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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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

*So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation. – Genesis 2:3*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Mindy Douglas
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PRELUDE	Steal Away to Jesus	Spiritual, arr. Charles Callahan
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*CALL TO WORSHIP	Mindy Douglas
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Leader: There are many good things in our lives,

People: and it is right to show gratitude.

Leader: There are many worrying things in our lives,

People: and it is right to look for help.

Leader: There are many frightening things within us and around us,

People: and it is right to seek hope and confidence.

Leader: It is a good thing for Christian people,
to be reminded of the things of Christ,
and to see our lives
in relation to the providence and grace
of our triune God.

People: Let us worship God.

*HYMN NO. 403	Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty	Unser Herrscher
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*CONFESSION OF SIN	Lenore Champion
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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of all creation,

before time began, you created the heavens and the earth.

After making all that is, seen and unseen,

you took sabbath time to rest.

Forgive us when we get caught up in the machine of production,

crafting idols from the excess of consumption.

Forgive us when we consider ourselves

too grand to rest and enjoy your presence,

defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love.

(Confession continues onto next page.)

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Forgive us when we esteem ourselves so little
 that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves,
 exposed, without the cloak of productivity.
 Forgive us when we deem our species so central
 that we do not rest and halt consumption,
 decimating earth, denying her sabbath and integrity.
 Forgive us. Redeem us from the captivities
 that keep us from the rest that brings us closer to ourselves,
 closer to one another, and closer to you.

Silent Confession

Response (sung by choir)	<i>Kyrie, Eleison</i> (sung in Greek)	Traditional Chant
<i>Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.</i>		

Assurance of Pardon

* THE PEACE		Lenore Champion
* RESPONSE (Hymn No. 71, refrain only)		<i>First Song</i>



Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be a -
 fraid. For the Lord is my strong - hold and my
 sure de - fense, and God will be my Sav - ior.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY		Leone Mbugua
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Leader: The Lord be with you.
 All: And also with you.
 Leader: Let us pray.
 All: O God of peace, you have taught us that
 in returning and rest we shall find wholeness,
 in quietness and confidence we shall renew our strength:
 by the power of your Spirit lift us to your presence,
 where we may be still and know you are God;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING	Exodus 20:8-11	(Pew Bible, OT page 66) Leone Mbugua
Leader: The Word of the Lord.		
People: Thanks be to God!		

GOSPEL READING	Matthew 11:28-30	(Pew Bible, NT page 12)
Leader:	The Word of the Lord.	Mindy Douglas
People:	Thanks be to God!	
SERMON	"Reclaiming Sabbath"	Mindy Douglas
(Silent reflection)		
*HYMN NO. 182	<i>I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say</i>	<i>Kingsfold</i>
A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN		John Weicher
DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS		
Invitation to Give		John Weicher
Offertory Anthem	<i>Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days</i>	arr. Zebulon Highben
<i>Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.</i>		
<i>As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.</i>		
<i>As you did hunger and bear thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord to die to self and always live by your most holy word.</i>		
<i>And through these days of penitence and through your Passiontide forevermore in life and death, O Lord with us abide.</i>		
<i>Abide with us that when this life of suffering is past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!</i>		
*Doxology		<i>Old Hundredth</i>
<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>		
NEW MEMBERS SERVICE OF WELCOME		Mindy Douglas, Esther Hethcox
Words of Welcome and Introduction		
Affirmation of Faith (in unison)		<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.		
Reaffirmation of Faith		
Prayer		

Sung Response (Hymn No. 727, verses 1-2)

The Servant Song

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Esther Hethcox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Esther Hethcox

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. 393**

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein

***BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

***POSTLUDE**

Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie

Girolamo Cavazzoni (16th cent.)



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right. First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age,



race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The Session received the following persons into membership today:

- ***Richard Anderson*** lives in Durham and is retired. He grew up in Pennsylvania and Penn State University is his alma mater. Richard's hobbies are running and guitar. He joins FPC by letter of transfer.
- ***Carolyn Ragans*** currently lives in Raleigh and is retired. She is the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor and was ordained an elder in 1982. Carolyn retired as a Christian educator after serving on staff at First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, FL. Her hobbies include travel, reading, and working with special ministries. Carolyn joined FPC as an affiliate member in 2022. She is now upgrading her status to full membership.
- ***Janice (Jan) Sapp*** lives in Durham and is a retired United Methodist pastor. Jan grew up in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She moved to Durham in 2018 from South Carolina. In retirement, Jan enjoys bookbinding, knitting, and sewing. She joins FPC by reaffirmation of faith.

Music note: The Greek words for “Lord, have mercy,” are “Kyrie, eleison” that is to say, Lord, soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.

Special thanks to members of this year’s confirmation class who will be serving throughout Lent as lay liturgists in worship. Today, **Leone Mbugua** is serving.

Today’s **flowers** are given to the glory of God by **Jane and Bill Brown** in honor of their 24th wedding anniversary.

The **Lenten Banner** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of **Bess Bryant** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

The **Pulpit Paraments:** In 2012 First Presbyterian Church commissioned Laurie Wohl to design and create paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. Her liturgical projects emphasize the “threads that bind” and the unity of the Old and New Testaments. We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

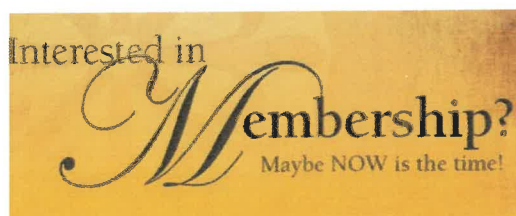
Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle by the door or return it to the audio/video console at the rear of the sanctuary. Receivers are sanitized after each use.

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), *Feasting on the Word*, and *Worshipping Together*.

Today’s bulletin cover image was created by Isa Cummings. Isa writes about the image: “People bring their heavy burdens into the “burden off/rest machine” (like Star Off Machine from Doctor Seuss’ *The Sneetches*) and God takes them so they can go rest in their pajamas.”



We will welcome and introduce new members during worship on the following Sundays:
February 25 and March 17.

Please contact **Mindy Douglas** or **Esther Hethcox** if you are ready to join this faith community where all are welcome.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 3 following worship

Agenda:

- Election of officers and Nominating Committee (at-large members)
 - Pastor's State of the Church Report
 - Stewardship/Finance/Budget/Treasurer's Report
 - Approval of changes to terms of call for Esther Hethcox and John Weicher
-

~ Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to *Heidi Biermann* who received Presbytery approval to be examined for ministry ordination.

- ***Susan Cyr*** is home after a recent hospitalization.
- ***Jim Seitzer*** is receiving end-of-life care.
- ***Paul Dunlap***, brother of Susan Dunlap, is recovering from heart surgery.
- ***Richard Mangeot***, husband of Karolyn Mangeot, will have surgery on Monday.
- ***Denisha Williams***, daughter of Sybil King, dealing with health issues.

<i>Paul Cornsweet</i>	<i>Brent Curtis</i>	<i>Barbara Fish</i>	<i>Barbara Gerwe</i>	<i>Kerry Holbrook</i>
<i>Lee House</i>	<i>Jenni James</i>	<i>Mitzi Lesher-Thomas</i>	<i>Alice Raney</i>	<i>Franzi Rokoske</i>
<i>Mary Ann Ruegg</i>	<i>Alfred Tisdale</i>			

Care Communities

Croasdaile Pavilion: ***Harvey Estes, Dub Gulley***

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: ***Phillip Herndon***

Hillcrest Convalescent: ***Julian Boswell, Maxie Honeycutt, Carol Wills, Jim Wolfe***

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Margaret & Mike Berton and son, ***Sam***. Margaret is the sister of Sarah Wright.

Karla Brown & family, friends of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings

Troy Evans, nephew of Vernon Neece

Andrew Holbrook, nephew of Kerry Holbrook

Ford Holbrook, brother Kerry Holbrook

John Keller, son of Margaret & Tom Keller

Brian Knowles, son of Sheila & Sam Miglarese

Gabe Lamazares, assoc. rector, St. Philip's EC

Robert Lewis, Jr., son of Robert (Bob) Lewis, Sr.

Alan Petersburg, brother-in-law of Jenni James

Doug Rimmer, brother of Steve Rimmer

Joe Robinson, former member of FPC

Calvin Rogers, friend of Steve Rimmer

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

John C. Weicher, father of John Weicher

Emily Wilson, wife of Mike Wilson and daughter-in-law of Jean and Chuck Wilson

Announcing our Lenten Sermon Series

Practicing Our Faith

Sunday, February 18 - Sabbath Keeping

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Sunday, February 25 - Gratitude

John Weicher, preaching

Sunday, March 3 - Household Economics

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Sunday, March 10 - Hospitality/Jesus and the Displaced

Willie Jennings, McPherson Lecturer, preaching

Sunday, March 17 - Forgiveness

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Sunday, March 24 - Palm/Passion Sunday

A Service of readings and musical responses

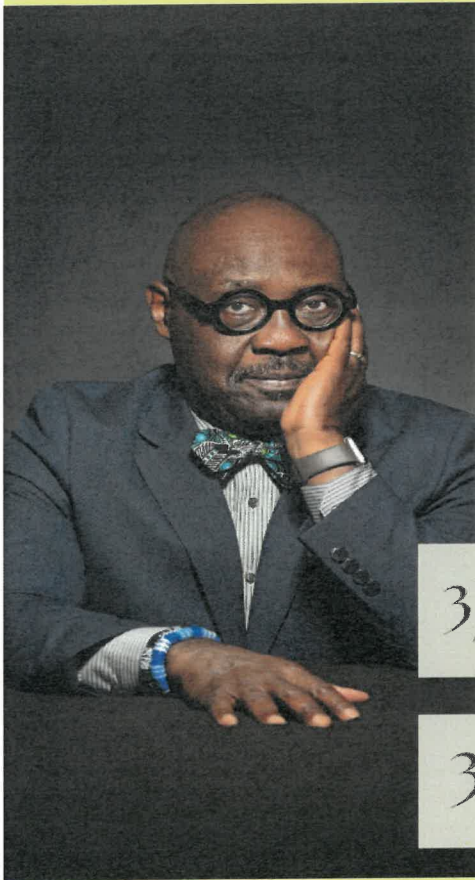
Sunday, March 31 - Easter

Mindy Douglas, preaching



The **FPC Creation Care Team** invites you to join
in one or both of these earth care practices this Lent!

- 1) A calendar (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent>) to help you tread lightly for Lent. We move with folks towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. In Lent, we slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us. These actions are intended to create more mindful behaviors throughout the year.
- 2) Several members are practicing a greener Lent (<https://greenerlent.org/fast.html>), a Laudato Si-inspired Lenten Program focused on care for our earth and the poor. This entails 40 days of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving for the poor disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.



Save the Date

2024 McPherson Lecturer
Willie James Jennings, PhD

Dr. Jennings, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University, is author of *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, *Acts: A Theological Commentary*, and *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*.

3/10

9:45 am Faith & Community Class
11:00 am Worship Service
3:30 pm Community Conversation

3/11

9:00 am Clergy Breakfast

First Presbyterian Church-Durham
305 East Main Street | (919) 682-5511

PRE-LECTURESHIP CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, February 25 and Sunday, March 3

Faith and Community Class at 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Watts-Hill Hall

Susan Dunlap, Steve Rimmer, and Lea Bingham will introduce some of Dr. Jennings' writings in preparation for his visit on March 11-12. All are welcome.

LECTURESHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 10

9:45-10:45 a.m. Faith & Community Class in Watts-Hill Hall

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the sanctuary

3:30-5:00 p.m. Community Conversation in Watts-Hill Hall

Childcare available for this event, but please reserve a space for your child(ren) by calling details in to the church office: 919-682-5511. Please, no walk-ins.

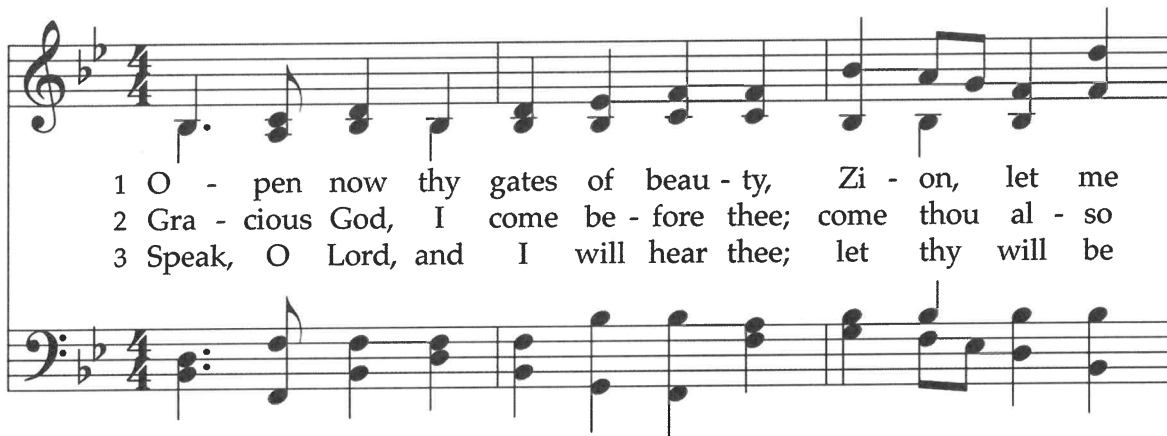
Monday, March 11

9:00-10:45 a.m. Clergy Breakfast, Watts-Hill Hall

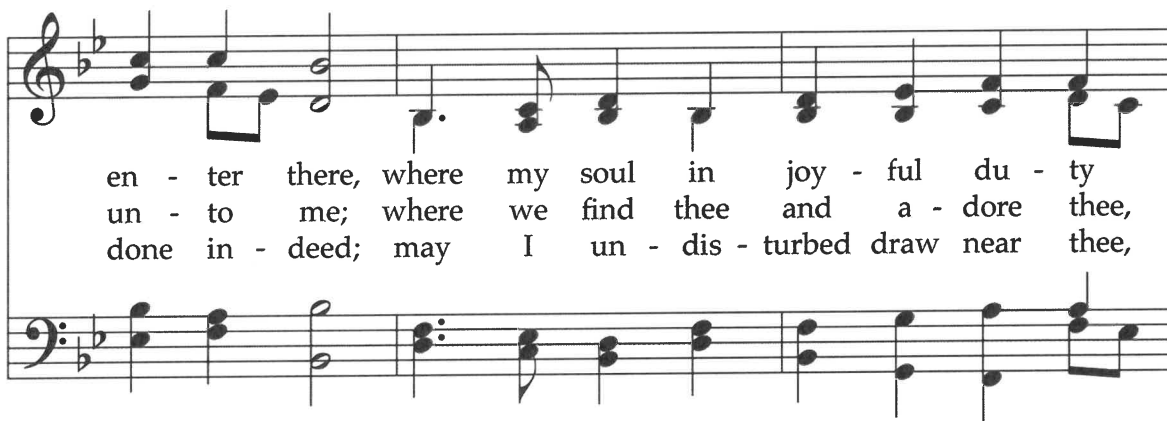
There is no cost for the breakfast, but a meal reservation is requested.

Call the church at 919-682-5511 to reserve a meal and tell us of any dietary restriction.

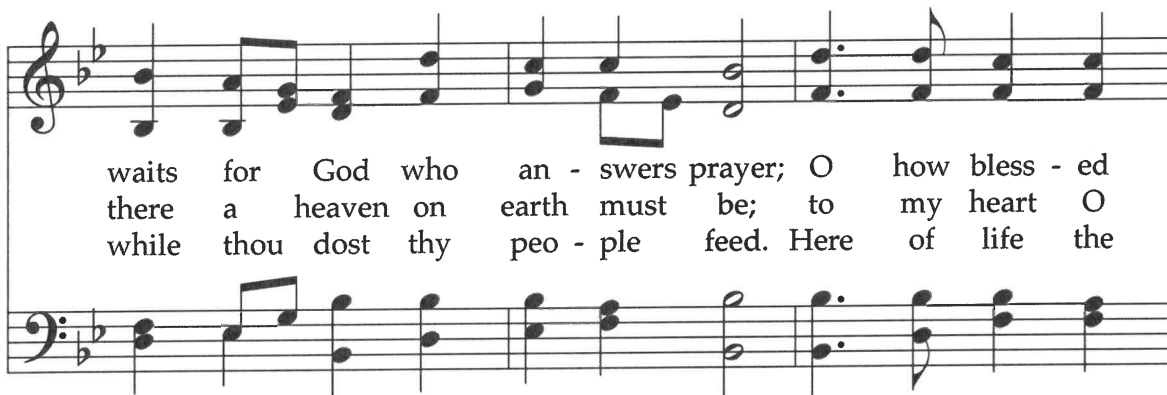
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403



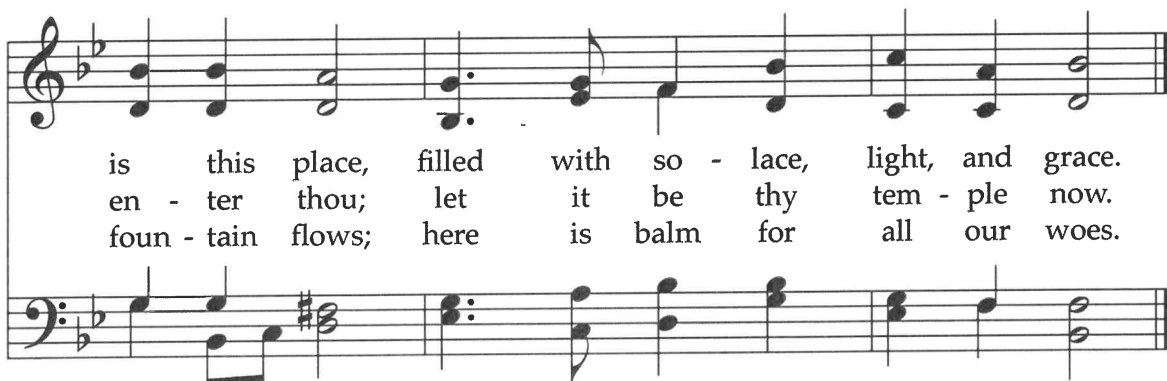
1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be



en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

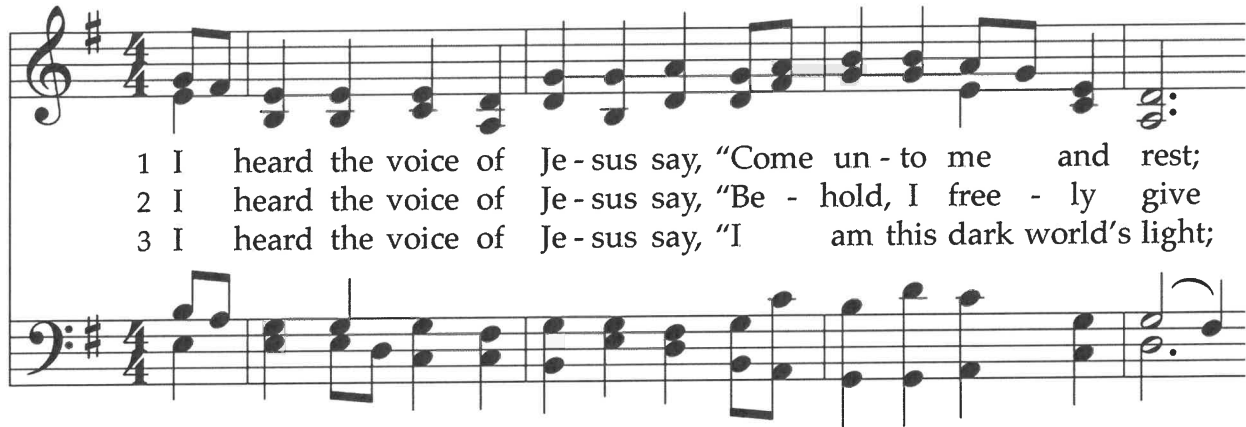


waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

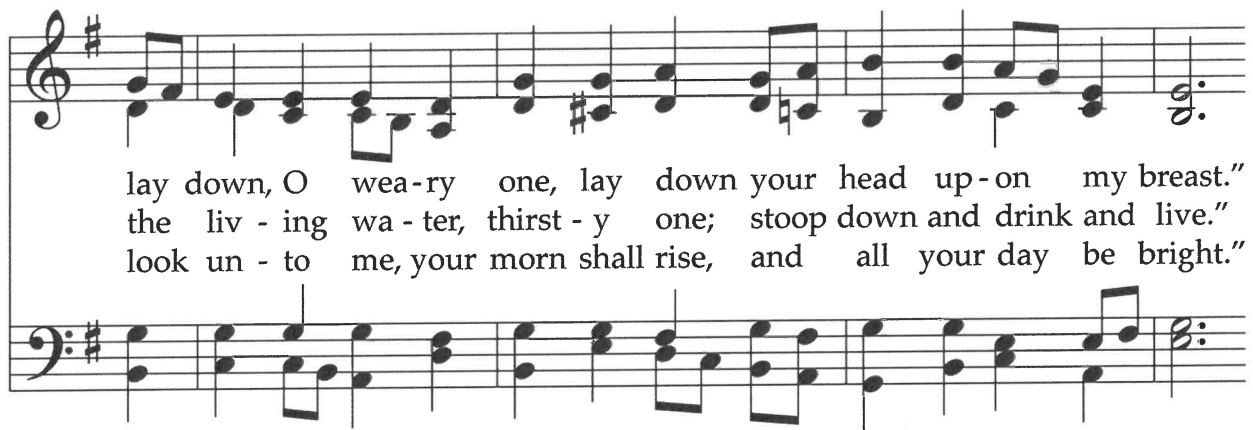


is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

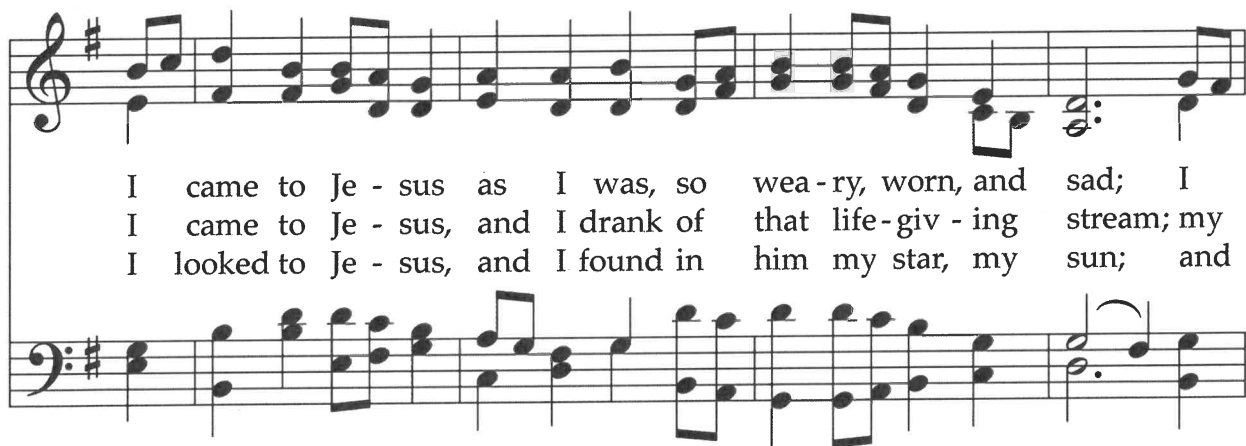
182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



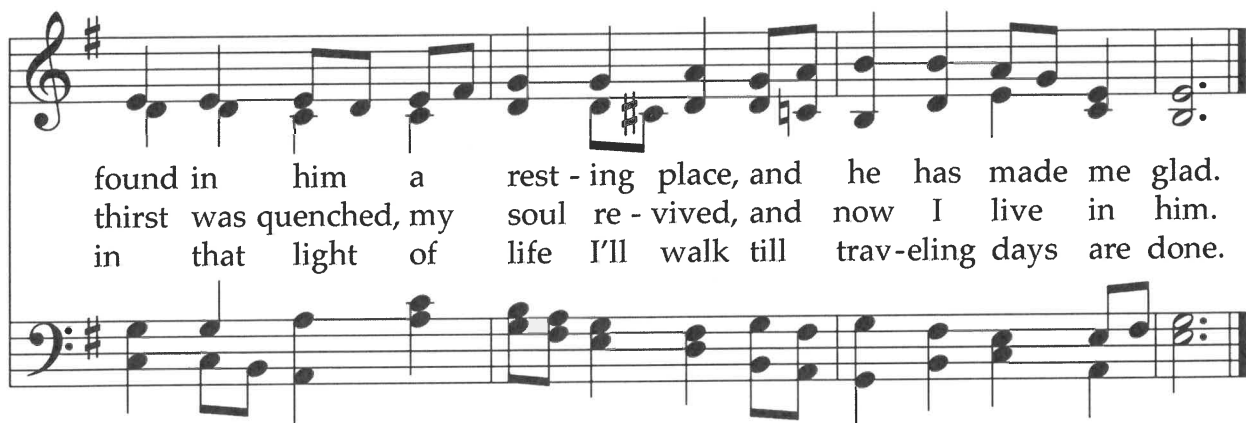
1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and



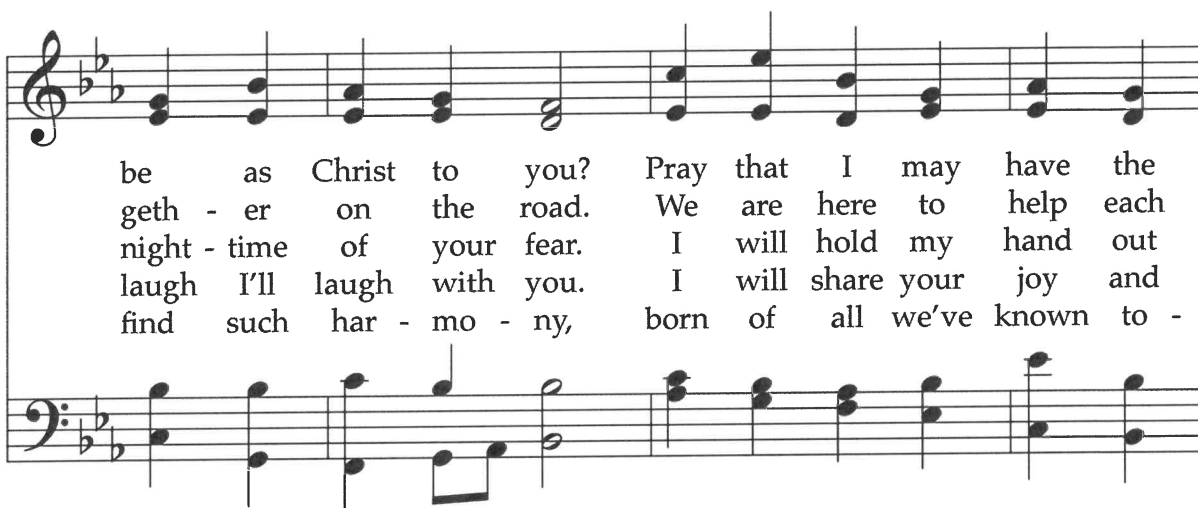
found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant 727

The Servant Song



1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

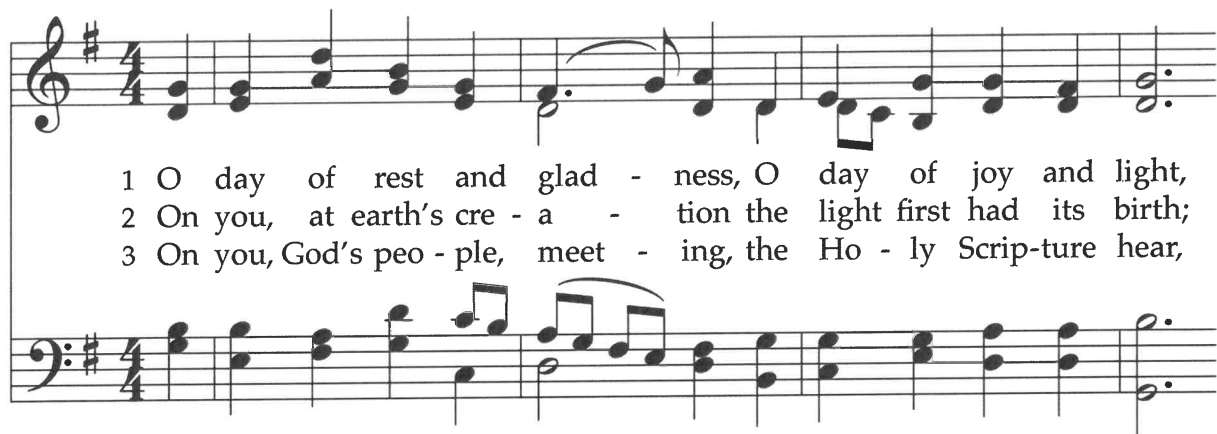


be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

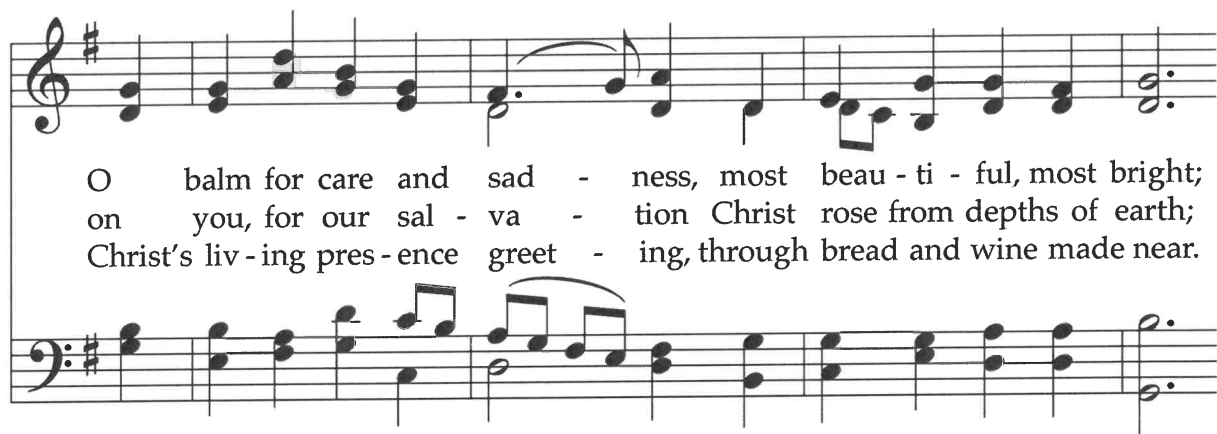


grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

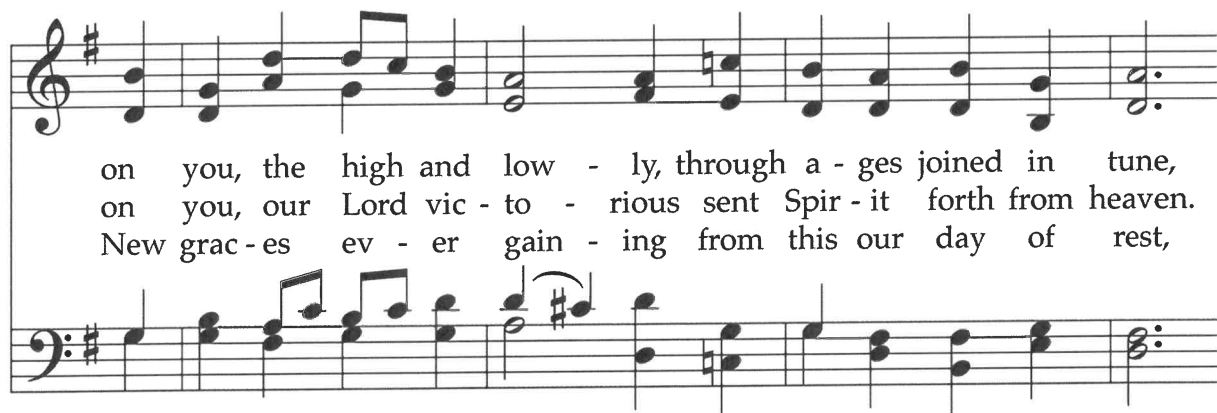
393 O Day of Rest and Gladness



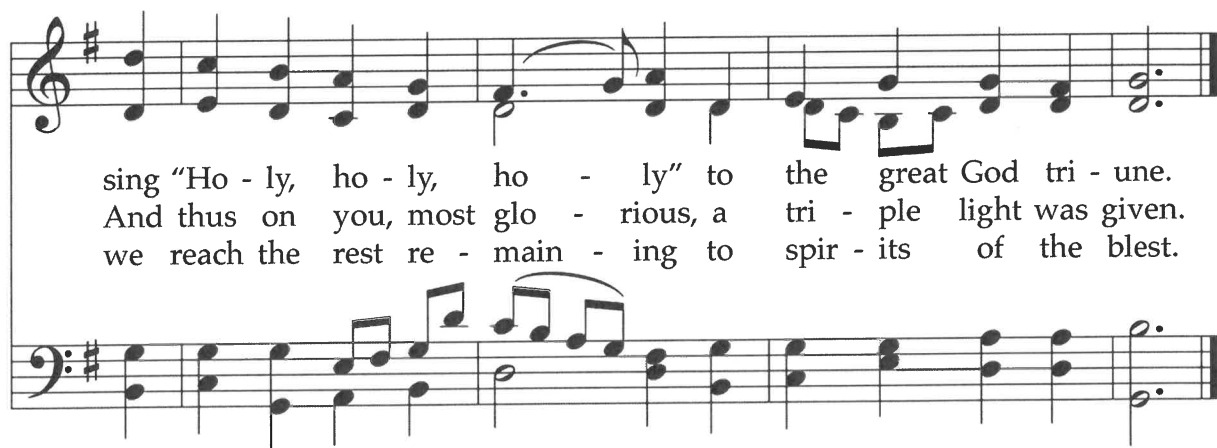
1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;
 3 On you, God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip-ture hear,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
 on you, for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near.



on you, the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious sent Spir - it forth from heaven.
 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.
 And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given.
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

The Week at a Glance!

<p style="text-align: center;">Later Today</p> <p>1:00-4:00 PM Racial Equity Task Force Retreat (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p>4:00-6:00 PM Youth Group (Mini golf with Trinity Ave PC)</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday, February 19</p> <p>1:30 PM Worship Planning</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, February 20</p> <p>5:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Personnel Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, February 21</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, February 22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, February 23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, February 24</p> <p>9:00 AM Presbytery of New Hope (Cary PC, Cary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 25 Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation classes for all ages</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship and new member(s) received</p> <p>5:00-7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (via Zoom)</p>	

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, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor, Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sunday Morning Sexton
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



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