

# AWE STRUCK

LOST IN WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE



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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Have you ever had a role in a Christmas play? What role did you play? Were you Mary or Joseph, a shepherd or magi? Maybe you were one of the lucky ones and got to be a sheep or a goat or a stable animal of your choice. Whether you have or have not, worship today invites you to be a part of remembering the first Christmas story. It is the greatest story ever told, so it is great to have you here to be a part of it.

Today's story, "When I was a shepherd boy," is told from the perspective of a now wise old shepherd, grandpa, sitting with grandma and their two grandchildren. The children are so excited to hear the story once again and at times even jump in to fill in for grandpa and grandma. Perhaps today, you will be able to see yourself sitting at home sharing stories like this one with your kids or grandkids or great grandkids. I mean, what better story to tell than one about the coming Savior and Light of the World.

Inspired by the spirit of worship this morning, throughout this season of Advent and Christmas, as you have time with family, I would like to encourage you to spend some time in storytelling. If you don't know where to start, you can tell of your favorite holiday memories, trips you have taken, games you like to play, or a time you helped someone or were helped by someone. I would like to encourage you to get lost in the wonder, love, and praise this time of year invites. I would like to encourage you to be AWE STRUCK. And if you want some extra encouragement and guidance on this journey this year, a devotional is also available for you to take home.

May God bless you and your family and may you all feel God's warm embrace in the celebration of Advent and Christmas this year.

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. Today, due to the children's participation in the Christmas Play, there will be NO Children's Moment or Worship Workshop.

## 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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day... Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

## Prayer of Preparation

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things that hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Prelude

### He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel

## Welcome and Announcements

## 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: Let us be filled with praises on our lips,

**All: giving glory to you in all that we say and do.**

... *Lighting the second candle...*

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

## \*Hymn #9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel LM

## Scripture Reading: Luke 1:67-79

## "Silence to Praise"

Peter Thompson

## Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Offering

## The Christmas Play: "When I was a shepherd boy..."

**Scene 1:** Grandpa, Grandma, and Children

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

*Hymn Text #38*

**Scene 2:** Mary, Gabriel, Joseph

**Scene 3:** Grandpa, Grandma, and Children

**Still, Still, Still**

**Scene 4:** Mary, Joseph

**Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella**

**Scene 5:** Innkeeper, Joseph, Mary, Grandpa, and Children

**Sweet Little Jesus Boy**

**While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks**

*Hymn Text #59*

**Scene 6:** Shepherds, Angel

**O Come, Little Children**

**What Can I Give Him?**

**Away in a Manger**

*Hymn Text #24, 25*

**Scene 7:** Grandpa, Children, Simeon, Anna, Mary, Joseph

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

*Hymn Text #29*

**Scene 8:** Grandma, Children, Mary, Joseph, Wisemen, Shepherds

**We Three Kings**

**Hymn #40: Joy to the World**

**\*Prayers of the People and Benediction**

Leader: Eternal God, we are AWE STRUCK:

**All: lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Leader: As your people, waiting and searching, even when we don't realize it,

**All: thank you for a live and present Word from you that speaks to us in the graceful ways that you know best.**

Leader: May our eyes be opened and not closed by fear or blinded by self-pity,

**All: that we may see you even in the anxieties and uncertainties that beset our days and threaten to overwhelm us like a cloud of darkness.**

Leader: Help us to see that amid the hustle and bustle of this holiday time-

**All: the crowded stores and rude shoppers, the impatient drivers, the frayed generosity-**

Leader: that you have become incarnate,

**All: sanctifying the smallest tasks of love, generosity, and kindness that we are enabled by your grace to perform.**

Leader: We think of the needs of others at this time, O Lord, and we are embarrassed by our selfishness.

**All: May the answer to our prayers begin with us to redeem the times.**

Leader: Bring all those who are in need the alleviation of their poverty or comfort for their minds and spirits.

**All: Enable us to do what we can to help them- to share our own happiness and prosperity, to provide a listening ear or friendly word, to do errands or acts of kindness.**

Leader: Let us not be content

**All: so long as conditions exist that foster human distress from generation to generation through the repetition of ignorance, filth, and disease.**

Leader: We pray that the promise of your birth- that peace shall be on earth-

**All: may soon be fulfilled, both in our troubled hearts and in our troubled world.**

Leader: Come to us, Lord,

**All: for we need your presence in our own lives. Touch us anew with the hope that is the heritage of those who love you and trust your promises.**

**\*Postlude**

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