



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503  
(434) 384-6231 · [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org) · e-mail: [info@fpclly.org](mailto:info@fpclly.org)  
<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. 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. 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](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)).

## 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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Celebrating Christmas Eve with Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

December 24, 2024

4:00 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**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Medley of Christmas Carols:** *(see insert)*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **Children's Moment: Luke 2:1-18**

Following the children's moment, all children are encouraged to return to their families to participate in the remainder of worship together.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**New Testament Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4**

**"THE MESSIAH"**

Peter Thompson

## **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 to come forward to receive the bread of life and cup of salvation. Children are welcome too as God's love envelopes them and claims them even before they profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.*

*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 and 4 only*

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

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



### 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