

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Ave Maris Stella, Hail Star of the Sea* G. Frescobaldi
Robert Parkins, organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRELUDE *Canon in D* J. Pachelbel
Ben Maxwell, cello; Jacob Wang, piano arr. Brooklyn Duo

CALL TO WORSHIP John Weicher

Leader: In the silence, a presence; a sound; a movement. Was it you, O God?

All: **Was it you that we saw blowing over the water?**

Leader: Was it you that we heard in those steps?

All: **Was it you that we felt in the beating of our own hearts?**

Leader: Was it you that called our names?

All: **Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

HYMN NO. 29 (verses 1-3) *O God, You Search Me*

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

When I walk or lie down you are before me:

ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.

You discern my purpose from afar,

and with love everlasting you besiege me:

in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,

you have known its meaning through and through.

You are with me beyond my understanding:

God of my present, my past, and future, too.

CONFESSION OF SIN Mindy Douglas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Holy God, you see into each of us

and know us fully

as creatures in need of your constant care.

We confess that we have neither heard your word

nor followed your will.

We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves.

Give us ears to hear your wisdom.

**Lead us to honesty and faith
so that we may begin again with renewed strength;
in Jesus' name.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 29, verses 4-5)

O God, You Search Me

***Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.***

***There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.***

***For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.***

***For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.***

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **You invite us, O God, to live in your ways,
and you give us to each other to know and to love
as we journey in this life.**

Show us your will for all creation.

**Help us to listen to your urgings with prayerful hearts
so that we may honor what you have made,
in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Michael Honeycutt

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Ready and Willing"

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

HYMN No. 69 (verse 1)

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am (Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from the Belhar Confession)

John Weicher

We believe:

that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church
as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God
and with one another.

That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation.

A binding force, yet simultaneously

a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought:

one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

This unity of the people of God must be manifested and active in a variety of ways
in that we:

love one another;

bear one another's burdens,

admonish and comfort one another,

suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness,

pray together

and together serve God in this world

fighting against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

John Weicher

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

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. 69 (verses 2-3)

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am (Schutte)

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?*

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

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 January 10, 2021, 106 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

The **flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **BJ Seitzer** by her family.

We thank **Ben Maxwell** and **Jacob Wang** for providing music for today's worship. FPC member and cellist, Ben Maxwell, and pianist, Jacob Wang, are high school friends from UNC School of the Arts who have both continued to study music in college. They love playing together when they are home in NC and performed their first duo recital at First Presbyterian in May of 2019.

We are grateful to **Gordon Campbell** for serving as interim music director while **Kathy Parkins** recovers from shoulder and bicep surgery.

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 on Sunday mornings. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online worship services.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from *Worship Ways, Online Resources for the United Church of Christ* and *Feasting on the Word*. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

On Becoming an Ally: Responding Positively to our Times with Kathy Krahenbuhl

(Workshop sponsored by Sacred Activism)

REGISTER: <https://www.unitychapelhill.org/event/2036-sacred-activism-workshop-with-kathy-krahenbuhl.html>

Suggested Love Offering: \$20

Please join us for this enlightening workshop **TODAY at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom** as we learn what it means to be an ally to African Americans and do what we can to help create a world that works for everyone. With degrees in African Studies and African American Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill, **Kathy Krahenbuhl** is committed to working with people so they will understand the inequitable and devastating racial outcomes that have resulted from the institutional and systemic racism that permeates every facet of our country. She hopes that the individuals she works with will use that knowledge to teach and influence leaders who can effect change with policies and laws. For close to twenty years she has been involved with diversity, inclusion, and racial equity issues in various volunteer capacities. Currently, Kathy heads up the Racial Equity Task Force at FPC and is involved in Restorative Justice Durham (RJ Durham) and the Yokefellows prison ministry. Since not long after her first workshop, she has been one of the coordinators for the Durham White Anti-Racist Caucus. Kathy feels incredibly honored to be able to join the Racial Equity Institute as a trainer.



The church staff will observe **Monday, January 18** as a **paid holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**. In non-pandemic years, this congregation has worked together on service projects to the community. We can't do this together this year, but we can be of service to the community. We invite families to make cards for our neighbors, take donations to the Food Bank, pick up trash in a neighborhood park or along the roadside, and look for other ways to help. Here is a [website](#) that may provide some ideas. This [link](#) provides information on free events in the Triangle.

~ **Our Concerns** ~

- **Lily Brigman**, recovering from ACL surgery
- **Flora Estrella**, family of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera, recovering from surgery
- **Dub Gulley**, preparing for surgery
- **Roberta Kessler**, mother of Kristen Brigman, recovering from surgery for a broken arm
- **Rev. Mark Stevens** of Phillips Chapel Methodist Church, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood, diagnosed with COVID-19
- **Tom Bloom**
- **Phillip Herndon**
- **Kerry Holbrook**
- **Robin Morey**
- **David Parkins**
- **Kathy Parkins**
- **Carol Wills**
- Our nation during this season of leadership transition and unrest
- The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Family of **Candee Herndon**, friend of Kathy Krahenbuhl, who died January 3 from cancer
- Family of **Maureen Darcy**, friend of Brianna Bennett, who died January 14 from brain cancer

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**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Everlyn Bass, aunt of Valerie McMillian

Brendan Bequette, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera

Peggy Boulden, mother of Dick Boulden

Linda Capers, friend of Li-Chen Chin

Phil Goss, friend of the congregation

Peggy Mordecai, mother of Beth Eisenson

Ade and Sowande, sons of Tolokun Omokunde, pastor of Timothy Darling PC in Oxford

Shannon Putman, daughter of Mary Putman

Robert Reaves, husband of Floalice Reaves, active friend of the congregation
Joe Rudigier, brother of Jeanne Hervey



Installation Service for Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

*There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.*

Ephesians 4:4

On January 31st, as part of our regular Sunday morning service of worship, we will install Mitzi Lesher-Thomas as our new Associate Pastor. A service of installation is, at its core, an act of worship; a response in gratitude to the gifts of the Spirit; a celebration of the mission and ministry of the *whole* church. More than having to do with any individual it highlights our *shared* ministry and our *common* calling to serve Christ as we fulfill particular roles within the larger ministry of the church. Bearing witness to installation as an act of the larger church representatives from New Hope presbytery are invited to participate. We welcome back to the pulpit the **Rev. Lori Pistor** who served as Associate Pastor at FPC from 1993 – 2003. Since that time, she has served five congregations as Interim Minister. Lori and Mitzi served together at Cary Presbyterian where they shared a passion for creative worship, good music and the wild and wily ways of the Spirit. Join us Sunday, January 31st at 11:00 via our webpage or YouTube channel as we remember, celebrate and together recommit ourselves to our mutual calling as servants of God.



STUDY AND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Presbyterian Women Study books for 2020-2021 are still available at the church (in the Volunteer's office). Contact church staff if you need a copy. Contact [Linn Lopez](#) (919-596-5707) for ways to connect with Presbyterian Women in 2021.

These Days devotional books for the first quarter of 2021 have now arrived at the church. Regular and large print copies are available. You may call the church office (919-682-5511) to arrange a pickup time or request that a copy be mailed to you.

Help Us Create a New Pictorial Directory . . .

Need help remembering what people look like without masks? Longing for a church picture directory? You know, the kind where the corners get crinkled and you write notes in the margins. Help us make it happen! If you haven't already uploaded a picture to our online directory now's your chance and here are directions! The instructions to install the ChurchLife app on your smart device are [here](#). The instructions for uploading your picture to the online directory are [here](#). We'll use photos from the online directory to create our print version so we need your help. We want to see your smiling faces, so please take a moment and upload those photos! For more information on using the ChurchLife app or the kind of photos work best in a directory, contact [Tom Bloom](#) or [Sybil King](#). Please upload your photo by January 31, 2021. Thank you.

Virtual Winesdays

WEDNESDAYS,
5:30-6:30 PM





*Fellowship,
Drinks &
Noshing*

<https://zoom.us/j/97569349009>

Winesdays Meeting ID: 975 6934 9009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

EVENING PRAYERS



THURSDAYS, 8 PM

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

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet each Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m., 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 January:

January 19: Bill Dahl, Talismans, Relics and Souvenirs

January 26: Margaret Albert and Tracy Lamar of Duke Homecare & Hospice, “Community Bereavement Services offered by Duke Hospice Bereavement Services.” This gives us a chance to learn about the resources available to the community from DHBS, including counseling, support groups, workshops, remembrance services and children’s grief support. Explore the specific needs you and your family have in your grief process and resources that are available.

If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org for registration information.



**First Presbyterian
Adult Faith
Formation**

“

Rabbi Greyber from Beth El Synagogue & FPC’s Jerry Postema will discuss Genesis 22:1-19 and Aaron Koller’s Unbinding Isaac. Join us of a deep dive into God, suffering and more.

Unbinding Isaac: A Jewish & Presbyterian Conversation about Public Life, Faith & Difficult Texts

Sundays, January 24 & 31, 4-5:15 pm - Zoom link to follow.

Love in the Heart of Durham

The zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87187441461>

All are welcome to join this conversation!

SHARING *God's* LOVE THROUGH HELPING THOSE IN NEED!

2021 started off really rough on a national level (quite the understatement), but locally, we continue to work together as people of faith to provide nutritious food to over 500 families in need every single week at Iglesia Emanuel. Come join us as we seek to share God's love in this most tangible way! New volunteers are always welcome.

1. **Bag rice or beans from home.** For instructions and to sign up, contact Margaret Rubiera. Put on music, sing, and have fun while you fill those bags!
2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. You will work hard but leave after your 2-hour shift knowing you have made a big difference in the lives of many families. For more information, and to sign up, click here: [Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius](#)
3. **Your financial support** is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: emanueldurham.org, or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham 27704. Thank you so much! - Margaret and Miguel

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 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

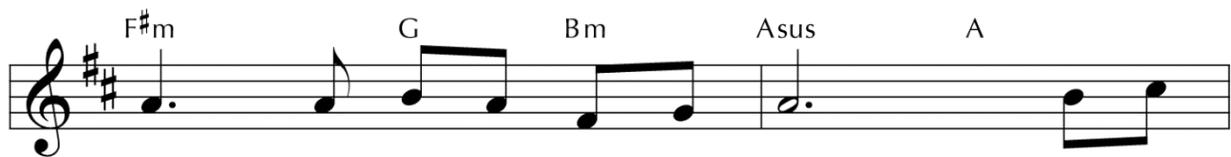
O God, You Search Me

29

(Psalm 139)



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with
known its mean - ing through and through. You are
search for shel - ter from your light. There is
life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the
love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery
with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the
won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
mo - ment of life or death, you are.
pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.