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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus! The psalmist writes, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24) I pray you are doing well today. It is so wonderful to be with you as we gather to worship and bring God praise, honor, and glory.

I have a question I want to ask. It has become more and more evident in language and behavior that God is someone we turn to for help when we need it. Like a doctor when we are sick or a pharmacist when we need medicine or a repair person when something breaks at home. "Help! God help!" God has indeed promised to be "our help" in ages past, present, and future. Here is the question: are we as well versed in our conversations and time with God when things are moving right along and going well? Perhaps another way of asking the question is, how well are we doing with living in gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all God is and all God does for us?

Like last week, we celebrate in worship today the theme of Thanksgiving. When Israel was preparing for a new life in the promised land, God gave them the instruction, "Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field," (Exodus 23:16). Thanksgiving celebrations were an important part of the people's worship before God. Throughout history, worshiping communities have set aside certain times and days as events of special thanksgiving to God. These events are an acknowledgement that God, as creator, is also the provider of all the bounty of life. When special blessings are experienced, when fervent prayers have been answered, when times of prosperity come, or when God has led and protected through times of trial or uncertainty, the church does well to gather in thankful worship before God.

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.
- All visitors are encouraged to stop by the Hospitality (Welcome) Desk near the main entrance for more information or to share your contact information.
- Hearing-assist devices, Large Print Bulletins, and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex.
- 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. Following the Children's Moment, children age 4 years to 2nd grade are invited to a Worship Workshop led by Abby Boyle, our new Worship Workshop Coordinator. Worship Workshop runs from post Children's Moment to the Benediction, with all participants being led from the Sanctuary to Room 1 (downstairs below Library) for activities and then back to the Narthex for pickup.

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian would love to welcome YOU as a new member. 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

November 16, 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

The Glory of God in Nature

Beethoven

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.
Let us remember God's mercy, for God is gracious and compassionate.

**All: We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Spirit within us,
for giving us the mind of Christ, for gathering us into your church.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude,
for calling us to service in your kingdom.

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for God satisfies the thirsty, God fills the hungry with good
things, and God heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate God's abundant goodness.

**All: We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs,
for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies,
for the beds we sleep in, and for the dwellings that shelter us.**

Leader: We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs, for the things that make
our work easier, for the conveniences of modern life, for the beauty and pleasure you
bring into our lives.

**All: With voices united, our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

*Hymn #559: We Gather Together

Kremser

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have given us many good gifts. Today we thank you for all of them, but we also confess that sometimes we love those gifts more than we love you. We confess wanting more and more things: food, clothes, toys, and money. Forgive us for not being content and thankful. Forgive our selfishness. Help us to love you more than everything else. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

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.*

*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 ages 4 years to 2nd grade are welcome and encouraged to attend Worship Workshop in Room 1. Worship Workshop is led by Abby Boyle, Worship Workshop Coordinator. If children do not wish to go to Worship Workshop, they are welcome 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

Old Testament Reading: 2 Chronicles 6:12-14

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

"Posture of Thanksgiving"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Glorious is the Lord Almighty

Haydn

*Glorious is the Lord, Almighty,
Praise Him, all ye people.
Glorious is the Lord, Almighty,
Praise and honor to His name.*

*We magnify Thee and glorify Thee, Lord
Lord we praise Thee and give thanks to Thee,
We adore Thee and glorify Thee, Lord.*

*Hear thou our prayer for Thy tender mercies,
As we thank Thee, for all Thy gracious goodness, Lord
Lord, we do thank Thee for Thy kindness, and we praise Thee for Thy greatness, Lord.*

*Glorious is Thy name, Almighty Lord,
Glorious is Thy name Lord, Glorious is Thy name.
Glory and honor be to Thee forever, Amen!*

***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 #556: The World Abounds with God's Free Grace**

Halifax

The world abounds with God's free grace; What wonders bless the land!
And on through boundless starry space, God's matchless works expand.

Lord, teach us an attitude that thanks You all our days,
A love that shows our gratitude through deeds that live our praise.

Give thanks for plains and valleys spaced By mountains thrusting high;
Give thanks by fighting greed and waste That drain their treasures dry.

Lord, teach us an attitude that thanks You all our days,
A love that shows our gratitude through deeds that live our praise.

In full thanksgiving for God's love, From which earth's blessings flow,
Protect the precious air above, The waters spread below.

Lord, teach us an attitude that thanks You all our days,
A love that shows our gratitude through deeds that live our praise.

Give thanks in hope, rejoice, repent, And practice all you prayed;
True thanks can never be content To foul the world God made.

Lord, teach us an attitude that thanks You all our days,
A love that shows our gratitude through deeds that live our praise.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Recessional

Douglas Wagner
