



AN OINTED

EXPERIENCING A SACRED EASTER



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 9:30 a.m.
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 9:30 a.m.

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... Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 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

Supplication

H. Kihlken

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Bell Introit

Ah, Holy Jesus

S. U. Hungerford

Chancel Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn 370: Just as I Am, Without One Plea**

Woodworth

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you are indeed the firmest foundation in which to build our lives. You are stronger. You are greater. You are higher. You are more than any other. And even though we know that and say that here and now, we still have a tendency to get distracted and place our allegiances in other lesser people and lesser things. Have mercy on us and forgive us, God, for not trusting you with our whole hearts and for not leaning on you for all good things.

Silent Prayer of Confession



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

All: **In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Affirmation of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 32 &34

I am called a Christian because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity. We call him "our Lord" because- not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood- he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Choral Anthem

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

M. Bevan

Chancel Choir

*There's a Wideness in God's mercy Like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgement given. For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind; And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.*

*But we make his love too narrow By false limits of our own; And we magnify his strictness With a zeal he will not own.
There is plentiful redemption In the blood that has been shed; There is joy for all the members In the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands Of new worlds as great as this; There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss. If our love were but more simple, We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all gladness In the joy of Christ our Lord.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: John 4:5-42

(pew Bible NT, p. 94-95)

"Worship in Spirit and Truth"

Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory

How Deep the Father's Love

S. Townend

Harrison Reed, soloist

*How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure, How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, Bring many sons to glory, Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders, Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there, Until it was accomplished, His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished, I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom, But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection, Why should I gain from His reward?, I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom*

***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 350: Fill My Cup**

Fill My Cup

Refrain:

Fill my cup, let it overflow; Fill my cup, let it overflow;
Fill my cup, let it overflow; let it overflow with love.

Lord let me be Your instrument, spreading sunshine in the land;
Let people see Your works in me; help me live the best I can. Refrain

It's my desire to live for You and to always walk upright;
Give me the strength to face each day; stay with me through each dark night. Refrain

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

J. S. Bach

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and 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.

Sunday, March 12

- 8:30 am Coffee & Conversation
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 10:50 am AED Information Session
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 11:50 am AED Information Session
- 3:30 pm Scouts Cub Pack 7
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, March 13

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Presbyterian Women Horizon Circle
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew (Westminster Canterbury)
- 6:00 pm College Cares
- 7:00 pm Scout Troop 7

Tuesday, March 14

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 7:00 pm Scout Troop 49

Wednesday, March 15

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Immerse Bible Study
- 11:30 am Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy (FPCLY)
- 12:00 pm Lenten Prayer Service
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon

Thursday, March 16

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 17

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, March 19

- 8:30 am Coffee & Conversation
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 12:00 pm Session Meeting
- 3:30 pm Scouts Cub Pack 7
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Denise McDonald

Ushers and Greeters:

Becky & Caskie Giles,
Gwen Maddox, Rick Milam,
and Connie Messerschmidt

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Kelly and Martin Knight

Sound Technician:

Will Absher

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Betsy Jones

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

March:

Betsy Jones (434) 384-7633 or
(434) 941-7401

Judie Cleland (434) 444-2797

Prayer Cares and Concerns

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, you can write it on the blue prayer card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate (or the prayer box off the front hallway) or share your request online at

fpcly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail a check to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
3. Use a credit card online at fpcly.org.
4. Download and use the *Vanco Mobile Faith* App on your phone.
5. Set up an automatic bank draft or bill pay.

Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

Lenten Prayer Services – every Wednesday in Lent (March 15, 22, & 29, and April 5) @ 12pm

Let us come together in the Chapel to lift up prayers for the cares and concerns of our individual lives, the lives of others, and our world.

Lenten Reflection Devotional

Draw nearer to God during Lent with this weekly devotional that focuses on Christ and His journey to the cross. Pick up this week's meditation and coordinating Lenten symbol in the front foyer after worship.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Information Sessions – TODAY after worship & Sunday School

Because we believe it is important for the general FPCLY congregation and leaders to be aware of where our life-saving AEDs are located and what is included in the kits, we are hosting two 25-minute information sessions. The instructor will briefly share what an AED is, how it operates, and how the automatic features of these devices support an untrained person in an emergency while waiting for medical professionals to arrive.

Vacation Bible School registration goes live on Wednesday, March 15!

The time is *almost* here to register your child(ren) or youth for VBS 2023 as *Food Truck Party* will be rolling into town! We're excited for children (3 years old through completed 4th grade) to grow and learn as participants and youth (completed 5th grade and above) to grow and learn as volunteers! Any adult interested in serving during the week or volunteering another way may contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpcly.org).

Encounter Worship Service – NEXT Sunday, March 19 @ 9:30am

Dig deeper into the story of the Good Samaritan and our call to love our neighbor through song and worship followed by hands-on experiences centered around the concepts of service, relationship, and justice. Stations will be located in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Chapel, and Hallway around the first floor and will include a mixture of tangible activities, a video presentation, prayer, and reflection.

Potluck Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, March 22 @ 5:30pm

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and good food! Please bring a favorite dish (entrée, side, or dessert) to share, as you are able! Contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org), Director of Outreach, for details.

Music of Remembrance and Reflection: a Lenten Choral Concert – Saturday, April 1 @ 4:00pm

First Pres Presents the FPCLY Chancel Choir in concert as they perform Mark Hayes' "Requiem" and a variety of other Lenten themed songs and anthems. This requiem was composed in 2013 and includes both Latin and English texts. The Chancel Choir will be joined by a wind ensemble of local musicians.

Easter Flowers “in honor or memory of a loved one”

Celebrate a friend or loved one this Easter season with a gift to FPCLY “in memory” or “in honor of.” Your gift will go toward the beautiful flower arrangement in the Sanctuary on Easter morning! A sign-up sheet and envelopes (for cash or checks) are on the table just off the foyer. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with “Easter Flowers” in the memo. Gifts can also be made at fpcly.org. under the “Giving” tab.

