



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

First Presbyterian Church
Durham NC 27701

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

PRELUDE

My Lord, What a Morning

Spiritual, arr. Raymond Haan

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: When will God's promise be fulfilled?

People: **The days are surely coming.**

Leader: When will we be saved?

People: **The days are surely coming.**

Leader: How will we recognize the signs which are taking place?

People: **The days are surely coming when a branch from David shall come forth
to execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

Leader: What shall it be called?

People: **The Lord is our righteousness.**

HYMN NO. 352

My Lord! What a Morning

African-American spiritual

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

John Weicher

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.

We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.

We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.

We are numb to inconvenient truths.

Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.

Revive hearts laden with compassion fatigue.

Sharpen minds clouded by worries.

Sober lives addicted to privilege.

**Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you,
the Son of Man, in whose name we pray.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

John Weicher

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Logan and Ryan Tice

Leader: As we light our first Advent candle,

People: **we pray for the holy hope of God.**

Leader: Come now, child of Mary.

All: **Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

*Those who are able, please stand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ellie Everett

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Amid much confusion, and signs leading away from you, we seek your truth.
Open our hearts to the wonders of your work and the wisdom of your word. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

(Pew Bible, NT Page 85)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

(Pew Bible, OT Page 738)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Those Days and These Days"

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

HYMN NO. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Waiting (Cason)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison) (adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

John Weicher

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus,
whose faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity.
Jesus gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be a servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Invitation to the Offering

The **Hunger for Change** offering is received today. You can place your offering in the designated basket or give online via the church's website (Click "Donate" and choose the *Hunger for Change* line item.).

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you
are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

All: **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.**

HYMN NO. 359

Freedom is Coming

Freedom Is Coming

Later today: First Friends Hike

Is the Thanksgiving weekend feeling long? Do you need to work off a little bit of the holiday meals? If so, then join the First Friends fellowship group this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at the Henry's house, 1407 Arbor St., Durham, 27701, for an urban hike. We'll walk along the South Ellerbee Creek, pass by some interesting Durham sites, and then get a beverage of choice at one of the outdoor spaces near Central Park. We'll return by 4:00 p.m. to the Henry's house.



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.

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 identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On November 21, **122** joined us for in-person worship and **49** households tuned in to the live-streamed broadcast.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and wood from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: FPC commissioned **Laurie Wohl** to design and create two 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. The text on the Advent parament hanging from the pulpit, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: "*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*" The text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: "*The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne 'St. Clair' Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

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

Many thanks to **John Fricks**, **Jody Maxwell**, and **Keith Rokoske** for their technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of *today's worship text* were reprinted from ***Call to Worship 2021-2022, Feasting on the Word, Book of Common Worship*** (2018) and ***Glory to God*** (hymnal).

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the Christian education building for use during worship.

Worship activity bags are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

Large print worship bulletins along with **children's worship / activity bulletins** are available in the foyer.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

Masks are still required: The congregation will continue to be masked when inside as an act of generous hospitality to children who cannot yet be vaccinated and transplant recipients and others on medication that reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

Worship Flowers for 2022: The signup chart and instructions for donors are now available online. Use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-flowers2> to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2022.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Thank you to everyone who returned their pledge forms, prepaid their 2022 pledges, and shared their personal stories during this fall's Stewardship Season. We are so blessed to be on this journey together to create justice and joy in the heart of Durham. If you haven't turned in your pledge, you can mail it in or complete the process online. **So far, we have received pledges representing 69% of our goal!** You may contact **Tom Bloom** (919-682-5511 x 216) if you have questions about the pledging process.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to **Arthur Clark** who is observing (and celebrating) his 99th birthday on today!

Julian Boswell is now a resident of Hillcrest Convalescent Center.

Paul Cornsweet Kerry Holbrook

Care Communities:

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

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: **Phillip Herndon**

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

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams

Jim Wolfe

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Carolyn Bonner, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Ty, Laurel, Joe, & Cheli Seddon, family of Martha Seddon, former FPC Parish Administrator

Richard Smith, husband of Laura Casteel's co-worker

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Calling All Kids (and their grownups)

Active Advent Faith Formation

On Sundays, December 5, December 12 and December 19, kids and interested adults will gather all together outside between 10:00 and 10:45 a.m. for faith formation! We will make videos acting out the Christmas story for our Christmas Eve pageant presentation. Maybe you want to be an angel, a shepherd, Mary, or Joseph? Come one, come all! We have plenty of costumes.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 5

9:45 a.m. – Faith Formation for Adults, Confirmands, and Youth

10:00 a.m. – Active Advent Faith Formation for Children

11:00 a.m. – Worship with Communion

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 12

9:45 a.m. – Faith Formation for Adults, Confirmands, and Youth

10:00 a.m. – Active Advent Faith Formation for Children

11:00 a.m. – Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 19

9:45 a.m. – Faith Formation for Adults, Confirmands, and Youth

10:00 a.m. – Active Advent Faith Formation for Children

11:00 a.m. – A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Hunger for Change Offering will be received during worship.

The PC(USA) Joy Gift Offering will also be received.

The Joy Gift Offering supports financial assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and PC(USA) racial ethnic schools and colleges. Online and text-giving are other ways to give to the Joy Gift Offering

Caroling and Sweet/Savory Treats

On Sunday, December 19, join us for an evening of caroling, fellowship, and a sweet/savory exchange.

Bring sweet or savory treats, individually packaged to share/exchange.

At 4:00 p.m. we'll gather in the courtyard to share our favorite carols.

At 4:30 p.m. we'll share some caroling with our neighbors.

(If you don't feel comfortable walking to nearby Urban Ministries or Families Moving Forward, you're invited to the fellowship hall where we'll be getting ready for the sweet/savory exchange.)

At 5:00 p.m. we'll all gather in the fellowship hall to exchange goodies and share favorite Christmas memories or traditions.

At this time, outside & distanced, we may sing without our masks;
for all indoor gatherings we will continue to mask.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)

The story of the birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in a pageant video, and in word and song, and the service concludes with Communion by candlelight. An offering will be received to support local non-profits and Durham neighbors in need.



"O HOLY NIGHT"

On **Friday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary**, the **Vocal Arts Ensemble** invites you to join them for their free (open to the public) Christmas holiday concert, "O Holy Night." Donations are appreciated and will be received at the event. The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham was founded in 1996 by *Rodney Wynkoop* to provide superior choral performance opportunities for outstanding singers in North Carolina's Triangle region (Durham, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh). Its 32 members are selected mainly from among musicians who have sung in other choral groups under Wynkoop's direction. The ensemble's mostly a cappella repertoire

ranges from the Renaissance to the present. All members of the Vocal Arts Ensemble have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and will be masked and distanced during the concert. The Vocal Arts Ensemble strongly encourages all attendees to be vaccinated prior to attending this performance. Masks are required while inside the church.



SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 18

FPC will be supporting this year's parade, but not as a participant. You are invited to park at the church and gather in front of the sanctuary (Main Street steps) and cheer on those who are participating. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. FPC will provide hot chocolate (bring your own mug). Bring a blanket and wear your Christmas glam!

Two Part-time Positions Open at FPC

NOTE: Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

FPC is looking for a part-time, non-exempt **Audio-Visual Technical Director of Worship Production**. The position is 10 hours a week, including Sunday mornings. First Presbyterian Church the position pays a minimum of \$16.92 an hour which is negotiable. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past or current employers) to this email address: AVTechnical@firstpres-durham.org.

FPC is also looking for a **custodian for Sunday mornings** (building and grounds preparation, security, and event set-up and clean-up). The position is 5 hours a Week. Pays \$16.92 an hour. Hours are approximately 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with some flexibility required. A criminal background check will be conducted. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past employers) to this email address: sunday-sexton@firstpres-durham.org.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE COMING SOON!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Is your photo missing, or would you like to change your photo in the latest FPC pictorial directory? Has your address, email, or phone number changed since July 2021? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please submit your photo and/or updated contact information through the Church Life App or email the photo or updated contact information to *Sybil King* in the church office at: s.king@firstpres-durham.org. **The deadline is Monday, December 6.** An updated directory will be made available to members again in early 2022.



352

My Lord! What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

fall, when the stars be - gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum - pet
2 You will hear the sin - ner
3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
cry,
shout,

to wake the na - tions un - der ground,

look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

Freedom Is Coming

359

O free - dom, O free - dom, O
(O) Je - sus, O Je - sus, O

— know. Free-dom is com-ing. Free-dom is
Je - sus is com-ing. Je - sus is

free - dom. O
Je - sus.

com - ing. Free-dom is com - ing. O yes, I
com - ing. Je - sus is com - ing. O yes, I

yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.

know. (O) O yes, I know. (O) O yes, I know. (O)

1 O 2

O yes, I know. O yes, I yes, I know.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today 2:00 PM First Friends Hike along South Ellerbee Creek (meet at Andy & Cherie Henry's home) No Youth Groups	Monday, November 29 1:00 PM Plan Worship 2:00 PM All Staff 6:00 PM Diaconate 7:00 PM Session	Tuesday, November 30 6:15-7:15 PM <i>INSPIRE</i> Book Study	Wednesday, December 1 11:00 AM-12 Noon <i>INSPIRE</i> Book Study 7:00 PM Mindy Douglas preaching at Mid-Week Advent Worship at St. Joseph's AME, Durham 7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 2	Friday, December 3 <hr/> Saturday, December 4	Sunday, December 5 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30-10:30 AM Faith Formation Classes for Adults, Confirmants, and Middle Schoolers 10:00-10:45 AM Active Advent Faith Formation for Children (and interested adults) 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 12:45 PM Women's Spiritual Formation at the home of Susan Dunlap 8:00 PM MnMs Fellowship (Zoom)	

~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
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919-682-5511
ORGANIZED 1871