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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. In the spirit of this Eastertide Season, three weeks removed from the glorious and celebrative Easter Sunday in which the tomb that once held Jesus' body is now empty, for Christ is Risen!, may we all remember that the beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us, God's mercy is new every morning, and the joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today, and the rest of this Eastertide Season, that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and know of the unconditional love and abounding hope that comes from our Lord.

PILLARS: Jesus preaches and teaches us about faith and life using parables, and there is one in particular found in Matthew 7:24-27 in which the structure of our life is compared to the structure of a house. At the base of our life as Christians is God's grace. The gift of God's grace forms the bedrock of our spiritual life. Implanted within the bedrock of grace are PILLARS, or 4 main characteristics of God, that help support a strong foundation. The foundation is a beam, connected to the PILLARS, and that beam is our faith. A life built on this foundation is one built on the promises of God. For the last several weeks, we have dug deeper into the character of God to affirm that God knows you and God cares about what God knows. Today we will wrap up this series with affirming that God is willing and able to do something about what God knows and cares.

Many opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg to engage, impact, and expect. Engage in the life and ministries of God's church and mission. Impact our neighbors by sharing the love and light of Christ. Expect God's faithfulness and goodness to unfold before our very eyes. We welcome and encourage all to walk together in being who God has created us to be in this time and place. God has blessed us and bestowed on us many gifts and we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings and gifts with one another. We try but we don't always get things right; therefore, we give thanks for God's gifts of grace and forgiveness and acknowledge the importance of offering grace to one another. May God continue to fill us and use us to bring glory to God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

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

May 25, 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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Curnow

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #276: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

*Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Eternal and merciful God, you love us with a love beyond our understanding, and you set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Yet, we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. When we cut corners and put our faith in worldly things, we are grateful, God, for your grace that sustains us and secures us. When we get tossed around by trials, we are grateful, God, for pillars of faith that reassure us of your knowledge, care, willingness, and ability to provide a strong foundation. Have mercy on us and forgive us now, so the cracks in our foundation may be filled, so our hearts may be restored and renewed. *(Please take a moment for Silent Prayer)*

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life has gone, and a new life has begun.

All: **By God, through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and can be at peace. Alleluia, 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

In response to God's love, grace, and forgiveness given as a gift to us, we are called and encouraged to share those gifts with others. During this time, we invite all to share the love, joy, and peace of Christ you have been given with those around you with a handshake, fist bump, peace sign, or hug. You may also use the words: "May the peace of Christ be with you." And a response would be, "And also with you."

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

"PILLARS: God is Willing and Able"

Peter Thompson

Luke 11:9-10, Ephesians 3:20-21

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Covenant Giving

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Borning Cry

arr. Phil Kadidlo

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.*

*When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.*

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

*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

*Benediction

Postlude

He Is Exalted

arr. Pethel

*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.*