

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 14, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)



*In preparation for celebrating communion where you are, **please have your own bread and cup available at the beginning of worship** so that we might partake of the elements at the same time during today's service.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Rhosymedre

Kent Foss, trumpet; Gordon Campbell, organ

R. Vaughn Williams

arr. by Chuck Seipp

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE (FPC Wind Quintet)

Beautiful Savior

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 50:1-6)

John Weicher

Leader: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

People: **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence;
before God is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around the Divine.

People: **God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, to judge the people:**

Leader: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

People: **The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God alone is judge.**

HYMN No. 403 (verses 1-2)

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Unser Herrscher

***Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.***

***Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be;
to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God of compassion,
in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory,
but we turn away, distracted by our own plans.**

**We confess that we speak when we should listen,
and act when we should wait.
Forgive our aimless enthusiasms.
Grant us wisdom to live in your light,
and to follow in the way of your beloved Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 403, verse 3)

Unser Herrscher

***Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carl Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of shining splendor,
your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder.
Overshadow us with your Spirit
so that we may hear your Word
and live as faithful disciples
and covenant people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-9

Carl Rist

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

John Weicher

HYMN No. 11 (verses 1-2)

Aberystwyth

***Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud,
Fortress, Fountain, Shelter, Light,
Judge, Defender, Mercy, Might,
Life whose life all life endowed:***

Refrain: ***May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.***

***Word and Wisdom, Root and Vine,
Shepherd, Savior, Servant, Lamb,
Well and Water, Bread and Wine,
Way who leads us to I am:*** (Refrain)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

John Weicher

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

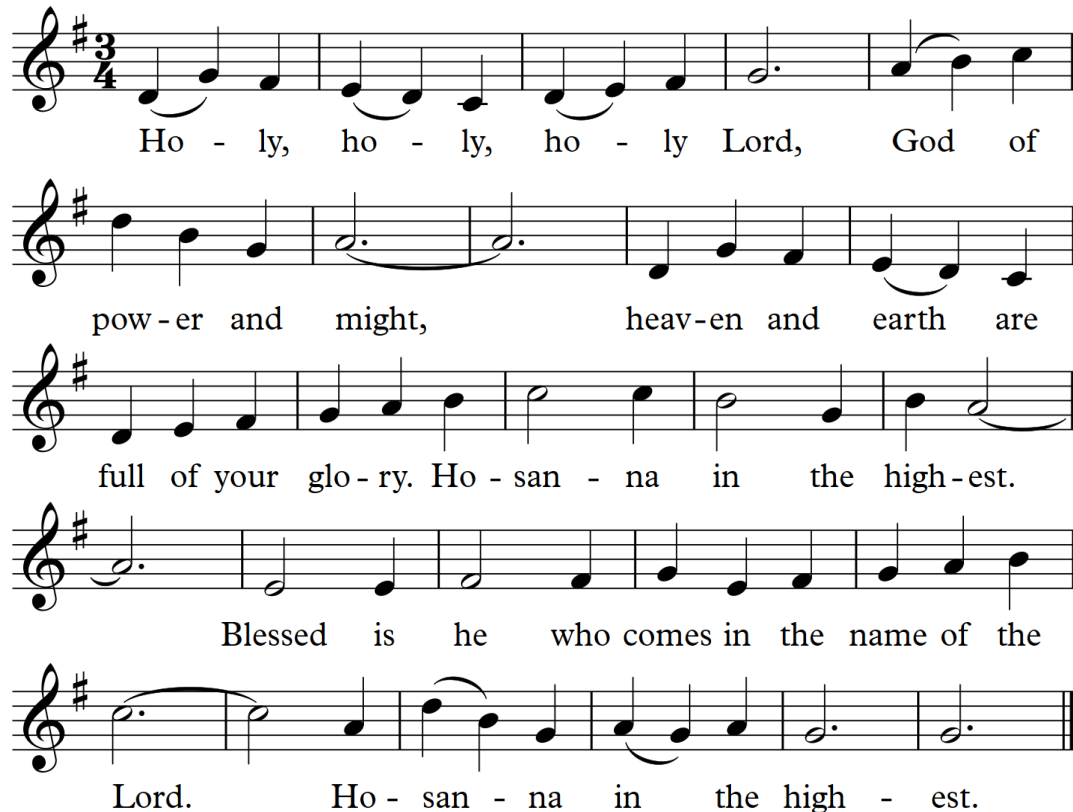
Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Leader: God of Moses and Elijah,
you come to us in a whirlwind of mystery,
a swirling tempest, a devouring fire.
Yet you come to us –
speaking faithfulness and mercy,
shining light in our darkness,
offering forgiveness for our sin.
Therefore we praise you,
joining the hymn of the six-winged seraphs
who cover their faces as they sing:

All (sung):

Sanctus

Hymn No. 572

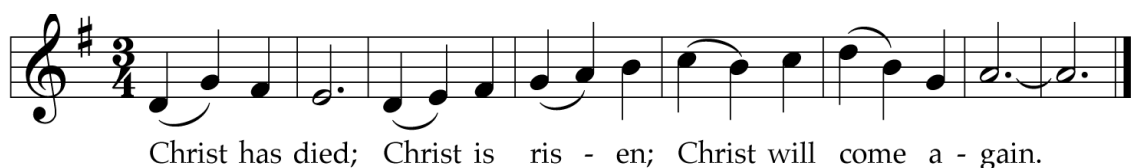


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
the light of the world –
shining at the dawn of creation,
shining in our hearts this day
with a splendor that overshadows
all the beauty of heaven and earth.
In his face we have seen your glory;
through his words we have heard your truth;
by his living and dying and rising
we have come to know
the height and breadth and depth
of your great love.
Remembering your faithfulness and mercy
as we share this bread and cup,
we offer ourselves in your service
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Great is the mystery of faith:

All (sung):

Hymn No. 573



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Now let us share in your Holy Spirit—
poured out in this place, for these people,
upon this bread and cup.

***Storm and Stillness, Breath and Dove, Thunder, Tempest, Whirlwind, Fire,
Comfort, Counselor, Presence, Love, Energies that never tire:
May the church at prayer recall that no single holy name
but the truth behind them all is the God whom we proclaim.***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

John Weicher

POSTLUDE

Chorale on a Melody

Melchior Vulpius
arr. Healey Willan

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 February 7, 113 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Today's worship flowers are given by **Mary Ann Ruegg** to the glory of God and in honor of the ministers of FPC, the staff, and the behind-the-scenes technical team who make our Sunday services possible.

Music Notes:

1. The Prelude is adapted for our quintet from a choral setting of the hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus* (No. 630) by F. Melius Christiansen, who was for many years the director of the St. Olaf College Choir. The images of Jesus in the video come from artists of Guatemala, China, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Japan, and the United States.
2. Thanks to **Kent Foss** and the First Presbyterian Wind Quintet (**Christyn Klinck, Sheya Wehrman, Li-Chen Chin, Brent Curtis, and David Smith**) for their musical contributions to today's service. **Gordon Campbell** continues to serve as interim Minister of Music and organist while Kathy Parkins recovers from shoulder and bicep surgery.

Many thanks to **John Fricks, Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck**, for their behind-the-scenes technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online services.

Portions of today's worship texts are taken from *Book of Common Worship* (2018) and *Call to Worship* (2020-2021). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The **FPC Investment Subcommittee** is seeking 1 or 2 new members. The Subcommittee meets 4 times annually via Zoom (January, April, July, October) to review the church portfolio's performance for the previous quarter. It works with the portfolio manager at Bank of America and reports to the Finance and Investment Committee. A background in finance is not necessary. If interested in serving, please contact [Ed Pritchett](#) (Chair).

HAPPY 150th BIRTHDAY, FPC!

Well, not quite yet, but soon! December 31, 2021 to be exact! This is a **BIG DEAL** and we want to celebrate appropriately! We are looking for a **FEW GOOD PEOPLE** to help us celebrate this milestone in our lives. If you are a good event planner, if you love history, and if you are looking forward to gathering in person together, we invite you to join our **CELEBRATION TEAM**. Be a part of something that happens only once every 150 years! We need you! Contact [Mindy Douglas](#) to join the team.

~ Our Prayer Concerns ~

Condolences:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Chris Brown and family** on the sudden death recently of Chris' friend, **Ed Richards**.

Concerns:

- **Ann Prospero**, diagnosed with COVID-19 and in quarantine at The Laurels of Chatham County
- **Margaret Nelson**, sister of Charlotte Nelson, hospitalized in Asheville
- **Alfred Tisdale**
- **Maddie Tisdale**, recovering from a recent sledding accident

Recovering at their homes

Tom Bloom, recovering from spine surgery

Catherine Dumas, recovering from hip replacement surgery

Dub Gulley

Kerry Holbrook

Robin Morey

Kathy Parkins, recovering from shoulder and bicep surgery

Margaret Sims, undergoing treatment for cancer

Carol Wills

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Regent: **John Kerr**

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Linda Capers, a friend of Li-Chen Chin

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

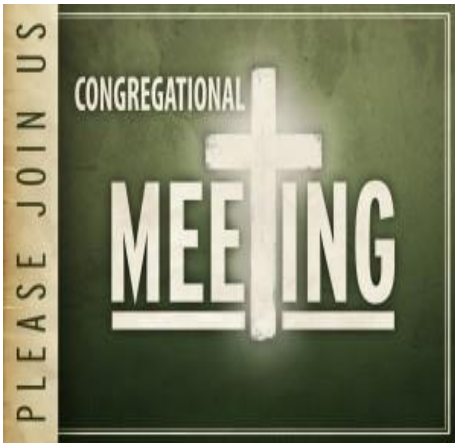
Roberta Kessler, mother of Kristen Brigman

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ade and Sowande, sons of Tolokun Omokunde, pastor of Timothy Darling PC in Oxford

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Nellie, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp, diagnosed with metastatic brain cancer



Sunday, February 21

The FPC Session has called an annual meeting of the congregation to hear a report from the Finance Committee, to vote on changes to terms of call for the pastors, and to elect church officers and persons to serve at-large on the Nominating Committee. The meeting will take place as a Zoom meeting following worship (approx. 12 noon). Access to the meeting will require registration and the link will be shared in advance of the meeting. Members without internet access may call their votes in using a specially provided telephone number.

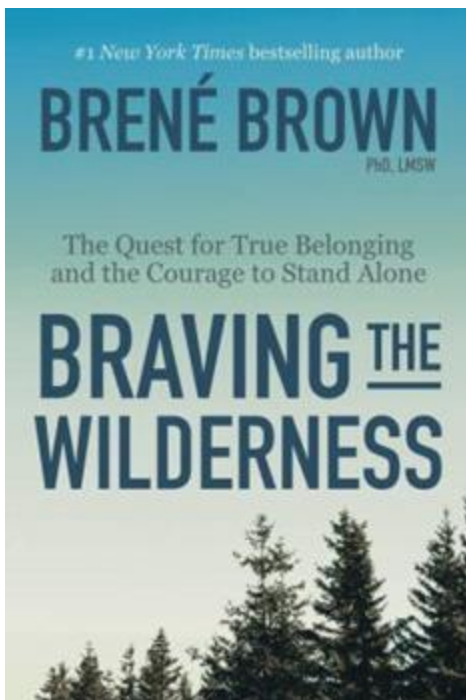


The Planned Giving Committee of FPC presents a Legacy Society Forum "Building Your Christian Legacy" Tuesday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Forum Speaker: Joseph Moore (click [Bio](#))

All are welcome!

Planned gifts, no matter the size, have the power to change lives for generations to come. You can become a Legacy Society member by providing for the future mission and ministry at First Presbyterian Church in your estate plans or through a life-income gift. ([View video](#)) Whatever your financial circumstances or your charitable goals, you can make a gift that benefits you and your loved ones as well as the church's mission of following Jesus through the love of God and love and care for our neighbor. Please join us on February 23 at 11:00 a.m. for this Zoom event. Register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tduCtrzssH93AoVc91uG78MdpikCbuTL>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email on how to join the meeting.



New book study begins February 23!

Brené Brown's

Braving the Wilderness

We will read this seven-chapter book one chapter at a time as we make our way through Lent. Class will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Here is a link to a summary of the book:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/234254/braving-the-wilderness-by-brene-brown-phd-lmsw/>

If you would like your own personal copy of this book, contact [Mindy Douglas](#) to be part of a group order being placed locally with The Regulator Bookshop.

Save the
Date:

Sunday,
Feb. 28,
9:30 am



Macky Alston
McPherson Lecturer

Documentary Filmmaker & Child of FPC
First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Wallace McPherson Alston III, known to all as Macky, was a small boy when his father, Wallace Alston, served First Presbyterian Church as pastor from 1969 through 1974. Macky graduated from Columbia College in 1987 and has become well-known as a documentary filmmaker. *Family Name, Love Free or Die*, and *Questioning Faith: Confessions of a Seminarian* are available on Apple TV. There are links to these and other films on [Macky's website](#).

In his presentation on **February 28 at 9:30 a.m.**, which will be virtual via Zoom, Macky will guide us in a conversation about repairing historic harm in regard to slavery and the Native American genocide and their legacies that live in our political, social, and individual systems today. A documentary filmmaker who has also worked for decades equipping prophetic leaders to speak effectively through the media, Macky is currently co-directing ACTS OF REPARATION, a personal quest to learn from groups across the country committed to acting in ways that establish equity and justice in this nation in the light of what many call its “original sins.”

In our shared conversation, Macky will tell stories of his own quest and the models for repair he has observed. He will then invite us as individuals and as a community to imagine our region and country healed and how we might act toward that end. As a part of the Lectureship, we have invited Macky to return for a follow-up engagement when it is safe to travel and gather.



Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4-6, for now on zoom. Those who attend need to have both audio and video available. Each meeting begins with a short presentation about a part of the grief journey, and then we break into small groups for sharing and conversation. Here are our remaining speakers for February:

February 16: Amy Onstad, "Anger: Ally or Enemy?"

February 23: Mike McCleod, "What Is the Condition of Our Hearts: How Do We Heal?"

Growing thru Grief meets each Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. To register for one of these zoom meetings, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org by 8:00 am on the Monday before the meeting.

SHARING *God's* LOVE THROUGH HELPING THOSE IN NEED!

Support the Day School using Amazon Wish List

Through heroic efforts by the faculty and staff, the school has not experienced any cases of COVID-19, has maintained its 5-Star status, and has kept all faculty and staff on board. At her presentation to the Service and Mission Committee in January, **Executive Director Michele Miller-Cox** noted that the school is doing well and providing a vital service to the community, but it has a need for supplies that are beyond its current capacity to purchase. Rather than asking for donations of supplies, the Day School has set up an Amazon site that lists the supplies needed. Those wishing to contribute can go to the site, purchase items of your choosing, and the supplies will be sent directly to the school. Thank you for your support. The link for the Amazon site is https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QNXF2NAUV1TB?ref=wl_share.

Iglesia Emanuel still needs our support . . .

1. **Bag rice or beans from home.** For instructions and to sign up, contact [Margaret Rubiera](#). Put on music, sing, and have fun while you fill those bags!
2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. For more information, and to sign up, click here: [Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius](#)
3. **Your financial support** is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: emanueldurham.org, or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham NC 27704. Thank you so much! - **Margaret and Miguel Rubiera**

The church buildings remain closed to the public but the Day School is operating on a small scale. Church pastors and administrators are working mostly from their homes. They are reachable by phone and via texting. Their church voicemail and email are being monitored, so feel free to reach out to them (leave/send a message) if you have a need or concern.

[Tom Bloom](#), Business Administrator
[Lenore Champion](#), Children's Ministry Director
[Mindy Douglas](#), Pastor/Head of Staff
[Susan Dunlap](#), Parish Associate
[Sybil King](#), Administrative Assistant



[Mitzi Leshler-Thomas](#), Associate Pastor
[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>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

11 Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud



1 Source and Sov-ereign, Rock and Cloud, For-tress, Foun-tain, Shel-ter, Light,
2 Word and Wis-dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav-ior, Ser-vant, Lamb,
3 Storm and Still-ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem-pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De-fend-er, Mer-cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
Well and Wa-ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
Com-fort, Coun-selor, Pres-ence, Love, En-er-gies that nev-er tire:



May the church at prayer re-call that no sin-gle ho-ly name



but the truth be-hind them all is the God whom we pro-claim.

