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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and Peace to you all from our Lord Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God and CELEBRATE the coming of Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. Yes, Jesus has already been born in Bethlehem a couple thousand years ago, however, we, as the body of Christ, the church, are called to PREPARE, REMEMBER, PRAISE, ENCOUNTER, AND CELEBRATE Jesus' coming each year as a way to reignite and reinvigorate the meaning Jesus' coming has within our lives. Everyday we can ask ourselves, "Who is the Messiah to me?", and go about our day looking for ways in which God shows up and guides us.

With Jesus comes life, light, and love! With Jesus comes grace, mercy, and forgiveness! With Jesus comes peace, hope, and joy! With Jesus comes healing, compassion, and miracles! With Jesus comes righteousness, strength, and courage! With Jesus comes transformation and salvation! For whom? For YOU! For ALL! For just this season of Christmas? NO! Christmas is just the beginning (the foundation if you will) of our PREPARING, REMEMBERING, PRAISING, ENCOUNTERING, AND CELEBRATING throughout the rest of the liturgical year and witnessing it manifests itself throughout our lives every day.

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg, we acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed on us and trusted us with; we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings with one another; we acknowledge that we don't always fulfill our call to be God's church perfectly and thus need to ask God for forgiveness; we acknowledge our need for God's grace, and the grace we can offer one another; we acknowledge the truth that we are all better together. Faith is a journey and one we believe God has called us and gifted us to walk together as God's beloved children. Welcome to this journey!

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. Accessible Restrooms can be located down the main hallway from the Foyer. 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.

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed 20 new members over the last year, and we are ready to welcome more. 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).

Session Leadership

Diane Stroud, Clerk of Session
Becky Giles- '24, Education, Cong. Development
Elsie Howerton- '24, Education/ Weekday School Board
Gary Williams- '24, Outreach/ S&O/ Cong. Development
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach/ Cong. Development
Nancy Strosnider- '25, Finance
Mary Ann Tate- '25, Personnel
Marilyn Hartman- '26, Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- '26, Outreach/ Cong. Development
Martin Knight- '26, Facilities
John Osinga- '26, Worship
Kathryn Overstreet- '26, Education/ Weekday School Board
David Cheatham- '27, Personnel
Caskie Giles- '27, Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- '27, Worship

Staff Leadership

Alex Collier, Director of Outreach
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate
Susan Hall, Financial Manager
Maria Karalekas, Director of FPC Weekday School
Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider
Jody Sprinkle, Director of Facilities
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director of Education
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor

Celebrating Christmas Eve with Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

December 24, 2024

11:00 p.m.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Prelude

O Antiphons

Leader: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the people, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Key of David, Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open; Come to set the prisoners free.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of Justice: Come shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiving, desire of the nations and Savior to all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

*Medley of Christmas Carols

See insert... Sing Verse 1 of each

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

All those who trust and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited forward to receive the bread of life and cup of salvation. As you come forward to receive the bread of life and cup of salvation, you are invited and encouraged to bring your offerings to God and God’s church and place them in the offering plates on the table.

Anthem

O Holy Night

Arr. W. Fritchie

Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloist

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S SERVICE

Litany for Christmas

- Leader: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
- All: Glory to God in the highest!**
- Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- All: Glory to God in the highest!**
- Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.
- All: Glory to God in the highest!**
- Leader: To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.
- All: Glory to God in the highest!**
- Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.
- All: Glory to God in the highest!**
- Leader: Jesus Christ, the light of the world!
- The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sharing the Light of Christ

In honor of Christ’s light in the world, everyone should have received a candle upon entering the Sanctuary. Once the Christ Candle is lit, the light will be passed to each individual throughout the Sanctuary. Once the light has been shared with all, we will sing “Silent Night, Holy Night” together. All candles may be extinguished following the benediction.

***Hymn #60: Silent Night, Holy Night**

Stille Nacht

Verses 1 & 4 only

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please return your candles by placing them in the bins at the doors as you exit the Sanctuary.*