

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2020

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

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**GATHERING MUSIC** *Two Voluntaries (C, G)* G.F. Handel

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** John Weicher

**MINUTE FOR PEACEMAKING** (video)

**MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP** Marie Sappenfield

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in e minor* Nicholas Bruhns

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (PSALM 108:1-4) Susan Dunlap

Leader: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;

All: **I will sing and make melody. Awake, my soul!**

Leader: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.

All: **I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples,  
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

**For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

**HYMN** No. 610, verses 1-3 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Azmon  
(Verse 1 may be sung in English or Spanish.)

*O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King  
the triumphs of God's grace!*

*Mil voces para celebrar  
a mi Libertador,  
Las glorias de su majestad,  
los triunfos de su amor.*

*The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health, and peace.*

*Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive,  
The mournful waken to rejoice, the poor in heart believe.*

**CONFESSION OF SIN** John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free  
from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and  
grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the  
light of the world.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Carl Rist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O God, fill us with your Spirit  
and humble our hearts  
so that we can hear your Word. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Exodus 17:1-7

Carl Rist

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 21:23-32

Susan Dunlap

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"By What Authority"*

Susan Dunlap

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Doug Butler

**God delivered God's people.**

**When Abraham's descendants were slaves in Egypt,**

**God heard their cries and prayers.**

**God remembered God's promise**

**and sent Moses to free them from bondage.**

**We declare God's steadfast love and sovereign power.**

**The Lord can be trusted to keep promises.**

**The Lord still acts in the affairs of individuals and nations**

**to set oppressed and persecuted people free.**

**HYMN No. 435**

*There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

*In Babilone*

***There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.***

***There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.***

***There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.***

***There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.***

***For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.***

***And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.***

***If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.***

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Lenore Champion

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

John Weicher

*The Hunger for Change Offering is received today.*

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

John Weicher

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

(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.**

**HYMN No. 610, verses 4-5      *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.  
To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.***

*Azmon*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Susan Dunlap

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**  
Leader: Let us pray.  
I bind unto myself today  
the power of God to hold and lead,  
All: **God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,  
God's ear to hearken to my need,**  
Leader: the wisdom of my God to teach,  
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,  
All: **the word of God to give me speech,  
God's heavenly host to be my guard.**  
Leader: Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
All: **Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,**  
Leader: Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
All: **Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Susan Dunlap

*Following today's worship you are invited to remain online for our Stewardship Campaign Kickoff!*

**STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION**

Sharon Hirsch and George Bernhardt

**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 September 20th, 108 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from Book of Common Worship (1993). **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* (PCUSA hymnal) under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

**Many thanks** to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, and Jay Klinck** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our virtual worship live broadcasts each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images she finds to accompany our online worship.

**Peacemaking  
Season  
is  
here!**

**September 6 – October 4**  
***Confronting hopelessness,  
thwarting division***

**Empowering congregations and individuals to  
become peacemakers themselves.**

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. FPC will receive the PCUSA Peace & Global Witness Offering on Sunday, October 4. You may mail or bring your offering to the church by October 4th or click [here](#) to give online.

*Save the Date*  
October 4, 2020 4:00pm



*Worship Service and  
Service of Installation*

Rev. L. British Hyrams  
Presbyterian Campus Minister  
at North Carolina Central University

**\*\*Link to register for virtual service/event.\*\***  
**[www.nhpresbytery.org/nccu-installation](http://www.nhpresbytery.org/nccu-installation)**

## ~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

**SYMPATHIES:** The love and concern of the congregation are extended to **Valerie McMillian** on the death of her mother, **Evelyn Bass**, on September 20<sup>th</sup>. She was 101 years old. A small family service was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center in Durham.

**CONCERNS:**

**Harold Dunlap**

**Karl Hanson**, father of Laura Hanson, in ICU in Kansas following surgery

**Roger Kalthoff**, husband of Jane Williams, recovering from a toe amputation

**Sam Miglarese**, recovering from retinal surgery

**Jane Rourk**, receiving care at the Pavilion at Croasdaile Village

**Margaret Sims**, hospitalized at Duke this week, recovering at Hillcrest Convalescent

**Jerry Walter**, friend of FPC, awaiting a heart for transplant at Duke

**Carol Wills**

All those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Those displaced in California, Oregon, and the state of Washington because of wild fires, and along the Gulf Coast because of hurricanes and resulting floods.

**Care Communities:**

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

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

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

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Rose Vista Village /Kinston Assisted Living, Kinston NC: **Phillip Herndon**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

**Family and Friends of the Congregation:**

**Brendan Bequette**, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

**Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden

**Becky Evans**, sister of Vernon Neece

**Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation

**Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman

**Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, friend of the congregation

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## KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!

Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) has launched a hygiene drive to keep our partner pantries fully stocked with the supplies Durhamites need. They are seeking the following items:

CDC-approved disinfectant wipes or sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)

hand sanitizer

empty spray bottles

paper towels

toilet paper

feminine hygiene products

hand and body soap

Donations can be dropped off at any of these partner congregations:

- **First Presbyterian** - Mondays and Fridays, 9:00am-1:00pm - 305 E. Main St
  - **Cole Mill Road Church of Christ** - Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm - 1617 Cole Mill Rd
  - **Antioch Baptist** - Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm - 1415 Holloway St
  - **Pilgrim United Church of Christ** - Tuesday through Friday, 8:00am-12:00pm - 3011 Academy Rd
  - **Christus Victor Lutheran** - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:00am–2:00pm - 1615 E. NC 54 Hwy
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## **HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . . from the comfort of your own home —**

### **Bag Rice and Beans for the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:**

- Divide large bags of beans — black, pinto or red — or white rice into **quart-size, freezer strength Ziplock baggies**.
- Fill the bags until almost full, leaving just enough room to close securely.
- Large bags of beans or rice can be purchased at Costco, Sam's Club, or El Camino, a Mexican food distributor located at 2314 Reichard St, Durham 27705.
- Deliver the bags to Iglesia Emanuel on Monday afternoons between 3:00pm and 5:00pm, or contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) for other options
- Sign up at this [link](#).

### **Do a little cooking for Urban Ministries:**

- **Casseroles** for **breakfast, lunch or dinner** (baked ziti, tuna, mac n cheese, etc.)
- **Sandwiches** in individual Zip-lock bags — **no condiments**, so they keep fresh longer. If able, please label bags according to ingredients, such as "turkey & cheese, or T & C."
- **Cookies or brownies** in individual baggies, to go in the lunch bags. Everyone loves a touch of sweetness!
- Encourage neighbors or friends to join your efforts and deliver all the food at one time
- Deliver to the main door of Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St, between 9:30am - 5:30pm, Monday – Friday

### **Make phone calls to Meals on Wheels clients:**

- Give a quick call to home-bound senior citizens or disabled adults on Wednesday or Friday mornings to check on them and offer a much needed warm, human connection
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

## **You can safely lend a hand in person —**

### **Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel:**

- Sign up for a 2-hour shift on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday sorting and bagging food, unloading deliveries, loading boxes of food into cars

- Find your spot on the [SignUp Genius](#) and know you are making a huge difference in the lives of struggling families

### Urban Ministries:

- FPC provides volunteers multiple times a month to help prepare and serve breakfast or prepare lunch bags for hungry members of our community
- Breakfast shifts are the 3rd and 5th Fridays of every month, from 7:00-9:00am
- Lunch bag shifts are every 3rd Monday and 4th Thursday, 9:30-10:30am
- Enjoy fellowship with your church friends while you serve our neighbors!
- Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) to sign up

### Deliver Meals on Wheels:

- Deliver boxes of nutritious frozen meals to home-bound seniors and handicapped adults every Monday
- Offer a friendly smile from behind your mask and encouraging words to brighten someone's day!
- Contact [Britt Barnes](#) to sign up

## CHURCH STAFF

**Tom Bloom**, Business Administrator  
**Lenore Champion**, Children's Ministry Director  
**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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

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