

AWE STRUCK

LOST IN WONDER, LOVE, AND PRAISE



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Psalm 96:1-2 says, “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord and bless God’s name; tell the good news of salvation from day to day.” Whether you are one to stand and sing aloud with your voice or prefer to sing in the spirit of your heart, you are welcome today to sing.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols originated from a 1918 Christmas Eve service at King’s College Chapel, University of Cambridge, England. Over the years, the spirit of this service has captured the hearts of many traditions and still lives on today. The alternating lessons and carols retell the good news of God’s story from the first disobedient act of humanity (Genesis) to the glorifying incarnation of God bringing salvation to God’s people (Gospels).

As we gather to sing and celebrate the good news of God today, I pray we will all be AWE STRUCK: Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise by the lessons read and the carols presented. May Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, and may you 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 nature of the Service of Lessons and Carols, 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) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org).

Third Sunday in Advent... Service of Lesson and Carols

December 14, 2025

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, sometimes we see your hand in little events, and sometimes we see it in the broad sweep of history. Stir our hearts, that we might be people of hope; help us seek you today. Come, Lord Jesus come. Amen.

Prelude

All Is Well

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: Guide us in humility

All: to say "yes" to the ways you are calling us to give birth to your hope in the world.

... *Lighting the third candle...*

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

*Congregational Carol #41: O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 3, then 2)

Adeste Fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! [Refrain]

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

*Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

❖ Disobedience: Genesis 3:8-19

Ding, Dong Merrily on High
Chancel Choir

arr. Larry Shackley

❖ **Promise: Genesis 22:15-18**

Every Valley
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

❖ **Prophecy of Light: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelsohn

❖ **Prophecy of a Child: Isaiah 11:1-9**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Festival Capriccio
Chancel Ringers

arr. Cathy Moglebust
Barbara B. Kinyon

❖ **Divine Appearance: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

The Lord is With You

❖ **Divine Birth: Luke 2:1-7**

Gesu Bambino

❖ **Divine Announcement: Luke 2:8-16**

Mary Had a Baby
Chancel Choir

arr. Roland Carter

❖ **Royal Visit: Matthew 2:1-11**

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Chancel Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Call to Offering

*All loose plate offerings collected today will be designated to the FPC Vespers Fund.
This special fund serves to support the Music Ministry of FPCLY.*

Offertory

Candlelight Carol
Chancel Choir

arr. John Rutter

***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**

❖ **Incarnation: John 1:1-14**

***Congregational Carol 40: Joy to the World!**

Antioch

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Lesson Readers: Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Alex Collier

Director of Music: Joshua O'Dell

Chancel Choir: **Sopranos:** Lisa Ackers, Janice Berkley, Ellie Flower, Denise McDonald, Laura McVay, Bonnie Miles, Lainey Parker, Leslie Salmon, Misty Sexton, Diane Stroud, Sue Thornton, Terry Zatrepaek **Altos:** Katie Bakken, Abby Boyle, Jean Hannon, YnDo Jones, Michele Richardson, Mary Ann Tate, Marcia Thom-Kaley **Tenors:** Kara Byrne, David Dorris, Brayden Harrell, Marilyn Hartman, Russ Hovda, Bradyn Taylor **Basses:** Bill Gayle, Bucky Neal, John Osinga, Bill Perkins, Eli Richardson, Dave Tate, Luke Taylor, Michael Trexler, Bennett Umhau

Chancel Ringers (Handbells): Abby Boyle, Ellie Flower, Helen Gilmer, Brayden Harrell, Marilyn Hartman, Russ Hovda, Sharon Hovda, YnDo Jones, Michele Richardson, Diane Stroud, Bradyn Taylor, Luke Taylor

Chamber Orchestra: **Flute:** Heather Hurd, **Clarinet/Bassoon:** Bradyn Taylor, **Alto Saxophone:** Luke Taylor, **Trumpet:** Eli Richardson, **Violins:** Nancy Koes & Anne Parsley, **Viola:** Nancy Peterman, **Cello:** Julia Goudimova, **Bass:** Russ Hovda, **Organ:** Michele Richardson, **Piano:** Claudia Patterson, **Percussion:** Joey Flower