

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Prelude on Bristol* *Healey Willan*
Gordon Campbell, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Weicher

PRELUDE *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP John Weicher

Leader: Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,
as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike

All: **Refresh us with your mercy, for you know our own injustice.**

Leader: As the stream flows steadily on,
defying all the odds of stone and water

All: **Flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.**

Leader: As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,

All: **Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.**

Leader: As a parent holds their young child with love,

All: **Hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence.**

HYMN No. 314 (verse 1) *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* *Christ, Be Our Light*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

CONFESSION OF SIN Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**You, O God, are a God of infinite grace
and we are a people who count the costs.**

We count the cost of forgiving.

We count the cost of peace.

We count the cost of joy.

Too often we do not choose to forgive, but to hold onto hurt.

Too often we do not choose to love, but to store up more for ourselves.

**Too often we do not choose peace, but stir up resentment.
Too often we do not choose joy, but settle for a shiny veneer.
Forgive us, yet again,
and again set us free to live in peace and joy.
We pray in the strong name of Jesus.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response Hymn No. 314 (verse 2)

Christ, Be Our Light

***Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of grace,
send your Spirit to move in our world
and stir the water of our souls
that we may desire a word of instruction
that awakens us to the joy of your coming reign. Amen.**

PSALTER READING

Psalm 70

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:18-24

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Holy Waiting"

Mindy Douglas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Iona Community)

Mindy Douglas

We believe in God

**whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.**

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
in God we trust;
and, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves,
in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful,
so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

HYMN No. 314 (verses 3-5) *Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness* Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

*Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.* (Refrain)

Refrain: *Christ, be our light!*

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

*Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.* (Refrain)

*Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.*

*Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.* (Refrain)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

John Weicher

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Susan Dunlap

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. 756 (verses 1,4)

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.
Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Mindy Douglas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O great and loving God,
your wisdom is radiant and unfading,
easily discerned by all who seek your way.
When faithful people live in love and work for justice,
heaven breaks into earth.
Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly,
trusting the Lord of history,
who has been approaching from all eternity,
and who comes into life continually
with compassion, redemption, and hope.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDE

Awake Us, Lord, and Make Us Ready

J.S. Bach

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 November 1, 110 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Iona Abbey Worship Book, Feasting on the Word*, and Montreat resources. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given by **David and Marie Sappenfield** in memory of David's mother, **Nancy Payne Sappenfield**, and his grandmother, **Laura Moore Sappenfield**.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck** for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Julie Maxwell** for the powerful images accompanying our online worship today.

First Presbyterian
Adult Faith
Formation



Faith and Politics Class

This discussion series concludes
TODAY, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

[Zoom Link](#)

The class sessions were recorded.
Contact [Mindy Douglas](#) if you would
like access to the recordings.



ORDER BY MONDAY noon (November 9) FOR DISTRIBUTION ON FRIDAY November 20

Taking orders for 1-lb bags of Café Justo (www.justcoffee.org). The beans will be roasted in Agua Prieta NEXT week (Thursday or Friday) and be at John Fricks' house the FOLLOWING week.

John Fricks will distribute from his home, 3319 Pinafore Dr, near Durham Academy, or, if you wish, at the church volunteer office. Distribution at the church will be on Friday and Monday, during staff office hours (so that a staff person can open the door for you). Let John know what pick-up location works best for you. Just send an email to [John Fricks](#) or call him at 919-490-0601.

Please avoid using the word “regular” in you order. It has too many meanings. Instead: specify how many bags (one-pound bags, freshly roasted, \$10 each), and specify the process (**CAF** or **DECAF**), the grind (**WHOLE BEAN** or **GROUND**), and the roast (**MEDIUM** or **DARK**).

- caf, whole bean, medium roast
- caf, whole bean, dark roast
- caf, ground, medium roast
- caf, ground, dark roast
- decaf, whole bean, medium roast
- decaf, whole bean, dark roast,
- decaf, ground, medium roast
- decaf, ground, dark roast

Café' Justo is an income security project launched with a grant from the Presbyterian Self Development of People fund. It is affiliated with Frontera de Cristo (www.facebook.com/fronteradecristo), a Presbyterian Border Ministry located in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, and Douglas, Arizona.



Sunday, November 15

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler will join us during our online worship and give the sermon on next Sunday, November 15. Sadler is an associate professor of Bible and the director of the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. Click [here](#) to read more about him.

~ Our Concerns ~

Becky Crockett, a patient at Duke Regional Hospital

Harold Dunlap

Carlisle Harvard, home after a brief hospital stay

Dennis Hill, recovering from a cornea transplant and cataract surgery

Roger Kalthoff

Jane Rourk

Carol Wills

Evelyn Bannerman, friend of the PCUSA

Esther Pardue, former member of FPC

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

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

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

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

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

ROBERT DAYE IS RETIRING . . .

Our own **Robert Daye** will be retiring at the end of 2020 with over 43 years of service as sexton of our church. We want to honor him in several ways.

First, offer a **testimonial to your relationship with Robert**. Please email or call **Celia Dickerson** (919-949-9456) and **TELL your story**. The retirement committee will write it for you, or you can email your story to [Celia Dickerson](#). Your stories are needed ASAP!

Do you have a **picture** to share? If so, will you scan and email it to Celia? We want as many visuals as we can collect. Later in the year, we will ask for a shower of cards to Robert, thanking him.

The Session has approved a **love offering** collection for Robert. Please send your donation to the church office by December 10th. Make check payable to FPC. Memo: Robert's Retirement. Or give online through the church's website (click the Donate button).

We are looking forward to our congregational thanks to Robert for his many years of service. Retirement Committee: **Celia Dickerson Beth Stringfield Kate Busa Barbara Buckley**

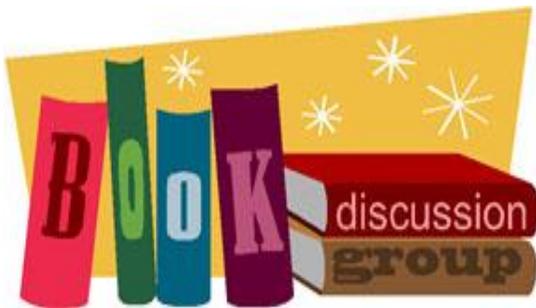


It's Time to Nominate

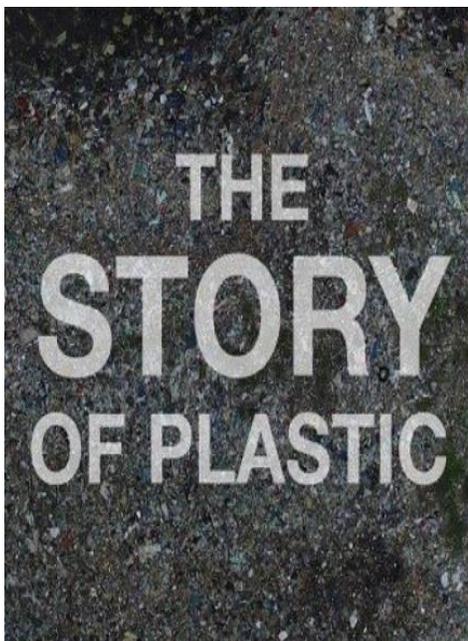
As we look ahead to 2021, the **Nominating Committee** is beginning their work of gathering suggestions from the congregation for the new slate of ruling elders, deacons, and the next Nominating Committee. Ruling elders and deacons serve for three year terms and the Nominating Committee serves for one year. Ruling elders, deacons, and Nominating Committee members may serve a consecutive term. We normally receive paper nominations over the course of a few weeks that are placed in the offering plate during worship. Since

we can't do that this year, we are calling for nominations via a Google form: [click here](#) OR you may contact **Mary Ann Compton** by [email](#) OR call her at 919-452-6500. Especially in these unusual times, we look forward to hearing your suggestions of who should lead us as we work out how to continue being the church to each other and to the world around us. Thank you for your help.

Dawn Shelton and **Mary Ann Compton**,
Co-chairs of the Nominating Committee



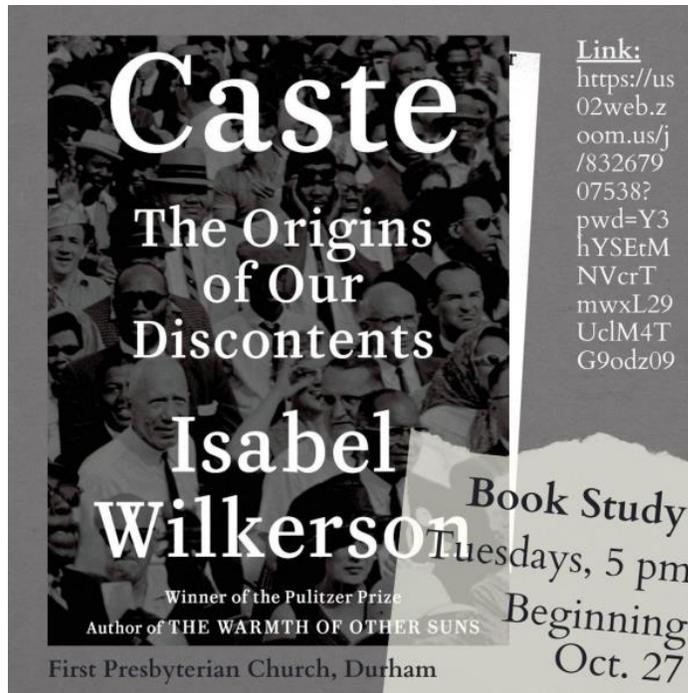
The **Things That Matter Book Group** will discuss *Winners Take All* by Amand Girdharadas on **Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.** **Marcia Lorimer** will host the group via Zoom. **Kathy Krahenbuhl** will lead the discussion. New members are always welcome. Please contact [Dale Gaddis](#) to be added to the email list so you can receive the Zoom link.



FROM THE CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

Join the **Creation Care Committee** in watching this documentary about plastic pollution and learn what we can do as individuals and as a faith community to help. Hear from experts and activists and learn about the fatal effects of the climate crisis and see the drastic consequences we are causing on communities and ecosystems worldwide. [RSVP](#) for [virtual screening link](#) and password before a discussion at our monthly Creation Care meeting, **Thursday November 12 at 7:00 p.m.** ([zoom](#)). All are welcome!! Next month we will be screening [Straws](#) and welcome filmmaker Linda Booker Royal to our monthly meeting discussion on December 10. For more about the Creation Care Committee, contact [Cris Rivera](#) or [visit our page](#).

FALL BOOK STUDY



Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNlVcrTmwxL29UclM4TG9odz09

Caste
The Origins of Our Discontents
Isabel Wilkerson
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize
Author of THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS
Book Study
Tuesdays, 5 pm
Beginning Oct. 27
First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Mindy Douglas is leading the book study.

Click [here](#) for ways to access the class.



New Hope Presbytery presents Racial Equity Team Webinar

**Brave Spaces and Truth-Telling
Thursday, November 12, 2020**

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Click [Register for the Zoom Webinar](#)

Click [More Information](#)

Rodney Sadler will present on: "Race Is Nothing: Race Is Everything." He will explore how this problematic nonsensical idea has become a defining factor for life in America and suggest that if we stand with God and exercise our agency we can have victory in overcoming this consequential lie.

Katie Crowe is senior pastor of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham. Katie's presentation will explore what "doing the work" of dismantling racism looks like for churches, practically speaking, beginning within themselves.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

EVENING PRAYERS



THURSDAYS, 8 PM

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESDURHAM/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/)

Gratitude Drive-thru

Sunday, November 15th, 2-3:30 p.m.

Please drive through the church parking lot to make your own links in our Gratitude paper chain. Our older elementary children will assemble the chain! All you have to do is drive through our church parking lot and write down your thanksgivings on paper strips.



INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY HOLIDAY PROJECTS

GRATITUDE PAPER CHAIN

We NEED . . . All ages of church members to drive through and drop off their paper strips of thanksgivings (or you can make yours on site).

We NEED . . . 3rd-4th-5th graders and at least some parents to come and help assemble the paper chain.

The children will also play a game and complete two service projects--one for Urban Ministries and one for the Society of Saint Andrews.

Hand sanitizer will be provided.

Please remember to wear your masks.



PHOTOS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

For this year's pageant, we need volunteers and volunteer families to take on the CHALLENGE of creating and then taking a photo of you/your family in a scene from the Nativity story (the birth of Jesus story) and share the photo via Google photos.

Want more information on these intergenerational holiday activities? Contact [Lenore Champion](#) at 919-616-2360.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . .

KEEP YOUR PANTRY 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

Provide a Meal for Families Moving Forward

A small group of faithful First Presbyterian volunteers prepares meals and provides childcare for Families Moving Forward (FMF) throughout the year, but, in the current situation, FMF has asked us to prepare a meal for *all* the families sheltering there on **Monday, December 7**, about 60 people. So we need your help! If you are willing to prepare part of this meal, please sign up using this [link](#).

Instructions: You will bring your meal contribution to FMF (300 N. Queen St.) at **5:30 p.m. on December 7**, and, for the safety of residents and volunteers alike, just leave it on the picnic table outside.

Looking for other ways to help Families Moving Forward?

- Assist with FMF's Study Buddies program. They need volunteers to help virtually one day a week to help kids with homework E-mail Courtney@fmfnc.com.

- Provide support for FMF's annual holiday NEST by adopting a family for the holiday toy donation program. Contact caylin@fmfnc.org.
- Donate NEW twin and full comforters and sheet sets for our families to enjoy when they move in. They could also use donations of laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and other essential household items. Contact Katy@fmfnc.com if you have a donation to drop off.

Questions? Please contact [Lea Bingham](#) at 919-358-1774.

Helping Iglesia Emanuel

If your nerves are all in a tangle over the election, and you are looking for a positive activity to help you get through this time, how about bagging some rice or beans for the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel? It may not change the results of the election, but it could most definitely give your spirits a boost, knowing that you are helping provide food for struggling families. The instructions are simple:

- Purchase large bags of **pinto or black beans**, or **white rice** from Costco, Sam's Club, or El Camino, a Mexican food distributor located at 2314 Reichard St
- Divide those large bags into **quart-size, freezer strength Ziplock bags, filling the bags full**. Each Ziplock bag should weigh about 2-pounds.
- Deliver your goods to Iglesia Emanuel on Monday afternoons, between 3 and 5. Address: 5402 N Roxboro
- Or, if Monday afternoon does not work for you, drop off your bags at the Rubiera's home: 3108 Chelmsford Dr
- Contact [Margaret Rubiera](#) for other options.
- And lastly, but especially important, please let us know what you are bringing. Sign up at this [link](#).

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
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>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain

G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

O God of Every Nation

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1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.