

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 15, 2020

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

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**GATHERING MUSIC** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* J.S. Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Mindy Douglas

**PRELUDE** *Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)* Cathy Moglebust

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Mindy Douglas

One: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

All: **And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

One: Drawn by love, we come, to offer our whole selves in Christ's service.

All: **Let us worship the Lord!**

**HYMN** No. 366 (verses 1,3) *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.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never more 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.*

**CONFESSION OF SIN** John Weicher

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Mother of Compassion:**

**called to be one body,  
we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces;  
your children of love,  
we insist on the right to despise our siblings;  
though your Perfect Love was broken for us,  
we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.**

**Abide in us, Vine Grower.**

**Forgive us of our sins,  
so we may live boldly,  
love fearlessly,  
and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ  
is our Lord and Savior.**

(© 2015 Thom M. Shuman)

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 366, verse 2)

*Hyfrydol*

***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.***

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Jean Cary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Mighty and merciful God,  
lover of justice and equity,  
you call us to support the weak,  
to help those who suffer,  
and to honor all people.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
make us advocates for your justice  
and instruments of your peace,  
so that all may be reconciled  
in your beloved community;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Deuteronomy 10:12-21

Jean Cary

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 John 4:17-21

Rodney Sadler

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

Rodney Sadler

**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. 137

*He Came Down*

*He Came Down*

He came down that we may have love; he  
came down that we may have love; he came down that we may  
have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two staves (treble and bass clef). The second system also has two staves. The third system has two staves. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. There are triplets in the piano accompaniment in the first and second systems. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*Additional stanzas:*

... that we may have light  
... that we may have peace  
... that we may have joy

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

John Weicher

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

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 (verse 4)                      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
*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.*

*Hyfrydol*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**  
Leader: Let us pray.  
All: **Gracious God,**  
    **keep us working and praying for the day**  
    **when your justice will roll down like waters,**  
    **and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**  
**Replenish our strength and stir up our hope**  
    **as we look for signs of your coming reign.**  
**And fill us with the peace that passes understanding—**  
    **the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior,**  
    **in whose holy name we pray. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Rodney Sadler

**POSTLUDE**

*Promised Land*

Spiritual, arr. Hustad

**We are making a GRATITUDE PAPER CHAIN  
TODAY from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the church's parking lot.**

All ages are invited to drive through the church parking lot and drop off their paper strips of thanksgivings (or you can make yours on site). Our 3rd-4th-5th graders and their parents will be here to 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.

**Reminder to both middle school and high school youth groups:  
You will be meeting online this afternoon/evening.  
Check your email for instructions to connect to your group.**

**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 8, 104 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

We welcome to the pulpit today the **Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler**. 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.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the **Gentithes family** in memory of George's grandmother, **Lula Gentithes**.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Iona Abbey Worship Book and Book of Common Worship (2018)*. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

**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.

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## ~ Our Concerns ~

**Becky Crockett**

**Harold Dunlap**

**Carlisle Harvard**

**Dennis Hill**

**Roger Kalthoff**

**Jane Rourk**

**Carol Wills**

**Linda Capers**, friend of Li-Chen Chin, on the death of Linda's brother

**Friends and family of Lizzie Lindsey**, friend of Cris Rivera

**Ellen O'Brien**, mother-in-law of Mindy Douglas, recovering at home following a hospitalization

**Those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**

### 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:**

**Evelyn Bannerman**, friend of the PCUSA

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

**Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden

**Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation

**Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Esther Pardue**, former member of FPC

**Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman

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

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**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 contact **Celia Dickerson** (919-949-9456) and **TELL your story**. 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.

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**It's Time to Nominate Officers**

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 a three-year term 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 to give your nomination. 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



**We are closing in on our due date for materials for our Christmas Eve Pageant video.**

**We need all photos and videos by December 12th in order to complete video editing on time.**

**Please spread the word! Everyone can participate.**

Click [here](#) to sign up for a scene in the pageant.

Contact [Lenore Champion](#) at 919-616-2360 for more information.

## **FALL BOOK STUDY Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.**

**Mindy Douglas** is leading the book study.

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

**Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSErMNVcrTmwxL29UclM4TG9odz09>

*Virtual  
Winesdays*

WEDNESDAYS,  
5:30-6:30 PM



*Fellowship,  
Drinks &  
Noshing*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

**EVENING PRAYERS**



**THURSDAYS, 8 PM**

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



# HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . .

## KEEP YOUR PANTRY DONATIONS COMING!

Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA) launched a hygiene drive this summer to keep our community partners' pantries fully stocked with the supplies our neighbors need. The drive continues as the pandemic has continued. 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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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).

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## 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](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET

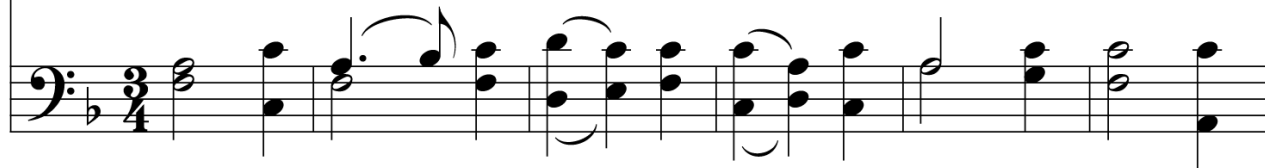
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701

919.682.5511

# 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



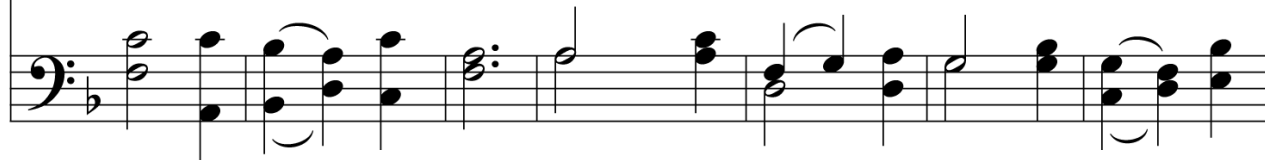
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



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,



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.