

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

GATHERING MUSIC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Robert Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP (Creation Care Committee)

Cris Rivera

PRELUDE

Christ Is Arisen

Tanzanian melody,
arr. Kerr

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On the cross, Jesus suffered and died.

All: **We are witnesses: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: But now Jesus is risen from the dead.

All: **We are witnesses: He is risen indeed!**

John Weicher

HYMN NO. 246

Christ Is Alive

Truro

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound

to distant years in Palestine,

but saving, healing, here and now,

and touching every place and time.

CONFession OF SIN

John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**What love you have given us, O God,
that we should be called your children.**

**What love you have given us, O Christ,
that we should share a table with you.**

Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children:

when we do not recognize your image

in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends;

when we do not share our own tables,

forgetting that we need each other.

Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace,

and teach us to follow in your way.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Response Hymn

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Al-le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love;
come to us through your holy word,
and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

Acts 3:12-16

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

Psalm 4

Jane Wettach

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36b-48

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"*You Are Witnesses*"

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

HYMN NO. 246 (verses 3-5)

Christ Is Alive

Truro

*In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*People of faith, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,*

*till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) *A Declaration of Faith* Susan Dunlap

In forming his people and sending them into the world
Jesus called individuals to be disciples.
They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings,
and to follow him in life and death.
We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.
It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.
Forgiven by God and supported by our family in faith,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING Susan Dunlap

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Mindy Douglas

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS Mindy Douglas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Mindy Douglas

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. 295 *Go to the World!* *Sine Nomine*

*Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being:

You have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light clearly
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Wilbur Held



Kids are invited for some fun on the playground. Parents are invited for some fellowship time. Take home a popsicle!



The First Pres CROP Walk wraps up this weekend with a walk starting at Northgate Park at 2:00 p.m. We are walking to raise money to provide more meals for hungry children and families in Durham, and greater food security in communities around the world. FPC's walkers include **Caroline Rourk, Emily Wilkins, Julie and Jody Maxwell, Kerry Holbrook, Marie Sappenfield, Sharon Hirsch, Shirley Frederick, Tim O'Brien, Mindy Douglas, Karolyn Mangeot, Andy Henry, Jane Williams, and Tom and Ellen Bacon**.

Click on this [link](#) to join the FPC's team, and to make an online donation in support of those walking. For more information, contact [Tom Bacon](#), FPC's coordinator, at 919-219-4826.

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 April 11, 93 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **Emily Durham Diy and Carlo Diy**, in loving memory of **Rodger W. Durham**, father of Emily and grandfather to **Anna Ruth** and **Owen Diy**. This year Rodger would have celebrated his 80th birthday and 40th wedding anniversary to his wife, **LuAnn**.

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 **worship texts** are taken from *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids (Yr. B 2014-2015)*, *Feasting on the Word (Yr. B Vol 1)* and *Church of Scotland, Book of Common Order (1940)*, inspired by *Augustine, Conf. 1.1*. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

Our Condolences:

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Charlotte Nelson and family** on the death of her sister, **Margaret Nelson**, who died April 11th in Asheville.

Wedding Anniversary:

Vernon and Beth Neece celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 17th.

Concerns added this week:

Ed Overton and wife Abby, friends of Doug Butler; Abby suffered a stroke following surgery.

Recovering at their homes

Tom Bloom

Kerry Holbrook

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

Franzi Rokoske's father, recovering from a fall

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

Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Carlton Rounds' mother, who is fighting cancer. Carlton is a friend of Li-Chen Chin.

John Samulski, friend of FPC



Footloose and fancy free on a Thursday night?

Interested in connecting with others whose only homework is their *own laundry*?

Join with other young adults at Durham Central Park

Thursday, April 22 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Grab a bite from the Durham Food Hall if you wish and let's reconnect!

Questions? Email [Mitzi Lesher-Thomas](mailto:Mitzi.Lesher-Thomas@durhamnc.gov).

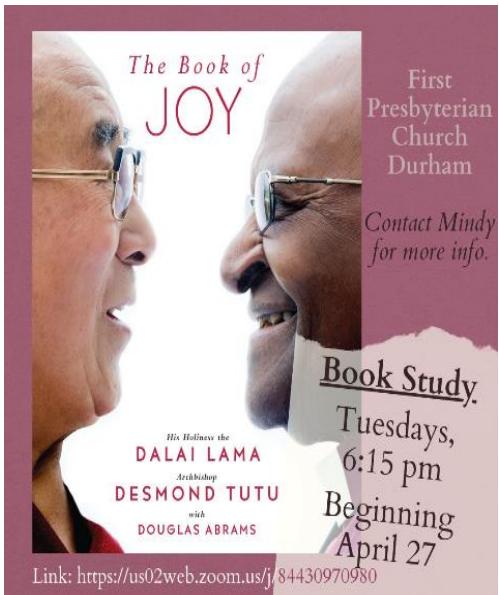


Prayer Time in the Sanctuary!

Those who signed up: Come hear the organ, see dear ones, and be in prayer together.

The dates are **April 22** and **April 30**. Please let us know if you need a ride.

Contact **Mitzi Lesher-Thomas** for more information: 919-444-1249.



Spring Book Study

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. beginning April 27th

Mindy Douglas will lead the study.

Click [here](#) to join via Zoom.

About the book: In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? This book offers readers a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together.



Earth Day and Faith Climate Action Month is upon us!

This April/May, participate with the FPC Creation Care team with these steps:

- 1) **Learn:** Attend Faith and Community adult faith formation on Sundays through April to hear about current projects and opportunities
- 2) **Discuss:** Virtually [screen the film Kiss the Ground for free April 16-26](#) and join our monthly Creation Care meeting on Thursday May 15th, 7pm for a group discussion on how regenerative agriculture has the potential to rebalance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world.
- 3) **Advocate:** Break free from plastic and learn about bills aimed to combat plastic pollution at its source <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/webinars>
- 4) **Get out:** Join the FPC Community clean-up with Keep Durham Beautiful, May 8th, Long Meadow Park, 9-11:30am
- 5) **Sign up:** for the CC Team's newsletter for continued information on greening our congregation and caring for God's creation: <https://mailchi.mp/cba62ad25247/fpc-durham-creation-care-info>

The graphic features a dark brown, textured background resembling soil. On the left, the words 'KISS -the- GROUND' are written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, smaller text reads 'Join IPL to view the film, Kiss the Ground Free, April 10-26'. At the bottom left is the logo for 'Interfaith Power & Light: A Religious Response to Global Warming'. On the right side, the title 'Sacred Ground: A Message of Hope' is displayed in a white, serif font. Below the title are two circular portraits: one of a man named Josh Tickell and another of a woman named Veronica Kyle. Their names and titles ('Filmmaker/Director' and 'Faith in Place') are listed next to their respective circles. The word 'Plus' is centered between the two portraits. At the bottom right, the text 'webinar April 21, 11am PT/2pm ET' is displayed.

Calling all Scratchers...

(...anyone who's got 'adulting' well, mostly figured out but isn't yet wondering where all the time went...)

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 8

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Camp New Hope

Part pop-up (come when you can, leave when you must), part picnic, part time to pray and plan.

MORE INFO COMING SOON!

Volunteers needed at Urban Ministries

For years, FPC has committed to provide volunteers to help prepare and serve meals at Urban Ministries of Durham. Even through the pandemic, members of FPC have faithfully served as volunteers. If you are fully vaccinated and can serve again, please know that you are needed. As always, only volunteer when you are comfortable doing so.

- **CANCELLED:** Monday, April 19, assist with lunch prep 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **CANCELLED:** Thursday, April 22, assist with lunch prep 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **Friday, April 30,** prepare breakfast and fill take-out boxes, 7 - 9 a.m.

Contact [Jen McGonigle](#) to sign up for a slot or call her at 202-421-5870. If you have interest in serving at Urban Ministries at other times and in other ways, let Jen know. Click this link:

<https://umdurham.org/get-involved/opportunities.html> to see other available opportunities.

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. 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 and click on donate." More questions? Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#).

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 Lesser-Thomas, Associate Pastor

Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator

Kathy Perkins, 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 E. MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Go to the World!

295



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.