

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 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

Piano Meditation on Celtic Tunes

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, & CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

PRELUDE

Rondeau in D

arr. Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Dunlap

Leader: Gather us in,

All: the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,

Leader: the tired and the aching who long for the nourishment found at your feast.

All: Gather us in,

Leader: the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering,

All: the puzzled and pondering who long for the company found at your feast.

Leader: Gather us in,

All: the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior,

Leader: the never inferior who long for the levelling found at your feast.

All: Gather us in,

Leader: the bright and the bustling, the stirrers and shakers,

All: the kind laughter makers who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

HYMN No. 401 (VERSES 1-2)

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

*Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

It can be so hard to get up these days,

O God in whose image each human is made.

**We have become accustomed to our couches and our smaller lives,
out of an abundance of caution and of just enough faith.**

**And somewhere along the way, we settled for that –
for small, narrow, and predictable.**

**But you have never been very predictable,
and you are certainly neither small nor narrow.**

So, forgive us for clinging to the couch when you present us with a wilderness road.

Forgive us for staying in a routine when you call us to new ways of faithfulness.

Forgive us for remaining silent when you invite us to speak faithfully.

Teach us anew how to be faithful to you in these strange times.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Amy Dillon

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: How can we understand your Word, unless you guide us, O Lord?

Without your presence, they are just words on a page.

**Send your Holy Spirit to guide and reveal,
so that we may understand,**

and in understanding, come to know you better. Amen.

PSALM READING

Psalm 22:25-31

Amy Dillon

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8:26-40

John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

John Weicher

All that is spectacular,
 all that is plain
 have their origin in you;
 all that is lovely,
 all who are loving
 point to you as their fulfillment.

And grateful as we are
 for the world we know
 and the universe beyond our ken,
 we particularly praise you,
 whom eternity cannot contain,
 for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living,
 for his compassion which changes our hearts,
 for his clear speaking
 which contradicts our harmless generalities,
 for his disturbing presence,
 his innocent suffering,
 his fearless dying,
 his rising to life breathing forgiveness,
 we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises
 for the promise of the Holy Spirit,
 who even yet, even now,
 confronts us with your claims
 and attracts us to your goodness.

All (sung):

Sanctus

Land of Rest (Hymn No. 552)



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the



pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfills your purpose,
we fall silent and remember him who came
because words weren't enough.

Setting our wisdom,
our will,
our words aside,
emptying our hearts,
and bringing nothing in our hands,
we yearn for the healing,
the holding,
the accepting,
the forgiving
which Christ alone can offer.

(silence)

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us
from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of him
whose food we now share.

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**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.**

Words of Institution

Mindy Douglas

Communion of the People

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: In gratitude,
in deep gratitude for this moment,
this meal,
these people
we give ourselves to you.**

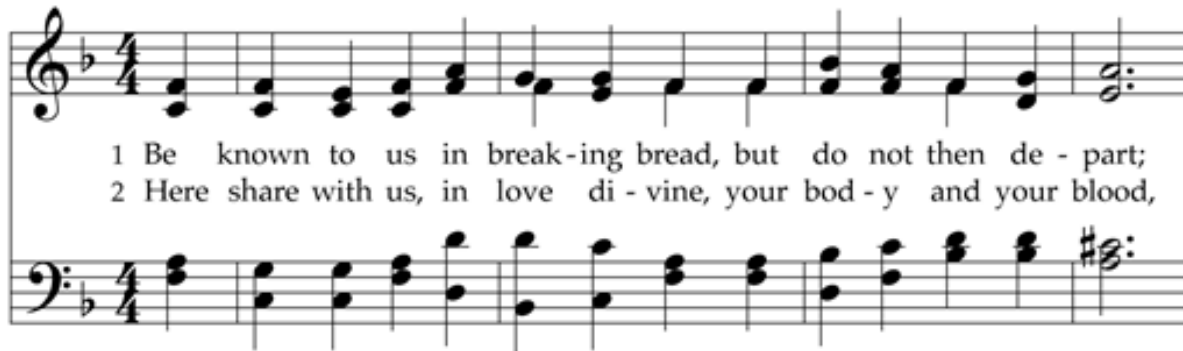
**Take us out as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.**

Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Amen.

HYMN No. 500

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

St. Flavian



1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,



Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
that liv - ing bread, that heav - en - ly wine be our im - mor - tal food.

BENEDICTION

John Weicher

POSTLUDE

Postludium in D

arr. Charles Callahan

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 Creation Care Sunday, April 25, 89 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **BJ and Parker Morton** in recognition of their 59th wedding anniversary coming up on May 19, 2021.

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 grateful to our program staff for the images accompanying today’s online service.

Today's **worship texts** are taken from *A Wee Worship Book, fourth incarnation*. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Copies of These Days devotional books (good through June 2021) 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@fpcdurham.org) to receive a copy.

~ Our Concerns ~

Added this week:

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

Recovering at their homes

Kerry Holbrook

Margaret Sims

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

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

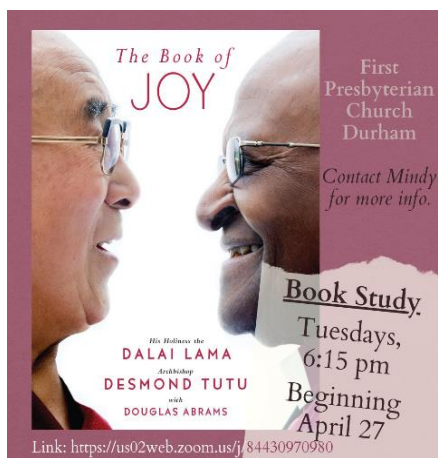
Phil Goss, a friend of the congregation

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ed Overton and wife Abby, friends of Doug Butler

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

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



Spring Book Study

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Mindy Douglas leads the study.

Click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84430970980) to join via Zoom.

Faith Climate Action Month is upon us!

This May, participate with the FPC Creation Care team with these activities:

- 1) **Join** FPC's monthly Creation Care meetings; the next one is **Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m.** We will discuss how regenerative agriculture has the potential to rebalance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world.
- 2) **Advocate:** Break free from plastic and learn about bills aimed to combat plastic pollution at its source: <https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/webinars>
- 3) **Sign up:** for the Creation Care 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>. You can view the April Creation Care newsletter [here](#).



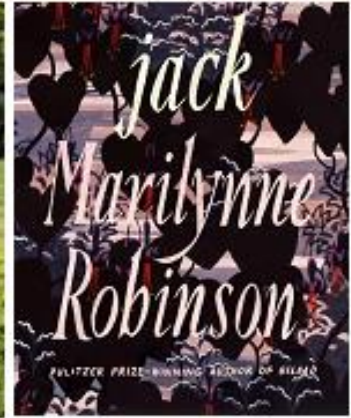
Saturday, May 8

As part of our ongoing recognition of the importance of our stewardship of the earth, the Service and Mission Committee and the Creation Care Committee will be holding a **Durham Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 8, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.** We will be cleaning up **Long Meadow Park on Liberty Street**, just a few blocks east of the church, in collaboration with Keep Durham Beautiful. All ages are welcome to join us, and it's a great way to safely socialize with other members of the congregation while doing something worthwhile for our community. Gloves, trash bags and grabbers will be provided, or you can bring your own. Since we won't be able to have sign-up sheets at church as we normally would, just contact [Tom Bacon](#) to let us know you would like to join us.

Grounds Workday at FPC

Saturday, May 15 (weather permitting)
9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Come prepared to do some pruning, weeding, and planting
Contact [Barbara Buckley](#) for more information.



Spring Fellowship Opportunities

FPC is full of people with a rich variety of interests. From birding to book discussions, beer tasting, and backyard gardens. [CLICK HERE](#) to check out the variety of opportunities to meet someone new, indulge a curiosity, or connect with other enthusiasts. Please sign up for opportunities that best fit the interests of you and your household.

Please note - out of love for one another and in accordance with CDC and our COVID Team guidelines we continue to limit the size of gatherings and ask that you mask and stay socially distant.

Some events involve food or drink - this is permissible if appropriate distance is maintained.

One final note - some offerings begin at a member's home - these addresses will be sent to those who have signed up closer to the date of the event.

Questions? Email [Mitzi](#).



First Friends May Fellowship Events

All gatherings are planned for outdoors if it isn't raining.

Look for a signupgenius.com link.

12 people max for each gathering.

HOSTS: Wendy and Mac McCorkle

Dine at our house - Friday May 7 at 6:00 p.m.

HOSTS: Kim and Jon Abels

Dinner on the deck - May 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We'll provide grilled main dishes and dessert and welcome salads and sides.

HOSTS: Jane Wettach and Paul Baldasare

"Picnic Potluck" on Saturday, May 22 starting at 5:30 p.m.

We will provide ham biscuits; guests should bring "picnic" sides or dessert.



JOIN US ...

(especially Scratchers / young adult families)

Pop-Up, Play, Pray, and Plan

Saturday, May 8

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Camp New Hope

9:00 a.m. - Bring your coffee / enjoy some conversation

10:00 a.m. - Join us for a child friendly devotion at the amphitheater by the lake

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. - Lenore Champion will provide some programming for children, while adults have time to reconnect and plan for the upcoming year

11:45 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - Pack your own picnic and plan to hang around and enjoy some fellowship time at camp.

Questions/concerns contact [Mitzi](#).



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 speakers for May and early June:

May 4	Artie Hendricks	Vicarious Grief: What is it and why am I experiencing it?
May 11	Rabbi Greyber	To be announced
May 18	Donna Kaye	Keeping Your Loved Ones Close While Saying Yes to Life
May 25	To be announced	
June 1	David Franzen	How do I know if getting professional care is needed?

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

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 Leshner-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>.

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.