

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

GATHERING MUSIC

Ricercare IV

Johann Jacob Froberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This

Anthony Giamanco

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Dunlap

Leader: We gather to worship as people of Easter,

All: people who know life is stronger than death.

Leader: We gather to worship as children of God,

All: children loved and claimed by the risen Lord.

Leader: We gather to worship as the body of Christ,

All: the church called out for service in the world.

Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

HYMN No. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.*

*Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**O God, whose love knows no bounds,
forgive us when we fail to reflect your loving kindness.**

**When we turn away from the goodness of your love,
call us back with the tender voice of a caring friend.**

When we stumble over the gift of your grace,
 lift us up with the strong arms of a loving parent.
 When we are certain that we are alone in the chaos of this world,
 shower us with peace, the gentle breeze of an evening rain.
 When we cannot feel the flowing of your peace,
 show us your love with the hands and feet of Christ, your love incarnate.
 Forgive us, risen Christ, of all the ways we fall short,
 and teach us to be agents of resurrection in the world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response Hymn (refrain only)

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain

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

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

David Smith

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Loving God,**

help us to love others as Christ has loved us.

Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend,

and teach us to abide in your love,

that we may show that love to the world. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:44-48

David Smith

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM RESPONSE (HYMN NO. 639)

O Sing a New Song

David Smith, cantor

(Psalm 96)

After the refrain is introduced by the cantor and organist,
 please join in singing the refrain where indicated (R).



*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to God and praise God's name.*

*Proclaim God's salvation day by day;
tell of God's glory among the nations,
and God's marvels to all the people. (R)*

*The Lord is great and worthy of all praise,
to be feared more than all gods;
all other gods are merely idols.*

*For the Lord made the heavens!
O the splendor and majesty of God's presence!
O the power and beauty of God's temple. (R)*

*Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all its creatures;
be glad, you fields, and all your fruit.*

*Shout for joy, all trees of the woods,
at the presence of God, who now comes,
who comes to judge the earth with right and the people with truth. (R)*

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Love Up Close"

Mindy Douglas

Hymn No. 366 (verses 1-2) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.*

*Take away the love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

**Christ calls us to live for our neighbors.
Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor
to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.
His life in behalf of others
led to persecution and death.
He commanded his disciples to live the same way.
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures
as our neighbors on this planet.
Christ teaches us
to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.
It is part of our discipline
to live in simplicity,
avoiding greed and luxury
that threaten our neighbor's survival.
We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies,
to accept the risk and pain
which love involves.**

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

John Weicher

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Mitzi Lesher-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. 366 (verses 3-4) *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

***Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.***

***Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

CLOSING Prayer

Mindy Douglas

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

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Spirit

Malcolm Archer

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 May 2, 78 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The ***flowers*** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory by Caroline Davis Rourk for her parents ***Malcolm H. Rourk Jr. and Jane Davis Rourk***, her brother ***Malcolm Henderson Rourk III*** and her grandmother ***Margaret Smith Davis***.

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 ***Jennie Alwood*** for the images accompanying today’s online service.

Today’s ***worship texts*** are taken from Call to Worship, PCUSA. ***Hymn texts and music*** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Concerns ~

Ashok Kumar, co-worker of Torrell Armstrong

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

Recovering at their homes

Kerry Holbrook

Margaret Sims

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: *Julian Boswell*

Coasdaile 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.

It's time to celebrate 150 years

First Pres turns 150 years old in December 2021 and we want your input in planning a year of celebratory experiences around the past 150 years with a nod toward the next 150 years. From Sept 2021 to May 2022 we plan to celebrate with a series of events focusing on:

- 1) our commitments to local mission,
- 2) our passion for worship and the arts, and
- 3) our love for challenging education.

And so we need YOUR ideas. Choose from one of these two dreaming and planning sessions where we will break into small groups around the three areas above and identify celebratory experiences in each area.

#1 - Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. - Prefer zoom? - join us at this link

<https://renci.zoom.us/j/93966284611?pwd=RGRQMDFURFFwNGpodk5sakFRM2srdz09>

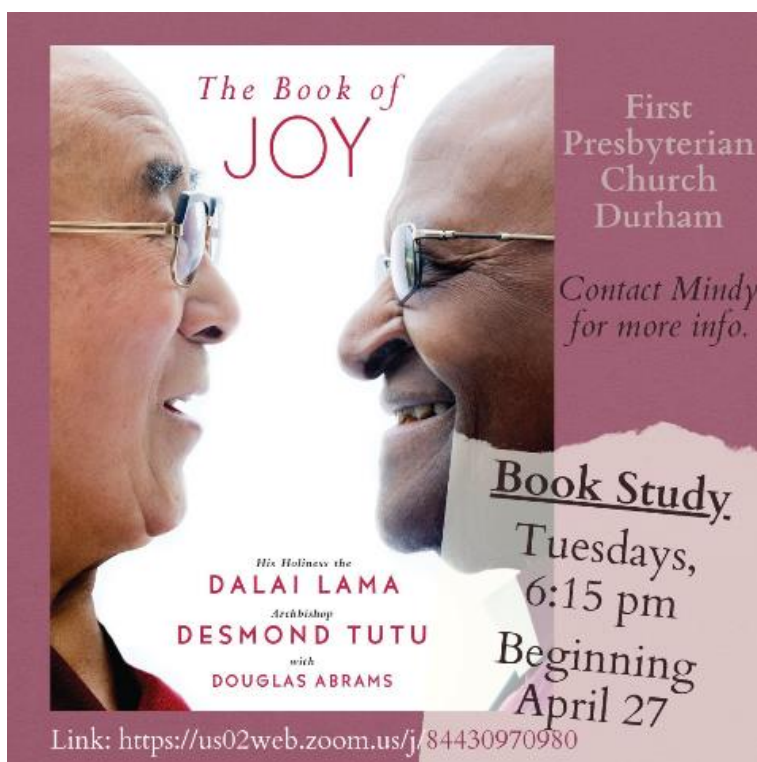
#2 - Saturday May 15 at 9:30 a.m. - Comfortable and eager to gather in person? Meet at FPC for socially distanced in-person conversations. (Depending on numbers we may be outside so dress comfortably and bring a favorite camp chair)

Questions? Contact *Jon Abels*, *Dawn Shelton*, or *Mitzi Lesher-Thomas*

Faith Climate Action Month is upon us!

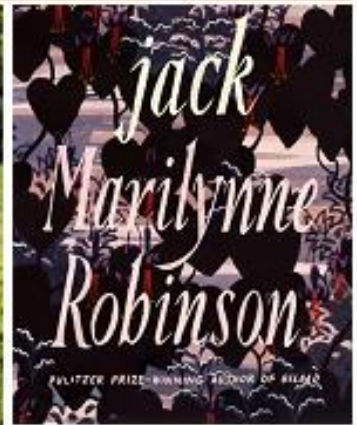
This May, participate with the FPC Creation Care team with these activities:

- 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>.
 - 4) You can view the Creation Care newsletter [here](#).
-



Spring Book Study

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.
Mindy Douglas leads the study.
Click [here](#) to join via Zoom.



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. **Remaining activities are Birding (May 15), Disc Golf (May 15), and Book Discussion (June 6).** We are continuing to limit the size of gatherings and ask that you mask and stay socially distant. Questions? Email [Mitzi](#).

First Friends May Fellowship Events

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

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

12 people max for each gathering.

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.



Get yours while supplies last!

Pandemic life at FPC has taught us two very important fashion lessons. One is that quality masks can say a lot about a person. And the other is from style icon Kathy Parkins – socks complete any ensemble. Building on those lessons, the youth of the church are holding a socks and mask fundraiser. **All proceeds go to benefit the food pantry of Iglesia Emanuel**, whose ministry has been vital to the Durham community during these last 14 months. **Between now and May 23 (Pentecost Sunday), please click on the links below to order a FPC mask and/or FPC socks.** Because of the pandemic, we've chosen to have items delivered directly to you for a small shipping fee, instead of picking them up at the church. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [John Weicher](#). Thanks for your support.

Love in the Heart of Durham,
The Youth Ministry Committee

[Mask Link](#)

[Socks Link](#)



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 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](#).

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

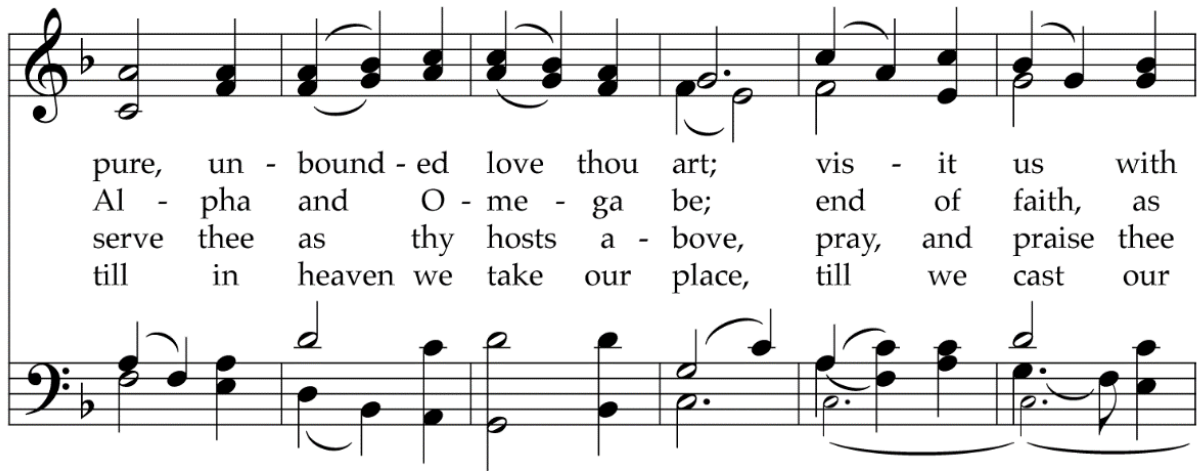
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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 or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

305 E. MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511