

FALL
AFRESH
ON
ME



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. It is a true joy to see you and be with you today as we gather to bring praise, honor, and glory to God in this time of worship. I pray we may all open our hearts and minds, lift our voices, and offer our attention and intention to God in this time.

I want you to know that whatever it is that brings you to worship, you are welcome. Maybe you have been sitting in these pews for years, or maybe you are walking through the doors of FPCLY for the first time. You are welcome. Maybe you are celebrating life with joy and laughter and freedom, or maybe you are carrying heavy burdens and fear and dis-ease. You are welcome. Maybe your faith is strong, and you are confident in the work God is doing in your life, or maybe your faith is wavering, and you are in a season of doubt as to where God is and what God is doing. You are welcome. In all truth, this is God's house, and God welcomes all who truly want and need to know and experience God. In all truth, we are all in need of God and the many gifts God has to offer us, for gifts of God are unlike any other gifts in that they are able to fulfill us- individually and collectively- to live more abundant and meaningful lives. In that spirit and with that hope, know that you are welcome. I pray you see and feel God in a big way.

Throughout this Summer, I have encouraged you all to be intentional about your spiritual growth in at least one way. It could be praying, reading scripture, or coming to worship more often. It could be allowing yourself to serve others more often, teach someone something, get outside in creation, or even play more. How is this journey going for you? Have you seen God? Felt God's presence? It is never too late to start being more intentional about your relationship with God. I encourage you to stop and listen and wait for God and then watch and witness the glory of God being revealed through the many blessings God bestows.

And may God be with you till we meet again.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Building Hospitality and Welcoming Children

Just as God's arms are open wide with grace and welcome, so too are the doors of FPCLY open wide with hospitality. We are grateful you are here today and pray you feel at home! The following are a few notes to help be a comfort and guide during your time here:

- Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions.
- Hearing-assist devices, Large Print Bulletins, and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex.
- Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.
- 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 (ages 0 to 3) and Nursery Nook are located on this level through the Chapel in Room 101. A Nursery Care Provider is there to help assist you.
- Welcoming Children: Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts in the Narthex with a variety of resources to make a worship bag. Please note: Worship Workshop will not be available for children 4 years to 2nd grade in July and August.

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

July 20, 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 #430: Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!**

Darwall's 148th

***Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God, you promise to pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. I humbly confess my sin and ask your mercy. I have not always loved you with a pure heart, nor have I always loved my neighbor as myself. I have not always done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you. Have mercy on me, O God, in your loving kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ. *(Please take a moment for Silent Prayer)*

***Assurance of Pardon**

As the water is poured into the baptismal font, and the good news of God is shared, know that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life. Glory be to God. 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.*

***Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith**

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

***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

*All children are welcome and encouraged to return to their seats for the remainder of worship.
Worship carts are available for those who might like an activity to learn more about God and worship.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13, Acts 8:26-40, Luke 19:1-10

"FALL AFRESH ON ME: To bring good news"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response: Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

***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 #391: Take My Life**

Hendon

***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 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.*