



ANointed

EXPERIENCING A SACRED EASTER



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
celebrating & inspiring

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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Whether you are at First Presbyterian for the first time, a repeat visitor, or a long-time member...

Whether you are familiar with reformed traditions or find some of it a bit different...

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Episcopalian or Lutheran or Methodist or Jewish or Agnostic...

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged...

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. As God's children and Jesus' disciples, we believe it is important to take seriously God's commandment and Jesus' teachings to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. We don't all look alike, act alike, or think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions and carry different burdens. Still, every Sunday we are called by God to worship together as one unified community. Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives. We do our best to sing with joy and pray with honesty. Hospitality is important, and friendship is holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade in the Narthex after worship. We hope you will join us in sharing the love, joy, and peace of Christ with one another during this time.

If you're looking for a perfect church, although there are many wonderful things happening in the life and ministries of First Presbyterian, perfect is not in the cards. We're real people. We do the very best we can, but we don't always get it right. We understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never lets go, is for everyone. We truly believe this a place for all God's children to be a part of celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations may be helpful to you: Accessible Restrooms can be located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Elevator is also located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Nursery is located on the ground floor just outside the elevator. In addition to locations, there are two supports available to worship participants should they be needed: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex. Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions. Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.

Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. We believe we are better when all members of God's family are included! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts with a variety of resources to make a worship bag. After the children's moment, 4 years to 2nd grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in room 101 or stay for the remainder of worship. It is always a joy to have your children and all the wiggles, giggles, questions, noises, and insights they bring. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's ministries, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpcly.org) or Catherine Adams (communications@fpcly.org).

Interested in joining?

If you'd like to be here in a more official capacity, you are invited to join First Presbyterian as a member. Everyone who is part of our community is treated the same. Joining isn't about special treatment, but rather about a commitment you make to following Jesus alongside others trying to do the same. New member gatherings take place throughout the year based on interest. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (peter@fpcly.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day... First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

*From the beginning of the early church, God's people have met to worship on the first day of the week, the day Christ Jesus rose from the dead. We **gather** to praise the triune God, confess our sin, and seek God's grace. We **hear** the good news of the gospel and are invited to **respond** to that good news in prayer, mission, offering, and celebrating the Lord's Supper. We are **sent** forth to glorify God through the service of daily living.*

**Those who are able, please stand.*

All are invited to join together in saying liturgy printed in bold.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Christe, Du Lamm Gottes (BWV 619)

J. S. Bach

Cory Whittier, Director of Music/ Organist

Choral Introit

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn 81: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

St. Flavian

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.

As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passion-tide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

CELEBRATING PROFESSIONS OF FAITH AND BAPTISM

Professions of Faith:

Tomahito and Holly Mori

Sacrament of Baptism:

Tomahito Mori

Presentation

Questions of Renunciation and Commitment

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are now a child of the covenant, may God bless you, and keep you, and may you always be open to God's guidance.

Prayer and Welcome

Leader: Tomahito has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Tomahito into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support him, to share the good news of the gospel with him, and to help him know and follow Christ.

***Hymn #498: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

Kingdom

Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

Choral Anthem

Lenten Litany *Chancel Choir*

M. Howe

*God the Father, God the son, God the Spirit three in one, hear us from Thy heavenly throne, spare us Holy Trinity.
Jesu who for us didst bear scorn and sorrow, toil and care, hearken to our lowly prayer, we beseech Thee Jesu.
By the hour of agony spent while Thine apostles three slumbered in Gethsemane, here us Holy Jesu.
Jesu by Thy friend betrayed, Jesu sport for sinners made, Jesu in mock robes arrayed hear us Holy Jesu.
By the scourging meekly born by the reed and crown of thorn, by the malice and the scorn, here us Holy Jesu.
By the outcry of the Jews, when a murderer they would choose, and the Prince of Life refuse, here us Holy Jesu.
By the nailing to the Tree, by the title over Thee, by the gloom of Calvary, here us Holy Jesu.
Jesus who for us has died and forever glorified. Reignest at the Father's side, hear us Holy Jesu.
Hear us Holy Father, here us Holy Father.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

(pew Bible NT, p.3)

“You Can’t Make Me”

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Minute for Rooted and Reaching

Kathryn Pumphrey

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

What Wondrous Love is This

Marcia Thom-Kaley, Soloist

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM—
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on.

***Doxology**

Hymn #592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S SERVICE

***Hymn #418: God, Bless Your Church with Strength!**

Ich Halte Treulich Still

God bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
up build Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.

God bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.

God bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk,
assured our God is there!

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

***Postlude**

Fugue in D Minor

F. Mendelssohn

Cory Whittier, Director of Music/ Organist

We encourage all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another. All are also encouraged to join in the Narthex for lemonade and cookies before participating in one of the many spiritual growth opportunities available for all ages.

The Two Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger relief in our community will be collected in baskets in the Narthex at the end of worship. All are invited to give to this offering as you are able.