

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

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## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

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**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Sonata for Trumpet and Organ, First Movement*      Alan Hovhaness  
Kent Foss, trumpet; Gordon Campbell, organ

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Mindy Douglas

**MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP**      Laura Hanson

**PRELUDE**      *"Allemande" from Cello Suite no. 6*      J.S. Bach  
Ben Maxwell, cello

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      Mindy Douglas

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

**All: when I will make a new covenant with you.**

Leader: And now the promised hour has come,

**All: when the Lord of life will be lifted up.**

**Let us worship God.**

**HYMN No. 826** (verses 1-2)      *Lift High the Cross*      *Crucifer*

Refrain: ***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

***Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.*** (Refrain)

***All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.*** (Refrain)

**CONFESSION OF SIN**      Susan Dunlap

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O Divine Heart which seeks our own:**

**we yearn for your presence in our lives,  
yet turn away from you time and again.**

**We want to serve others,**

**but become obsessed with our own desires.**

**We need your word to fill our emptiness,  
yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world.**

**Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives,  
and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own.**

**O Steadfast Love, in this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls,  
come to us and make us whole.**

**Write your grace upon our hearts,  
so that we might be more forgiving people.  
Write your mercy on our hearts,  
so that we might become more welcoming people.  
Write your hospitality upon our hearts  
so that we might become more like Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Torrell & Vanessa Armstrong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O God of our hearts**

**you yearn to be so close to us  
that we can know you in every breath,  
in every hope, in every relationship.**

**Meet us here today and**

**teach us to recognize  
the covenant of justice, peace and love  
you have written on our hearts.**

**So may our desires become your desires,  
our work become your work,**

**and our community the place where you are sought and found.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Torrell & Vanessa Armstrong

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

John 12:20-33

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"Where Are You Standing?"*

Mindy Douglas

**HYMN No. 757** (verses 1,3,4)

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

*Kingsfold*

Doug Butler, cantor

***Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.***

***Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.***

*May we in service to our God act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*A Declaration of Faith*

Mitzi Leshar-Thomas

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle.  
The people of God have often misused God's promises  
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.  
But in Christ the new world has already broken in  
and the old can no longer be tolerated.  
We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.  
But hope plunges us into the struggle  
for victories over evil that are possible now  
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.  
Hope gives us courage and energy  
to contend against all opposition,  
however invincible it may seem,  
for the new world and the new humanity  
that are surely coming.  
Jesus is Lord!  
He has been Lord from the beginning.  
He will be Lord at the end.  
Even now he is Lord.

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

**INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

Mitzi Leshar-Thomas

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

Mitzi Leshar-Thomas

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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. 826** (verses 3-4)

*Lift High the Cross*

*Crucifer*

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**  
Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)  
So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

## POSTLUDE

*O Lamm Gottes, Unschuldig*

J.S. Bach

Gorgon Campbell, organ

*“O Lamm Gottes, Unschuldig” translated “O Lamb of God, Most Stainless”*

O Lamb of God, most stainless! Who on the Cross didst languish,  
 Patient through all Thy sorrows, though mocked amid Thine anguish;  
 Our sins Thou bearest for us, else had despair reigned o'er us:  
 Have mercy upon us, O Jesu!

**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 March 14, 90 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Today's **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **Cathy and César Guajardo**, in honor of and with much appreciation to the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers.

**Music Notes:**

- We wish to thank Doug Butler (cantor) and Gordon Campbell (organist) for their music leadership in today's worship.
- It is a great pleasure for us once again to have our prelude provided by FPC's own **Ben Maxwell**. Ben is the son of Jody and Julie Maxwell and is currently finishing his cello studies at the New England Conservatory of Music and looking forward to continuing his studies in graduate school next year. We are also grateful to Kent Foss for sharing his trumpet gifts with us.

**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 images accompanying today's online service.

Today's **Prayer of Confession** is taken from the Lectionary Liturgies website:

<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=March+22%2C+2015> . The **Collect** is taken from “*O God of Our Hearts: Prayer for the Fifth Sunday in Lent*” written by the Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey and the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-of-invocation-jeremiah-31.html>. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

**~ Our Concerns ~**

**Memorial Service:** The Lawson family will hold a **Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Dewey Lawson** later today at 2:00 p.m. in the FPC courtyard. Those attending will be limited to Dewey's family and those participating in the service. The FPC congregation and friends of the family are invited to watch a live broadcast of the service on the church's YouTube channel via [this link](#). For other ways to access the service, click [here](#). Please keep the family in your prayers.

**Added this week:**

**John Samulski**, friend of FPC

**Juan Esparza**, colleague of Josh Walters, in a coma following a heart attack

**Cris Cullinan**, friend of Li-Chen Chin who is hospitalized

**Recovering at their homes**

**Grace Abels**

**Tom Bloom**

**Catherine Dumas**

**Kerry Holbrook**

**Robin Morey**

**Margaret Sims**

**Carol Wills**

**Care Communities:**

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

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

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

The Laurels of Chatham County: **Ann Prospero**

**Family and Friends of the Congregation:**

**Carolyn Bonner**, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

**Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden

**Flora Estrella**, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

**Chris James' mother**, suffering from dementia

**Grace**, Chris James' great-niece, suffering from a rare, degenerative condition

**Phil Goss**, a friend of the congregation

**Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Mary Myers**, mother of Christy Gudaitis

**Margaret Nelson**, sister of Charlotte Nelson

**Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman

**Jeanne Sommerville**, mother of Katharine Whitmore

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**These Days** devotional books for **April - June 2021** have arrived. Free copies in large and regular print are available for pickup at FPC or you can request a copy be sent to you by mail. Simply call the church (919-682-5511 x 217) or email [Sybil King](mailto:Sybil.King@fpc.org) to receive a copy.

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## **Flowers for Worship**

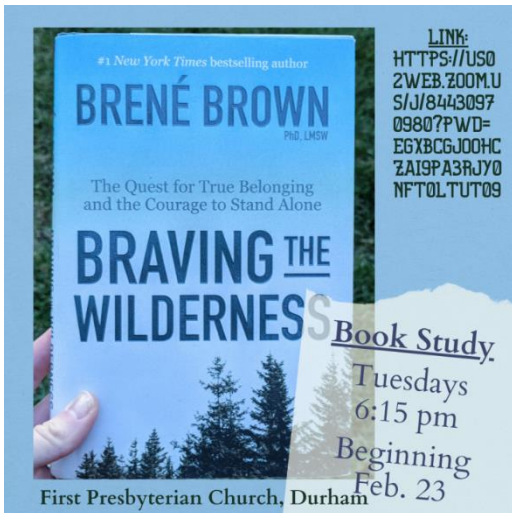
Flower donors are needed for Sundays this spring and summer. If you would like to donate flowers for worship, you can [sign up](#) from the church's website. No internet access? Contact the church office (919-682-5511) for instructions on how to donate flowers.



## Stewardship of our Bodies

What does it mean to be stewards of our bodies during a pandemic? During the month of March, our Stewardship Team is focusing on stewardship of our bodies. Our bodies make all the ways that we work, serve and love in the world possible. In the book *Beyond the Offering Plate*, Ellie Roscher tells us that “stewardship means appreciating the brilliance of our bodies.” She reminds us that our “bodies are not a hindrance to knowledge, but the vehicles with which the self exists and acquires knowledge. I can approach my body with

reverence, curiosity, honesty, and awe. I can see my body clearly as an instrument of knowledge. Taking the posture of reverence and wonder is what I consider stewardship of the body.” In this pandemic time, stewardship of the body has meant wearing a mask to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe, maintaining social distance – and now, gloriously, the opportunity to be vaccinated to prevent further spread, sickness and death. Listen in to Minutes for Stewardship during worship this month as we celebrate the opportunity to grow our knowledge in how to stay healthy and be vaccinated to end this COVID-19 pandemic.

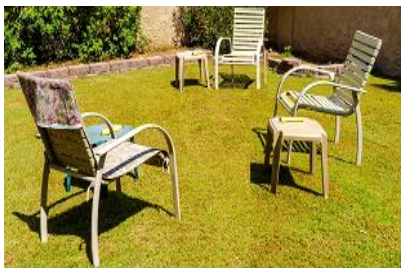


## Lenten Book Study

Brené Brown's

### *Braving the Wilderness*

*Mindy Douglas* is leading a study of this seven-chapter book one chapter at a time during the season of Lent. Class meets on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. Click [here](#) to join the class via Zoom.



## Calling all young adults!

*(you know who you are...footloose and fancy free on a Wednesday evening – somewhere after college and before you're supervising someone else's homework)*

## Pop-up @ the Co-Op

**Wednesday, March 24, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

- We'll meet over masks (Optional: grab food from the co-op)
- Bring your own chair (so we can spread out)
- Bring a question - about a particular scripture, about faith, about why the church does *that*
- Bring an idea = what do we want to do next?
- Questions, contact [Mitzi](#).



Let's Connect!



Missing the mingling that always followed worship?

Join our virtual narthex fellowship and take a few moments to catch up with friends!

**WHEN: Sunday, March 28**

immediately following worship - use [this link](#).

Hosted by your friendly FPC Deacons

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### Remember a Loved One this Easter

Lilies will grace our sanctuary this year on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or remember someone in the bulletin on Sunday, April 4, you can give a lily by completing TWO steps.

**The deadline is Monday, March 29.**

#### Online Users

**STEP 1:** Sign up to donate a lily using [this link](#) to complete the lily donation form.

**STEP 2:** Go to the church's website to make your corresponding donation. Click [here](#).

#### For those without internet access

**STEP 1:** ASAP, call the church office: 919-682-5511 x 215 and request a lily donor card be mailed to you, or share your donor info with FPC staff.

**STEP 2:** ASAP, complete and return the donor card and/or your donation (any amount) by US mail to the church office. Make check payable to *First Presbyterian Church*, memo: Lilies.

Funds received in excess, of the amount needed to purchase lilies, will be ADDED to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This PCUSA special offering is received on Easter Sunday and provides relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters. The link to give online is now active. Click [here](#) to contribute separately to the OGHS offering.



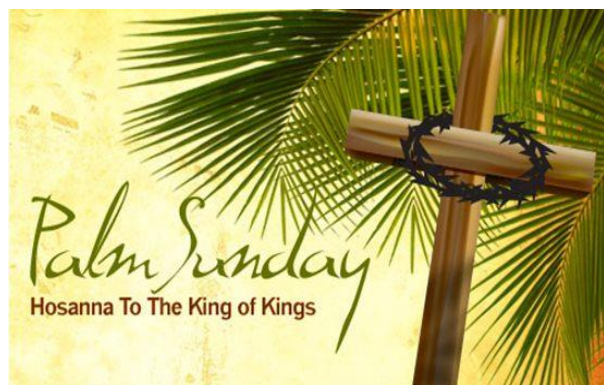
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### Next Sunday, March 28

11:00 a.m. Virtual Worship

(Watch it live-streamed on FPC's YouTube channel.)

**Palm branches** will be available for pick up at FPC beginning Friday, March 26 and will be available through Palm Sunday, March 28. Feel free to pick one up for a friend, neighbor, or fellow FPC'er!





Throughout Holy Week you are invited to experience the **Stations of the Cross** through the eyes of artist Mary Button. The series explores the intersection of Christ's journey to the cross and the global stories of forced migration, relocation of indigenous peoples, and the movement of refugees. Numbered art installations will be set along the sidewalk outdoors at the back of the church. A brochure will be available at the first station, offering information about this ancient practice, each of the stations, and a prayer.

### **Maunder Thursday, April 1**

**7:00 p.m.** - Virtual Worship with Holy Communion  
(Watch on FPC's YouTube channel.  
Click on WORSHIP from the church's website.)

### **Good Friday, April 2**

**All Day** - Stations of the Cross  
(FPC grounds; see information above)

### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

**11 a.m.** - Virtual Worship with Holy Communion  
(Watch on FPC's YouTube channel.  
Click on WORSHIP from the church's website.)

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## **Multiplying the Blessings**

At the Iglesia Emanuel Food Pantry, we see miracles every week. We prepare for 550 families. 590 families show up, and there is enough food for all. Most people come by car. They line up well before the 2 o'clock start time on Wednesday afternoon, waiting patiently for blocks and blocks in the neighborhood behind the church. Many families have 3 or 4 children in the car, and their excited faces tell us how much they look forward to discovering what food awaits them. A few people come by foot. They either live close enough to walk, carrying the heavy bags of food back home with them, or they come by bus.

Come, be part of the miracle at 2504 N Roxboro. Join other volunteers for a 2-hour shift, bag rice and beans from home, donate food, or give a financial donation. Together, we will continue to spread God's love throughout our community in this most tangible way.

To sign up for a 2-hour shift, click [here](#). To bag rice and beans from home, or donate food, click [here](#). To make a financial donation, go to [www.emanueldurham.org](http://www.emanueldurham.org) and click on "Donate." More questions? Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#).



# Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.  
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

757

# Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the  
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man  
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y  
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

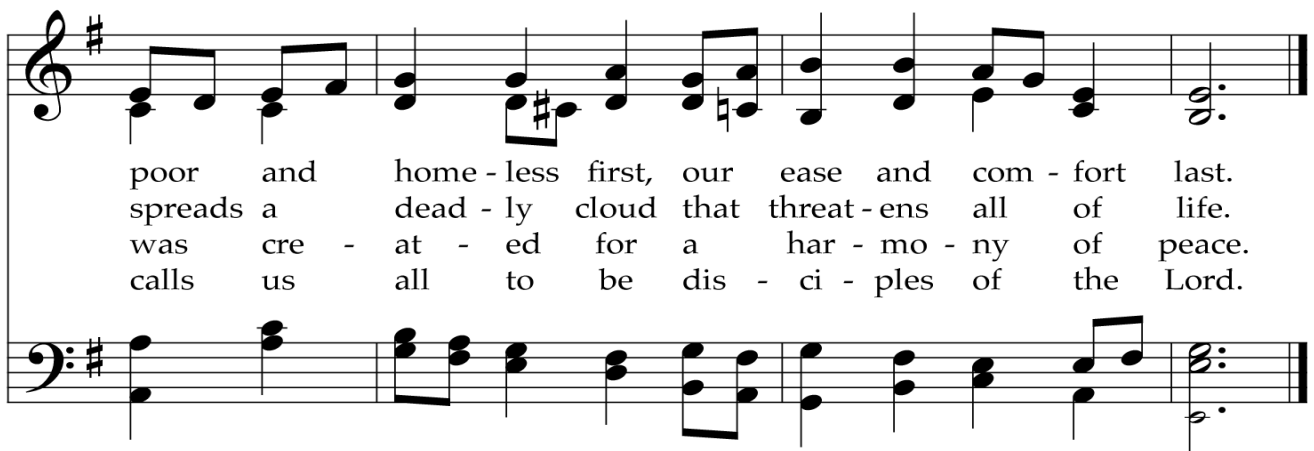
Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make  
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -  
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to  
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their  
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly  
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -  
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION



thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the  
proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord  
store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that  
we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who



poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.  
calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

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*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 Lesher-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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.