

AWE STRUCK

LOST IN WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Welcome to this first Sunday of advent. As we enter this season of Advent - of waiting, preparing, anticipating, the birth of Jesus - may we be filled with a sense of awe. May we be reminded that God is present in the simple, and be amazed. May we be challenged to celebrate infinite significance in our daily lives and be transformed in love. May we be moved to sing praise, because we are loved by Jesus Christ, not because of who we think we are, or who society thinks us to be, but because Jesus calls us beloved - daughters and sons of the living God; come, Lord Jesus, come.

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... First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

Prayer of Preparation: Come, Lord Jesus Come... Help us to wait with eager anticipation for your coming. Open our hearts, Oh Lord, that we may exclaim, "My eyes have seen your Salvation." Let us be filled with praises on our lips, giving glory to you in all that we say and do. Guide us in humility to say "yes" to the ways you are calling us to give birth to your hope in the world. Let us stand in awe of you, wide open to the ways you show up in the simple and ordinary of each day. Come, Lord Jesus Come...

**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

He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Call To Worship

L: The God of promises fulfilled calls us to this season of waiting in anticipation

P: The God of the past, present, and future calls us to this time of worship.

L: Here we gather to glorify Lord Almighty.

P: Let us gather in readiness to praise the One who makes all things new.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

All: Help us wait with eager anticipation for your coming.

Leader: Open our hearts, O Lord,

All: that we may exclaim, "My eyes have seen your Salvation."

... Lighting of the first candle...

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

*Hymn #2: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

You have taught us to be patient and promise to supply our needs, O God. Yet we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We spend more time preparing for the celebration and miss the gift already given. Forgive us in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN (Silent Prayer of Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Hymn #3 verse 1

*Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.*

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

Hymnal, p. 14

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

New Testament Reading: Psalm 46: 1-5, 10-11

Old Testament Reading: Luke 2:21-40

"Simeon: Waiting in Anticipation"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Ev'ry Valley

John Ness Beck

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry mountain made low
And the crooked made straight and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low,
And the crooked straight, and the rough places plain,
And all flesh shall see it together. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. 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 and Benediction**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***Hymn #5: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Called Congregational Meeting

All are welcome to stay for the Congregational meeting; however, only members of FPCLY are able to speak with voice and vote on the matter brought before them. Today, there is one purpose for the meeting: receive and approve the 2026 Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson.

***Postlude**
