

FALL  
AFRESH  
ON  
ME



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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you on this Lord's Day. What a wonderful opportunity we have been gifted to be together in worship this morning and I pray the power and presence of God's Holy Spirit is felt by all in our time together. As a new page turns in our storybook of life, from July to August, from steaming hot to variably warm, from summer vacation and rest to school preparation and gearing up for fall programs, we continue to dive deeply into the work of God's Holy Spirit as it relates to spiritual gifts bestowed on us by God. If you have been here for each dive that is wonderful, I pray God is working in you. If you have been gone and haven't been able to catch up, no problem and welcome on board.

In short, we believe God has gifted us with an expression of God's Holy Spirit to support God's vision and mission of the church. Part of our call as the body of Christ is to participate in the establishment of God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. It is a worldwide vision to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As a servant leader, God desires that we know how God has gifted us. This leads us to where God would have us serve as part of God's vision and mission for the church. To do this, we have heard Paul's summary of definitions in Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians, and we have explored the meaning behind the divine enablement of administration, apostleship, encouragement, evangelism, faith, and giving. As we continue to dive, I encourage us all to remember that God qualifies the called and I encourage us all to keep praying, "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me."

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

August 10, 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**

**If with All Your Hearts**

Mendelssohn

## Welcome and Announcements

### **\*Hymn #483: Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above**

Mit Freuden Zart

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth  
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth

Within the Kingdom of God's might, Lo!

All is just and all is right  
To God all praise and glory

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.

As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song, my voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
both soul and body take your part:  
To God all praise and glory.

### **\*Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

**Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have 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, or deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray.**

*(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.*

*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: Mark 2:1-12, Acts 3:1-16**

**"FALL AFRESH ON ME: To restore instantaneously"**

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**

**Upon This Rock**

*When others see with earthly eyes, Just what they want to see,  
You will see the things that never die, You will know and recognize,  
By simple child-like faith, The priceless truth that Others will deny.*

*When others say I'm just a man Who likes to dream His dreams  
When others call a miracle a myth, You'll listen for eternity  
In moments as they pass, And see with spirit eyes What others miss.*

*Upon this rock I'll build My kingdom, And on this rock forever and ever it shall stand  
And all the powers of Hell itself Shall never more prevail against it,  
For Satan's thrones are built on sinking sand.  
Upon this rock I'll build My kingdom, And on this rock forever and ever it shall stand*

*Upon this rock of revelation, I'll build a strong and mighty nation,  
And it shall stand the storms of time, Upon this rock.*

*If in a simple carpenter, You see the Son of God,  
If you would choose to lose When you could win, If you would give your life away  
For nothing in return, Then you are where My kingdom will begin.*

**\*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 #394: There is a Balm in Gilead**

Balm in Gilead

*Refrain:* There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. [Refrain]

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
And if you lack for knowledge He'll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." [Refrain]

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

arr. Curnow

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*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.*