



The Voice of God by Amy Rylander



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



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy New Year and grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. The beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us! God's mercy is new every morning! The joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and that the rest of this day is filled with opportunities for you to live into God's light and love in all you do and with all you may be with.

Today in worship, we are reminded of the mighty works and all-powerful voice of God. We are reminded because sometimes it is possible for us to forget who God is and what God can do. We get trapped in the cycle and rhythm of life, we get overcome by fear, we get drawn in by temptations, and when we do, we forget that it is God who is creator, God who is provider, God who is redeemer, God who is deliverer, God who is savior. We can even forget to the point of asking "How can it be?" with a notion of doubt and skepticism, as if we actually think we know better. The reality is, the answer to "How can it be?", is found in the truth that God is with us. How can we recover and regain strength? God is with us! How can we wade through the trials and temptations? God is with us! How can we be at peace and find reconciliation? God is with us! "Ascribe to the Lord," says the psalmist in Psalm 29, for the mighty works and all-powerful voice of God reigns!

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. After the children's moment, 4 years to 2nd grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in Room 1 (downstairs below the library) 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).

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).

Service of the Lord's Day

January 12, 2025

*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

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have not lived as you have taught us. We have put our longing for money, success, or happiness above our desire for you and your kingdom. We worry about what others will think, what we wear, how our reputation can be polished. We make idols out of the winning record of a sports team, the next promotion at work, the perfect family, the cleanliness of our house, or the latest technology. We are careless with our words, saying things we don't mean, things that are hurtful to our children or friends. We are so busy with our lives that we forget our every breath depends on you. While we waste time on meaningless activities, we fail to recognize moments of grace throughout our day. We indulge in hateful thoughts against those we feel have offended us, and we are indifferent toward the suffering in our own neighborhoods. We forget that all people bear your image. In an effort to look better, we compare ourselves to others. We take advantage of weakness and are passive in the face of injustice. For personal gain and reputation, we lie blatantly, and we lie by omission. We would rather blame others unjustly than accept fault. We long for what is not ours and begrudge the blessings of others. Forgive us for thinking of ourselves before others and before you. Free us from unreasonable expectations of ourselves and others, from the need to compete, and from loss of perspective so that we may glorify you in all we think, say, and do. *Please take a moment for Silent Prayer*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

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

*Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

*Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7

"How Can It Be?"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn #478: **Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven** (*verses 1 & 4 only*)

Lauda Anima

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Angels, help us to adore Him; ye behold Him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

*Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. The LORD makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

He Hideth My Soul

arr. Brad Nix

*A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, Where rivers of pleasure I see*

*Refrain: He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand,*

*A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away,
He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day.*

*With numberless blessings each moment He crowns, And filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, oh, glory to God! For such a Redeemer as mine.*

*When clothed with His brightness transported I rise To meet Him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love, I'll shout with the millions on high.*

***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 #540: God Be with You Till We Meet Again**

Randolph

God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you;
Put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

***Benediction**

Postlude

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, and proclaimed,
Inspired by the presence of God who is with us in this place and with us wherever it is we are,
Let us all now depart from this time together, empowered and encouraged on the wings of the Holy Spirit
who gives us the courage, strength, and hope we need each and every day.*



Vision: Connect, Engage, and Draw Near to God and Others
Mission: Celebrate God's Grace and Inspire the Next Generation for Christ
Worship Joyfully. Grow Spiritually. Love Boldly. Serve Faithfully.

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

For a full calendar listing and more information, please visit our website www.fpcls.org.

Sunday, January 12

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, January 13

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm AI-Anon meeting
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Potluck Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, January 16

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

Sunday, January 19

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle -MS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm For Real -HS Youth Group

Pastor on Call... January 12 to 19

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members... January

Ginny McCraw- 434.528.1927 & Sally deNiord- 434.384.8153

Prayer Joys and Concerns

If you would like to ask for others to be in prayer with you or for you or a loved one, you are welcome to speak with an usher, a pastor/ staff member, before or after worship, call the church office, or share your request online at fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Notes for Today

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Sally Leslie

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Worship Leader/ Proclamation:

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson
Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff

Key Scriptures:

Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29

Message Title:

How Can It Be?

Music Accompaniment:

Joshua O'Dell
Director of Music and Organist

Offertory Anthem:

Chancel Choir

Ushers and Greeters:

Donnie Ore and Team

Worship Workshop Leader:

Laurie Sommardahl

Sound Technicians:

Will Absher and Lloyd Agnew

Chancel Flowers Today:

Chancel Guild

Each week, and month, there are many opportunities to be involved in worship leadership: Worship Leader/ Liturgist, Usher/Greeter, Worship Workshop, Hospitality Desk, Choir, etc. If you would like to get more involved, please reach out to Peter directly (peter@fpcls.org).

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231 Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

Bible Studies are Back on Wednesday and Thursday

The Immerse and Colin Caldwell Bible Studies have resumed their learning together with a study called “Facing the Future: Heaven or Hell?” All are welcome!!

Youth Group Returns- NEXT SUNDAY, January 19 @ 5 pm

Come get the new year started off right by getting into gear with Meeting in the Middle (MS) and For Real (HS). With each gathering focused on a nugget of faith, you are sure to be inspired and equipped for all life has to offer you in this adventurous time of your life. Come explore, discover, and grow with others who are looking to connect and engage more with God and others. Homecooked dinner included!

Park View Café Dinner – Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

Service & Outreach has suggested that we partner with Park View in this new way a couple of times each year, with the first opportunity on 1/22. The sign-up board is in the Narthex and on-line for cooking (1-3pm) and serving roles (3-6pm), split between FPCLY and Park View. Contact Alex for more information!

Fellowship Dinner Schedule – Jan. 15th, Feb. 19th, March 19th

3rd Wednesday Potluck dinners will resume this month at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall - all are invited! Bring a dish to share as you are able, or just come and enjoy some food and fellowship.

You're Invited to Host a Coffee and Goodies Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings!

The opportunity to gather around the table for coffee, lemonade, goodies, and cookies is a great way to connect and engage with others! But we cannot do it without your hospitable hands. If you would like to lend a hand as a host one Sunday, spots remain! Scan the QR code to the right to head to the online form.



Covenant Giving @ FPCLY

- Place your gift in the offering basket today
- Checks payable and mailed to First Presbyterian Church
1215 V.E.S. Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Use a credit card online at fpcly.org
- Download and use the *Vanco Mobile Faith* App on your phone
- Set up an automatic bank draft or bill pay

FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud, Clerk of Session
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach
Nancy Strosnider- '25, Finance
Mary Ann Tate- '25, Personnel (Chair)
Marilyn Hartman- '26, Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- '26, Outreach
Martin Knight- '26, Facilities (Chair)
John Osinga- '26, Worship
Kathryn Overstreet- '26, Education/
Weekday School Board
David Cheatham- '27, Personnel
Caskie Giles- '27, Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- '27, Worship

Corporation

David Tate, President
Tom Pettyjohn, Vice-President
William Paxton, Treasurer
Diane Stroud, Secretary
Johnny Alford, At-Large
Trustees, Session

Other

David Tate, Finance (Chair)
Cathy Oakes, C&N (Chair)
Gary Williams, S&O (Chair)
Bill Perkins, Malawi Mission Partnership
Marilyn Hartman, Presbyterian Women
Becky O'Brian, Chancel Guild
Arline Ore, Wedding Guild
Joan Roberson, Bereavement

Staff

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

