better know each other, please sign the *Ritual of Friendship pad*, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then return it to the starting point, noting the names of those sitting near you. On Sunday, March 4, we welcomed 35 visitors to worship.

The *flowers* today are given to the glory of God by *Ruth and Russell Roberson*, with many thanks to the congregation for the prayers, cards, and good thoughts during our recent illnesses.

Nursery care for infants to 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. There is a changing table in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship bags and activity bulletins are available in the foyer for children. Books are on the pews in the narthex for young children to read and enjoy should they need a break from the service.

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from the *Book of Common Worship, Words for Worship*.

Membership Inquiry Class in progress!

For those of you who have been visiting FPC, have already joined, or are entertaining the concept of membership, we are offering a six-week Membership Inquiry Class. **The class began last Sunday and will continue on Sunday mornings** (excluding Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday) **through April 29** from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Wilson Parlor. We do not require anyone to take these classes before joining; you are welcome to join at any time, as your schedule allows. Just let the pastors know you are ready to join, and we'll convene the Session to make that happen.

Last Call for the Lenten Match

A generous donor has offered to match gifts given by the congregation with their own gift up to \$20,000. The money will go to meet emergency needs through our Walk-In Ministry, feeding individuals who are elderly or disabled through Meals on Wheels, providing shelter through Urban Ministries of Durham, and to other organizations focused on meeting basic needs. **This offer ends on Wednesday, March 14.** If you feel called to participate, please make checks payable to FPC, designated to "Lenten Match" and put them in the collection plate or send them to the church office by Wednesday. You may also give online via the church's website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>, by clicking on "Donate" from the home page and selecting Lenten Match from the list. Thank you for your support.

Holy Listening: Poetry Reading & Writing

led by Marilyn Hedgpeth

An introduction to poetry as a spiritual discipline: both reading and writing.

Class meets on Sunday afternoon from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the church: Tonight (love) and next Sunday, March 18 (devotion). Bring your ears, your heart, maybe something to write with, and a few good poems and prayers. Childcare provided upon request; the youth will be meeting at the same time. Class is open to members and non-members.

Spiritual Autobiography

led by Cherrie Barton Henry

"God shows up as your life." (Richard Rohr)

We all know that God is speaking to us through the stories of our own lives and the lives of other Christian disciples. In this class, we will take time to reflect upon what God might be saying to us through our life stories. In order to have a quality experience together, participants will commit to attending at least three of the four classes. **Remaining classes are Wednesdays, March 14, 21, and 28 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the church.** Participants are welcome to BYOS (Bring Your Own Supper) or enjoy the healthy snacks that will be provided.



Meredith Chorale and Vox Virorum Men's Chorus

Sunday, March 18 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

All are welcome; \$10 suggested donation

The Meredith Chorale and Durham's Vox Virorum Men's Chorus share the concert stage in their first musical collaboration. The Meredith Chorale is Meredith College of Raleigh's premiere women's vocal performing ensemble and is directed by Dr. Shannon Gravelle. Vox Virorum is a community men's ensemble which focuses on traditional men's glee club repertoire, musical excellence and camaraderie, directed by Jeremy Nabors. Vox Virorum meets at FPC on Tuesday evenings.

~ OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS ~

Samantha Arten, children's choir director at FPC, successfully defended her dissertation on Thursday at Duke and is now Samantha Arten, PhD in musicology. Congratulations to Dr. Arten!

Prayer Concerns:

Carsey Family

Claiborne Clark, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

Mary Clark (Dubose Center, Chapel Hill)

Paul Cornsweet

Dorothy Graham

Bob Keever (Croasdaile Pavilion)

Julie Maxwell

Florence Shackelford (Croasdaile Pavilion)

Brookdale Senior Living (Durham): *Julian Boswell*

Croasdaile Village: *Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin*

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham): *Helen Garrison*

The Forest at Duke: *Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson*

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Tom Birchfield, step-father of Wil James

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Heath, Rebecca, and Julia Huberg, friends of Kathy Parkins and Mary Kay Robinson

Patricia Kost, grandmother of Jack Kost

Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

Sue Noel, resident at Croasdaile Village and friend of Bill Hendrickson

Jonathan Pratt, son of Lanny Pratt

Vickie Tobey, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost

The Week at a Glance!

<p>Later Today</p> <p>After Worship: Congregational Lunch</p> <p>1:00 – 3:00PM Strategic Planning Team</p> <p>2:00 – 4:00 PM Shape Note Choir</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 PM Lenten Poetry Workshop (room 205)</p> <p>5:00 – 8:00 PM Youth Groups</p>	<p>Monday, March 12</p> <p>5:30 PM Christian Education Committee</p> <p>6:00 PM Property Committee</p> <p>6:30 PM Service and Mission Committee</p>	<p>Tuesday, March 13</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:30 PM FPC Staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Things That Matter Book Group at the home of Hendrika Vande Kemp</p>	<p>Wednesday, March 14</p> <p>5:00 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>5:30 – 7:00 PM Lenten Study: Spiritual Autobiography</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, March 15</p>	<p>Friday, March 16</p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 AM First Pres Serving Breakfast at UMD</p> <p>10:30 AM - Noon Bible Study: What's Nice about Vice: A Positive Look at the Seven Deadly Sins</p>	<p>Saturday, March 17</p> <p>6:00 – 8:30 PM "Taste and Tunes" Fundraiser at New Hope Camp and Conference Center, Hillsborough (more information available from the table in the foyer)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>St. Patrick's day</i></p> </div>	<p>Sunday, March 18 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School / Membership Inquiry Class</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>3:00 PM CONCERT: Meredith College Chorale & Vox Virorum Men's Chorus</p> <p>5:00 – 6:30 PM Lenten Poetry Workshop (room 205)</p> <p>5:00 – 8:00 PM Youth Groups (offsite)</p>

~ Serving Today ~

Liturgist: *Amy Dillon*

Narthex Greeter: *Maxie Honeycutt*

After Worship Greeters: *Cris Rivera* (side/font); *Karen Romines* (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Jennie Alwood* (head), *Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey* (flowers), *Karen Swope* (counter),
Amy Dillon, Michael Honeycutt, Amy Sanchez

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sarah Finbow, Youth Minister



Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor
Cheryl Henry, Parish Associate
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Sam Miglarese, Associate Pastor
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, visit our website at: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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