FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 26, 2023

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

And Crown Him Lord of All

arr. by Elizabeth Krouse

*CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

People:

Christ will reign forever and ever.

Leader:

The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.

People:

Christ will reign forever and ever.

Leader:

God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

People:

Christ will reign forever and ever.

Leader:

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

People:

Christ will reign forever and ever.

Leader:

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.

People:

Christ will reign forever and ever.

Leader:

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior,

you pour out your power for the powerless

and your salvation for the lost.

All:

Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honor and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN No. 267

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Madrid

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Esther Hethcox

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Righteous God,

you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him,

and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world,

and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,

that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*THE PEACE

Esther Hethcox



EPISTLE READING

The Word of the Lord. Leader:

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

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

SERMON

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

"The Final Question"

Mindy Douglas

(Pew Bible, NT page 192)

(Pew Bible, NT page 29)

Michael Honeycutt

(Silent reflection)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

Esther Hethcox

In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation

he has already begun and will surely finish.

We do not know when the final day will come.

In our time we see only broken and scattered signs

that the renewal of all things is under way.

We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives.

But we see Jesus as Lord.

As he stands at the center of our history,

we are confident he will stand at its end.

He will judge all people and nations.

Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation.

There will be no more tears or pain.

All things will be made new.

The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected.

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.

But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil

that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives.

Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition,

however invincible it may seem,

for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

*HYMN No. 513

This Is the Feast of Victory

Festival Canticle

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Kerry Holbrook

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to the Offering

Mindy Douglas

Offertory Anthem

Sanctus (sung in Latin)

Craig Courtney

Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(The Hunger for Change Offering will be received following the anthem.)

*Doxology with Alleluias (all sing)

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below; alleluia; alleluia;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Esther Hethcox

Leader:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Leader:

Lift up your hearts.

People:

We lift them to the Lord.

Leader:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader:

Blessing, honor, and glory are yours, O God, eternal source of all creation.

You are mightier than the thunder of waters, stronger than the waves of the sea.

You are majesty on high.

Yet when the time was right you sent your Son,

a vulnerable infant of low estate,

to testify to the truth of power made known in your embracing love.

Jesus came to raise up the poor and cast down the mighty.

He taught us, like no other, that your kingdom is one of forgiveness,

where human needs are daily met, and we are set free for love.

Remembering all that he has done for us,

we offer you our praise and thanks

and give our lives to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

All:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal,

that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son

and filled with your life-giving Spirit.

Unite us in Christ and to one another, that we may reveal your justice in the world.

Grant us your wisdom and keep us faithful as we wait and work in hope

for your coming reign of peace.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.)

We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns in glory, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Ecumenical version★

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Esther Hethcox, John Weicher

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(The bread is gluten free, and the elements were prepared in a gluten-free area. Servers will sanitize their hands prior to distributing the elements. If you are able, come forward to receive communion. The bread server will dip a pre-cut piece of bread in the common cup for you and then pass it to you. After eating, please return to your seat. Anyone who is unable to come forward may remain in the pew to be served by the clergy.)

Communion Hymn No. 84 (all sing) Creator of the Stars of Night Conditor Alme Siderum

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

John Weicher

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe,

for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace.

Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN No. 274

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Picardy

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Michael Helman



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, and ability to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you

may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the *Ritual of Friendship pad*, pass it along the pew, and <u>then return it to the starting point</u>, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The *flowers* in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in gratitude for all those who quietly live out their faith in service and love.

*The Lord's Prayer when Holy Communion is celebrated: From the beginning, one of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Many, however, continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that, by using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may always choose to pray in the words closest to your heart, be those words debts or trespasses.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to the audio/video console at the rear of the sanctuary. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. *Activity bags* are available in the foyer for children. Please return bags to the foyer at the end of worship.

Restroom locations: to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the second floor of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Today's worship texts are taken from Book of Common Worship (2018).

The Festival of Christ the King

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

If you have a student in college, please confirm with *John Weicher* by November 30th that he has their current mailing address for receiving packages. Care packages will be mailed to our college students on December 4th.

NEW BIBLE STUDY: Galatians in four Weeks

Everyone is invited to join this class that is equal parts rigorous Bible study and personal application. We will meet three more **Sundays**, **December 3**, **10**, **and 17**, **from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the basement parlor** (Spiritual Formation Room, across from the Youth Room). For more information, contact Susan Dunlap, <u>sjd4@duke.edu</u>.

Rally Against the Death Penalty

Please join The North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NCCADP) on Saturday, December 2, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. for a rally calling on Governor Roy Cooper to commute all death sentences to prison terms before he leaves office. Register to participate at bit.ly/NowIsTheTimeRally for "Now is the Time! Rally for Commutation, Community & Compassion". We'll gather across the street from the Governor's Mansion (200 E. Jones St) for a brief program of music, speeches, and poetry. We'll also have postcards for people to sign to the Governor. Following the program, we'll cross the street to the Mansion where we will march around the block. Bring your friends and family so we can fully encircle the Governor's residence!

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to Lesley Curtis who recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the meeting of the American Heart Association.

Condolences to Scott Randell and Barbara Buckley on the death of Scott's brother Jeffrey, on November 17th in Florida.

Concerns:

- John Keller, son of Tom and Margaret Keller, has received a diagnosis of lymphoma.
- Leah Graves' father is now in hospice care.
- Lee House is now recovering at home.
- Mitzi Lesher-Thomas is undergoing radiation treatments.
- Franzi Rokoske is preparing for surgery this week.
- Steve Blackwood, father of Jeff Blackwood, is recovering from chest pains, and Cliff Decker, father of Brantley Blackwood, is recovering from a stroke. The Blackwood family is active at FPC.
- Rev. Robert (Bob) Lewis, Sr., who worships regularly with FPC, has requested prayers for his son, Robert Jr.
- Spencer Reaves, who worships regularly with FPC, is preparing for surgery this week.

Jenni James Kerry Holbrook Ann Huff Paul Cornsweet Susan Buck Alfred Tisdale Franzi Rokoske

Care Communities

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: Phillip Herndon Croasdaile Pavilion: **Dub Gulley** Hillcrest Convalescent: Bob Betley, Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Bob Betley, friend of Susan Cyr Gabe Lamazares, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC Brian Knowles, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer Terri, friend of Kerry Holbrook John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher Emily Wilson, daughter-in-law of Chuck & Jean Wilson

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings Bob Lucas, friend of Fred and Jo Ann Moore Keith Nivens, uncle of Mindy Douglas Joe Quirk, friend of Mindy Douglas Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Urban Ministries Clothes Closet needs clothing to restock their garments. A box has been set up in the foyer as you enter the fellowship hall for any donations you can make. Jancy Johnstone will pick these up and take them to Urban Ministries. Please think about Urban Ministries of Durham when you are cleaning your closets. Needed:

- Men's: pants, shirts, T-shirts, jackets or coats, and shoes. (We are always in need of men's pants, waist sizes 30, 32, 34, and 36).
- Women's: pants, shirts, jackets or coats, shoes, and bras.
- Children's: pants, shirts, jackets or coats, and shoes.
- General Use: Backpacks, blankets, hats, mittens, or gloves.

Clothes should be clean, and free of stains and visible defects. They cannot take dry clean only clothing or used underwear or socks. They provide new underwear and socks for everyone.

267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing



This Is the Feast of Victory 513



84 Creator of the Stars of Night



- 1 Cre a tor of the stars of night, your peo-ple's ev er -
- 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
- 3 At your great name, O Je sus, now all knees must bend, all
- 4 To God the Fa ther, God the Son, and God the Spir it,



Christ, re - deem - er all, of last - ing light, O us child the splen - dor bright, as mon - arch, but not a ac - cord, hearts must bow: things earth with one all on praise, hon - or, might, and be glo - ry One, Three in



we pray you, hear us when we call. of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild. like those in heaven, shall call you Lord. from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

A - men.

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb 274 and Shepherd





Attention parents: We have an exciting event coming up on December 17th at 5:00 p.m. – the annual Christmas Pageant. We are trying something new this year: a giant Shadow Box drama. We need families to help with this event. Contact Lenore at <u>l.champion@firstpresdurham.org</u> if you can help with props, narration, or setup.

THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING



First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Kitchen at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect food for the members at Iglesia Emanuel Presbyterian Fellowship, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Hunger Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission

activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

40% - Local Hunger Programs

10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, and Iglesia Emanuel are frequent recipients.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month. Thank you for your offering today!



The Season of Advent begins!

Sunday, December 3

Advent Festival and Alternative Gifts Fair

9:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall for children and youth and following worship for everyone else

- ✓ Advent devotional materials can be picked up.
- ✓ Advent activities provided for children and youth.
- ✓ Purchase alternative gifts from mission partners.
- ✓ Enjoy light refreshments.

Friday, December 8 Vocal Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert

(Free admission, sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, December 9

Durham Holiday Parade

(Watch parade live from sanctuary steps, 10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, December 17

Lessons & Carols (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

Children's Christmas Pageant (sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)

All-Church Potluck (Watts-Hill Hall, following the pageant)

followed by a Carols Sing-Along

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Worship (sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.)

Candlelight and Communion Service (sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.)

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The Week at a Glance!

Rivers of Life Gallery Walk (Watts-Hill Hall)

Later Today

12:15 PM Somethings "Litty" Lunch at Bull City Burgers (Join Pastor Esther and the Somethings in a liturgical discussion of why Christ the King Sunday exists within the Church calendar year— and what meaning it holds for our lives.)

12:15-1:15 PM Youth Group (lunch out)

Monday, November 27

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in **Ministry Interviews**

1:30 PM Worship Planning

5:30-6:15 PM Diaconate (Daye Meeting room)

6:15-7:00 PM Joint Officers' Meal (Watts-Hill Hall)

7:00 PM Session (Watts-Hill Hall)

Tuesday, November 28

4:30 PM Handbell Choir

6:00-7:00 PM Tutoring (Iglesia Emanuel)

6:00-7:00 PM ESL for women (Iglesia Emanuel)

7:00-8:30 PM ESL for men (Iglesia Emanuel)

Wednesday, November 29

1:00 PM All Staff

7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 30

9:00 AM-12 Noon Walk-in Ministry Interviews

6:00-7:00 PM Tutoring (Iglesia Emanuel)

6:00-7:00 PM ESL for women

(Iglesia Emanuel)

7:00-8:30 PM ESL for men

(Iglesia Emanuel)

Friday, December 1

Saturday, December 2

1:00-2:30 PM Rally against the Death Penalty (200 E. Jones St. Raleigh)

Sunday, December 3

9:45 AM

Advent Festival for children & youth Faith Formation classes for adults

11:00 AM Worship & Communion

12:15 PM Advent Festival (continues) and Alternative Gifts Fair for all ages

5:00-7:00 PM Youth group (assemble care packages)

8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: https://firstpres-durham.org.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator Lenore Champion, Director of Children's Ministry Vernon Cooper, Sexton Mindy Douglas, Pastor Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton *Joseph Harvard*, Pastor Emeritus



Amy Bowers Heit, Parish Associate Esther Hethcox, Designated Associate Pastor Sybil King, Administrative Assistant Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor (Medical Leave) Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music John Weicher, Associate Pastor