



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy New Year and grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. The beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us! God's mercy is new every morning! The joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and that the rest of this day is filled with opportunities for you to live into God's light and love in all you do and with all you may be with.

Today in worship, we are celebrating a Service of Ordination and Installation. This worship is centered on the truth that in baptism, each Christian is called to ministry in Christ's name. God calls some persons from the midst of congregations to fulfill particular functions, so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone (1 Cor. 12:4-6)."* Occasions of ordination and installation have to do more with the ministry of the whole church than with any individual, therefore, we will practice the laying on of hands (*a modern form of anointing*) to ordain and install the new ruling elders. As a priesthood of all believers, all present are encouraged to enact the power of the Spirit within to pray for and affirm all those who are being called, ordained, and installed into an official role within the church.

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg, we acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed on us and trusted us with; we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings with one another; we acknowledge that we don't always fulfill our call to be God's church perfectly and thus need to ask God for forgiveness; we acknowledge our need for God's grace, and the grace we can offer one another; we acknowledge the truth that we are all better together. Faith is a journey and one we believe God has called us and gifted us to walk together as God's beloved children. Welcome to this journey!

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 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 Ordination and Installation

January 4, 2026

*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

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #523: God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

Bethany

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, Windsped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, Sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead Your people Fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles To Your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, Sovereign, Shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
Teacher, Healer, suffering Servant, Friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In Your tending may all *pastors Learn and live a Shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion Shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, Life-bestower, Truth beyond all thought's recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, Giving and forgiving all:
As You know our strength and weakness, So may those the church exalts
Oversee her life steadfastly, Yet not overlook her faults.

Triune God, mysterious Being, Undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, Greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings Your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting May give glory to Your name.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Mighty and merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling. We are often quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We often put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit. We are often timid and frightened, forgetful of your powerful presence. Forgive our foolish and sinful ways. As you have chosen us and claimed us in our baptism, strengthen us anew to choose Christ's way in this world. (Moment of 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.

*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: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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: Romans 12:1-2

"We AIM to please. You AIM too, please."

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning of Ruling Elders

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Star Child

*Star child, earth child, go between of God,
love child, Christ child, heaven's lightning rod, (refrain)*

Refrain: This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

*Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears, (refrain)*

*Spared child, spoiled child, memory full of years,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store, (refrain)*

*Hope-for-peace child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth child, star of stars that shine, (refrain)*

***Doxology**

*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 #343: Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Beecher

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, proclaimed, and encountered,
Inspired by the presence of God who is with us in this place and with us wherever it is 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.*