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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is a gift to be with you this morning to worship God and bring God praise and honor in prayer, song, and fellowship together.

Each year, in remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the many others who walked and talked and fought for Civil Rights, I find myself humbled at the sacrifice made to stand for such a noble cause. Their sacrifice can be considered within a long list of many that serve as an echo in time to the sacrifice of the one and only Jesus, who sacrificed and died for the sins of all humanity. I pray you will join with me in remembering with gratitude and joy the sacrifices of all those who have and those who still do run the race, fight the fight, and keep the faith. I also pray you will join with me in being inspired by these sacrifices to the point of being transformed and motivated to act upon those things Jesus teaches are of the utmost importance: peace, love, compassion, kindness, humility, care, generosity, and faithfulness, just to name a few.

Come to think of it, I believe the remembrance of sacrifice is one that fits well within our theme for the next several weeks: "Putting God First." To sacrifice is to give up something for the purpose of something else, right? For example, to listen to one voice is to recognize that voice over another; to say "no" to one thing opens the possibility to say "yes" to another; to commit to Jesus' teachings, by going and doing likewise, is to put aside other tasks from other people bidding for our attention.

As we read in the Bible, Jesus says, "take up your cross and follow me." To put God first in your life requires sacrifice. Sacrifice requires a conviction and a choice to commit. Sacrifice lies at the core of what it means for us to be faithful and obedient disciples of our Lord and Savior. How are we aspiring to sacrifice today?

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 the Lord's Day

January 18, 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

O Worship the King

arr. Cranfill

Choral Introit

Lift Thine Eyes

Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God, our Creator, from nothing you made our world.

All: You formed us, love us, and give us all we need.

Leader: God, our Redeemer, you rescued us from sin.

All: You have given us new life and hope of healing to the world.

Leader: God, our Comforter, you are with us always.

All: You comfort us, renew us, and guide us into your truth.

Leader: Almighty God, for your gracious love for us,

All: we praise you.

*Hymn #376: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Gracious God, forgive us for the things we have done that we regret, for the things we have failed to do that we regret, for all the times we have acted without love, for all the times we have reacted without thought, for all the times we have withdrawn care, for all the times we have failed to forgive, for hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid, for unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes. God of all time, forgive us and help us to draw ever closer to you.

(Please take a moment for 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.

*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: Micah 6:6-8

"Sacrifice is... something to aspire to."

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Call to Prayer: Spirit of the Living God

Hymn #322

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console.
To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

***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 #391: Take My Life**

Hendon

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee

***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.*