

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 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, giving, healing, and helps. 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."

Today, please join me in welcoming Erik Koroneos. Erik, and his wife Treena, are longtime members of FPCLY. A few years ago, Erik participated in the Commissioned Pastor Training Program through the Presbytery and became a Commissioned Pastor serving in worship leadership roles throughout the area. He has led worship here at FPCLY several times, delivering powerfully relatable messages, and I suspect today will be another. His background in life, family, church, and business has filled Erik with a foundation of faith to which he longs to share the good news with others. Welcome to Erik and thank you for your faithfulness in worship leadership and discipleship.

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

August 24, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Curnow

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #473: For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight. (Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. (Refrain)

For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. (Refrain)

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world and awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. *(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: Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***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: Colossians 4:2-5

"Displaying Christian Hospitality: A Thank You to God's Gift of Jesus"

Erik Koroneos

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

Deep River

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?
Oh don't you want to go to that promised land,
That land where all is peace?
Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground*

***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 #386: O for a World**

Azmon

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

***Benediction**

*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.*

***Postlude**

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Pethel
