

CONFESSION OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Gracious and loving God,
you live for us – we do not live for you.
You forgive us – we do not forgive others.
You love us – we do not love ourselves
nor do we love one another.
Take pity on us and forgive us, God.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Laura McDow

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **Eternal God,
you call us to ventures
of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

Laura McDow

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Behind and Before”

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Mindy Douglas

**God delivered his people.
When Abraham’s descendants were slaves in Egypt,
God heard their cries and prayers.
God remembered his promise
and sent Moses to free them from bondage.**

**We declare God's steadfast love and sovereign power.
The Lord can be trusted to keep promises.
The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations
to set oppressed and persecuted people free.**

HYMN (No. 52, verses 1,4) *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

Go Down, Moses

***When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!***

**Refrain: *Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!***

O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go!

***And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go!* (Refrain)**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

John Weicher

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Susan Dunlap

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(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.**

LITANY OF FAREWELL TO ROB PARKER & BETH TAYLOR

Mindy Douglas

Leader: We send you forth as disciples of Jesus Christ and as ambassadors of friendship,
spreading the good news of God's love in your new surroundings.
Go in the spirit of Christ. Be steadfast in your devotion to him.

All: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Know that your ministry with us has served the cause of Christ in this
community. Well done, good and faithful servants!

All: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: May your commitment to Christ grow as you enter another community and
another congregation.

All: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Leader: Remember that even though we will be separated in space, our shared faith in Jesus Christ will keep us connected.

All: **Go in peace. Go in love. Go in the spirit of Christ.**

Unison Prayer of the People:

Gracious God, a wandering Aramean is our ancestor and you have been with us every step of the way on the long journey of faith. Go now with Rob and Beth, we pray. Keep them faithful to you, in prayer, worship, service, and in the new relationships they will make. Give them traveling mercies and a new community of faith through which they may continue to serve you. May our friendship with them continue, and may we ever be one in Christ. Amen.

HYMN (No. 53, verse 3) *O God, Who Gives Us Life* Sung to Forest Green

***O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.***

CLOSING PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray.

I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,

All: **God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,
God's ear to hearken to my need,**

Leader: the wisdom of my God to teach,
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,

All: **the word of God to give me speech,
God's heavenly host to be my guard.**

Leader: Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,

All: **Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,**

Leader: Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

All: **Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

Fugue in F

J.S. Bach

The Racial Equity Task Force will have a meeting via Zoom immediately following today's worship service. [Join the meeting.](#) Anyone from the congregation is welcome to join the Task Force. It is always good to have fresh perspectives on next steps as well as new ideas. Please contact [Kathy Krahenbuhl](#) or [Jon Abels](#) if you have any questions.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. 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. On September 6th, 94 households tuned in to the 11:00 am live-streamed broadcast of worship.

We welcome to worship today British Hyrams and Naomi Milton. British is the Presbyterian Campus Minister for North Carolina Central University here in Durham, and Naomi is a sophomore studying there. FPC supports the work of the University's campus ministry with funds from our general operating budget as allocated by the Service and Mission Committee.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Feasting on the Word* (Year A, volume 2) and *Book of Common Worship* (1993 edition). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* (PCUSA hymnal) under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Jay Klinck, and John Weicher** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our virtual worship live broadcasts each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images she finds to accompany our online worship.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MINDY

Dear friends,

I heard recently that there was some confusion over my last letter, which stated that FPC's COVID-19 Team had recommended that we extend our guidelines for gathering (no indoor gatherings and only small outdoor ones) through November 1. Some took this to mean that we would begin in-person worship again on November 1. That was not what was intended. Unfortunately, we have no plans to begin in-person worship. The COVID-19 Team will share an update with the congregation about further recommendations at some point in the future. For now, please know that you should assume that we will not meet in person for worship until further notice. We will make a big deal of it when we are able to do that. I am sorry for any confusion.

Thank you for your understanding!

Mindy

Called Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, September 20** at the end of our online worship to hear a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

~ Our Concerns ~

Linda Barenchi, recovering from the COVID-19 virus

Wil James, recovering from abdominal surgery

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams

Charlotte Nelson, recovering from foot surgery

Ellen O'Brien, mother-in-law of Mindy Douglas, recovering at Mindy's home from lung surgery

Carol Wills

All those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Those displaced in California, Oregon, and the state of Washington from wild fires, and along the Gulf Coast (from Hurricane Laura)

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin, Jane Rourk**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Rose Vista Village /Kinston Assisted Living, Kinston NC: **Phillip Herndon**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Becky Evans, sister of Vernon Neece

Phil Goss, friend of the congregation

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Robert Reaves, husband of Floalice Reaves, friend of the congregation

First Friends Gatherings

First Friends is offering several options for small-group gatherings on Saturday, September 19. **To ensure gatherings not exceed 10 people** (per the FPC COVID-19 Task Force guidelines), **we ask that you sign up to attend one of the gatherings.** Please use [this link](#) to sign up for a gathering. If you are signing up for more than just yourself, then register your name, submit it, then return to the SignUp Genius invitation and register the next person in your party. A separate registration is required for each person attending. In case of rain, please contact your host for cancellation or info about revised plans. If you have questions, please contact [Christyn Klinck](#).



Even in this time of Covid-19 and a host of other life-altering challenges, the needs (especially the future needs) of FPC must be addressed if we are to continue well into our next 100 years of ministry. Making your planned gift to FPC can help us achieve those future goals. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities of a planned gift (of any amount) to FPC, please contact [Tom Bloom](#), [Sheila Breitweiser](#) or [Deborah Momsen-Hudson](#) — any of whom would be honored to share with you the ease with which your planned gift can be made.

JustACTivate

Union Presbyterian Seminary (Charlotte Campus) and The Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation welcome the Reverend Dr. James Forbes who will lead a two-day conversational webinar about activating the church entitled "JustACTivate." Forbes is among the most significant prophetic voices in our nation. As Pastor Emeritus of the Riverside Church and Professor Emeritus at Union Theological Seminary in New York, he has for several decades helped frame our nation's theological sense of justice. Because of this, we are excited to have this prolific preacher/teacher begin this year-long conversation in the form of webinars. To learn more and to register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Monday, September 14 from 7:00-8:30pm

COVID-19: A Parable of Plagues before Deliverance - Webinar and Q&A

Tuesday, September 15 from 12:00-1:00pm (Clergy Event)

The Recruitment of God's Dream Team - Lunchtime Webinar and Q&A with Clergy (space limited)

Tuesday, September 15 from 7:00-8:30pm

George Floyd Protests: Temporary Uprising, Movement, or Miracle? - Webinar and Q&A

webinar

Holy Imagination + Race:

How The Church Can Be a Healing Force in America's Racial Divide

WEBINAR
September 15
2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT

GOOD WHITE RACIST?
Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice
KERRY CONNELLY

Presented by Kerry Connelly,
author of *Good White Racist*.

The Presbyterian
OUTLOOK
Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing

Click [here](#) if you wish to register for this webinar.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to the recent school supplies drive for Crayons-2-Calculators. The teachers and students of Durham Public Schools are grateful to the members of FPC for all the ways you supported the drive this fall.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . . from the comfort of your own home —

Bag Rice and Beans for the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:

- Divide large bags of beans — black, pinto or red — or white rice into **quart-size, freezer strength Ziplock baggies**.
- Fill the bags until almost full, leaving just enough room to close securely.
- Large bags of beans or rice can be purchased at Costco, Sam's Club, or El Camino, a Mexican food distributor located at 2314 Reichard St, Durham 27705.
- Deliver the bags to Iglesia Emanuel on Monday afternoons between 3:00pm and 5:00pm, or contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) for other options
- Sign up at this [link](#).

Do a little cooking for Urban Ministries:

- **Casseroles** for **breakfast, lunch or dinner** (baked ziti, tuna, mac n cheese, etc.)
- **Sandwiches** in individual Zip-lock bags — **no condiments**, so they keep fresh longer. If able, please label bags according to ingredients, such as "turkey & cheese, or T & C."
- **Cookies or brownies** in individual baggies, to go in the lunch bags. Everyone loves a touch of sweetness!
- Encourage neighbors or friends to join your efforts and deliver all the food at one time
- Deliver to the main door of Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St, between 9:30am - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday

Make phone calls to Meals on Wheels clients:

- Give a quick call to home-bound senior citizens or disabled adults on Wednesday or Friday mornings to check on them and offer a much needed warm, human connection
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

You can safely lend a hand in person —

Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:

- Sign up for a 2-hour shift on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday sorting and bagging food, unloading deliveries, loading boxes of food into cars
- Find your spot on the [SignUp Genius](#) and know you are making a huge difference in the lives of struggling families

Urban Ministries:

- FPC provides volunteers multiple times a month to help prepare and serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags for hungry members of our community
- Breakfast shifts are the 3rd and 5th Fridays of every month, from 7:00-9:00am
- Lunch bag shifts are every 3rd Monday and 4th Thursday, 9:30-10:30am
- Enjoy fellowship with your church friends while you serve our neighbors!
- Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) to sign up

Deliver Meals on Wheels:

- Deliver boxes of nutritious frozen meals to home-bound seniors and handicapped adults every Monday
- Offer a friendly smile from behind your mask and encouraging words to brighten someone's day!
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!

Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) has launched a hygiene drive to keep our partner pantries fully stocked with the supplies Durhamites need. They are seeking the following items:

CDC-approved disinfectant wipes or sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)

hand sanitizer empty spray bottles paper towels

toilet paper feminine hygiene products hand and body soap

If you can donate any of these items, they can be dropped off at any of these partner congregations:

- **First Presbyterian** - Mondays and Fridays, 9:00am-1:00pm - 305 E. Main St
- **Cole Mill Road Church of Christ** - Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm - 1617 Cole Mill Rd
- **Antioch Baptist** - Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm - 1415 Holloway St
- **Pilgrim United Church of Christ** - Tuesday through Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm - 3011 Academy Rd
- **Christus Victor Lutheran** - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:00am-2:00pm - 1615 E. NC 54 Hwy

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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