



First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg
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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 10:30am
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 10:30am

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 21, 2021

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Tranquillo

Beethoven

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM Rhondda

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

Prayer of the Day and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy on us.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 18:5-27

"Our Wilderness Journey"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Beecher

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

So, God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Christ of the Upward Way

W. J. Mathams

Thomas Cass, soloist

*Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine,
Where Thou hast set Thy feet, may I place mine;
And move and march wherever Thou hast trod,
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.*

*Give me the heart to hear Thy voice and will,
That without fault or fear I may fulfill
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,
Like one who would not bring less than the best.*

*Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine,
Where Thou hast set Thy feet, may I place mine;
And when Your last call comes, serene and clear,
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."*

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

Prayer of Dedication and Benediction

Choral Benediction: God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God Be with You

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Introduction and Chorale from Suite Gothique

L. Boellmann

J. S. Bach

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALK WITH GOD will meet today at 4:30pm in the front parking lot. All are invited and encouraged to come be inspired with a brief devotional and friendly walk to the end of Peakland Place and back to the church.

Lent is here! Our Wilderness Journey: A Reflective Hike In and Toward Hope is our theme. Discover more about who and whose you are as we focus on learning more about the God who offers us the gift of hope for today and for all our tomorrows. See below for in-person and online worship opportunities. ALL details can be found on our website (<https://www.fpclly.org/2021-lenten-offerings.html>).

Lenten Daily Devotional. We are offering an interactive and simple daily devotional called *Breaking the Chains* for your Lenten walk providing the opportunity each day for you to draw closer to God. If you haven't been able to get your own copy of our Lenten devotional, contact Kathleen@fpclly.org. It's not too late to get started!

Musical Monday Reflections. Make music a part of your wilderness journey by engaging in our weekly musical offerings shared by Cory Whittier, past Lenten choir performances, and other familiar voices and instruments. All video offerings will be shared on our [website](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [Facebook](#) page at 12pm (noon) this Monday, March 22.

Midweek Meditations. Allow the combination of scripture, reflection, and music be a part of your walk to the cross by engaging in our weekly midweek meditations. Join Pastor Pete for a reading of scripture and a brief

reflection followed by musical offerings. All video reflections will be shared on our [website](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [Facebook](#) page at 12pm (noon) this Wednesday, March 24.

Outdoor Evening Prayer Services. Let a step on your hike in and toward hope include participating in our last Wednesday evening prayer service this Wednesday night, March 24, at 6:30pm in the back parking lot gathered around the fire. Please plan to wear a mask. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

From Palm to Passion: Holy Week is Coming! Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28 as we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, an entry that led to his last supper with the disciples and eventually his passionate death on the cross. A Maundy Thursday Seder Meal will be celebrated this year on April 1 (no fools) at 5:30 p.m. in the rear parking lot. This worship opportunity will include a modern embodiment of the last supper with traditional Mediterranean cuisine, hand washing celebration, and communion. Good Friday will be a day of reflection guided by a time lapse video of artist Tyler Hutchison painting an interpretation of our Lenten journey.

He is Risen: Easter is Coming! Easter at FPCLY in 2021 will have 3 different opportunities to worship. Our traditional Sunrise Service will be hosted at 7:00am in the Columbarium with prayer, homily, and communion. The Chancel Choir accompanied by brass and timpani will be leading an Easter Lessons and Carols Service on Live Video and Radio at 10:30am. A new worship will also be held this Easter. At 4:00pm, we will be hosting an outdoor worship around the flowered cross in the front circle drive. This worship will include Easter music, an inspiring message, and communion geared for all ages.

Pastoral Care and Prayers: If you have an emergency and need to talk with Peter, please call him directly. Members Helping Members are also available by phone.

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members for March (phone only):

Jenny Osinga (434) 426-1675 and Betsy Jones (434) 384-7633

“Rooted and Reaching” Capital Project Update:

1. We have now raised over \$2.62 Million in pledges to date! Just under \$400,000 shy of our goal \$3 Million to do everything outlined in the Campaign Focus. Booklets and Brochures with more information are available in the church office.
2. The Steeple Replacement project is underway led by Bill Perkins and Sutton Tinsley. Construction is scheduled to take place this April.
3. The Organ Renovation project has been affirmed by Session, contracted with Foley-Baker, and will be led by Rob Cleland and Cory Whittier. The initial stages of the renovation are scheduled to begin this summer with construction to start early in 2022. The construction phase will be 12 to 14 months from start to finish.
4. Other projects are in the planning stages with more information to come.

Annual Stewardship Campaign Status: We have now received 185 pledges totaling close to \$634,000 for our 2021 Operating Budget! Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge. Annual Stewardship packets and pledge cards were passed out concurrently with the Capital Projects Campaign visits, so if we have missed you in any way, please know that was not our intention and let us know. We want to include everyone. If you would like to initiate a date and time for a visit, we invite you to call the church office at 434-384-6231, or email at office@fpcly.org.

Office and Facility Update: On Tuesday, February 16 the Session approved an extension until March 20, to close the facility to group gatherings of session committees, classes, and circles, with the exception of the FPC Weekday School, AI Anon, Scouts, and the Facilities Committee (who have several projects to tend to at this time). Individual appointments are still welcomed with staff but check-in, temperature checks, masks and social distancing will still be enforced. This caution is being implemented due to the continual increase of Covid-19 cases in our local area. Session will continue to reassess and hopes to be able to lift restrictions of gatherings as soon as possible.