

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

CALL TO WORSHIP (from 1 Peter 1:17-19, 23)

Leader: Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

People: **Alleluia!**

Leader: By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

People: **Alleluia!**

Leader: By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

People: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

OPENING HYMN (*Be Thou My Vision*, verse 1)

Slane

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Almighty God,

we know that in Jesus you have shattered the power of sin and death.

We also know that we remain captive to our own doubts and fears.

Forgive us for the ways we question your presence and activity in our world.

Forgive us for our apathy toward those in deepest need.

Turn our hearts to you so that we might use the light of your love

to guide our way forward in these difficult days.

Change us and make us new,

that we may know the joy of life abundant

given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;

People: **Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.**

Leader: Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea

People: **Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures
to the disciples on the road to Emmaus
and set their hearts ablaze.
By the power of your Spirit
kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed,
that we may receive you with joy. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 1:17-25 From *The Message Bible*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING Luke 24:13-35 From *New Revised Standard Bible*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION "Walking the Sacred Road" Mindy Douglas

HYMN RESPONSE (*Be Thou My Vision*, verse 2) *Slane*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*) 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.**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

INVITATION TO AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

(The Hunger for Change Offering is received today.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Be Thou My Vision*, verse 3)

Slane

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

People: **Because God inclined an ear to me,
therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.**

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

. . . 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.

RESPONSE HYMN (*Be Thou My Vision*, verse 4)

Slane

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray. Open unto me,
People: **Light for my darkness.**
Leader: Courage for my fear.
People: **Hope for my despair.**
Leader: Open unto me, peace for my turmoil.
People: **Joy for my sorrow.**
Leader: Strength for my weakness.
People: **Wisdom for my confusion.**
Leader: Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins.
People: **Love for my hates.**
Leader: Thy Self for my self.
People: **Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.**

-Howard Thurman, 1900-1981

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2019-2020 Nominating Committee Report

Jane Wettach

Election of Officers and at-large members to the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee

Election instructions:

During this virtual Congregational Meeting, you can nominate from the floor by calling 919-226-0073 and leaving your name and nominee information. Please make sure you have the permission of the one you are nominating. You will vote using the online link provided in this morning's email. Members with no email should call 919-226-0073 to both make a nomination from the floor and cast your vote. Nominations close at 12:30 p.m. The voting window is from 1:00-3:00 p.m. today, regardless of the method (online link or phone) used.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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 19, 118 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. streamed broadcast of worship.

Portions of **today's worship texts and music** were taken from *Feasting on the Word and Glory to God* Presbyterian hymnal. Music reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Church staff are working from their homes under the Stay-at-home Order for the state of North Carolina. If you need assistance, you may call the church office (919-682-5511) and leave a message, or email a specific staff person. Thank you for your patience as we respond to your calls and emails. Please read church emails and check our social media to stay up-to-date.

Children and Youth – Are you Connected? If you are not receiving a separate weekly email connecting you to FPC online activities and events for children and youth, contact John Weicher to be added to the list.

These Days devotional booklets for April - June 2020 are now available at the church in regular and large print. Contact the office (919-682-5511) to arrange to pick up a copy from the church, or to have one mailed to you.

Lenten Book Studies

The study of **Call It Grace** by Serene Jones and led by Mindy Douglas is meeting online on Tuesdays from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. using Zoom. If you wish to join this discussion group, contact Mindy Douglas.

All are welcome to join the Women's Spirituality Group in a study of **Helpmates, Harlots and Heroes** by Alice Bellis, via Zoom on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15 p.m. If you wish to join this discussion group, contact Deborah Momsen-Hudson.

Winesdays on Wednesdays goes Virtual

You are invited to FPC's Virtual **Winesday Happy Hour** each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Join in with your beverage of choice! Contact Laurie Williamson or Mindy for the link to join this group.

~ Our Concerns ~

John Kerr, a patient at Duke Hospital

Camilla Crampton, companion of Mal King, a patient at UNC- Hillsborough

Margaret Mubanga

All who have been impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin, Henderson Rourk**

Dubose Center at The Cedars (Chapel Hill): **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **Ann Prospero**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center, Durham: **Jean Lazarides**

Southern Living for Seniors, Louisburg: **Phillip Herndon**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Tiffany Barber, niece of Christyn Klinck

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Paula Cope, sister of Sam Miglarese

Becky Evans, sister of Vernon Neece

Dolores Ewald, mother-in-law of Susan Ewald

Shannon Johnson, daughter of Mary Putman

Chris Kovach, friend of Jeanne Hervey

Doug Neece, brother of Vernon Neece

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Stimulus Fund approved!

The FPC Session voted to establish a Stimulus Fund to allow the congregation to support relief efforts from crises caused by the COVID-19 virus. The fund will allow people who do not need their stimulus money, or who have extra funds to support those in need, to donate to the church through the Stimulus Fund. The Service and Mission Committee will determine how to distribute the monies to organizations responding to the greatest needs. We invite you to give to this fund by check, church website (click Donate button), or text-giving (code: STIMULUS).

Ways to Give to First Presbyterian Church

- Check made payable to First Presbyterian Church and mailed to the church
- Bill Pay initiated by you through your bank
- Direct Debit (monthly) from a checking account (contact Tom Bloom for required form)
- Text Giving (Contact Tom Bloom if you need instructions)
- Appreciated Stock (Contact Tom Bloom before initiating a stock transfer)
- Credit or Debit Card (Click DONATE on the church's website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>)
- Charitable Distribution from an IRA (For persons aged 70½; contact your IRA administrator)

EVENING PRAYERS



Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 8 PM
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESDURHAM/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/)

You do not need to have a Facebook account to participate. Simply go online to: <https://www.facebook.com/Firstpresdurham/> each Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. If you are asked to create an account, just click “not at this time.”

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
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>.

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