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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. Something about today feels extra special because we haven't been together the last two Sundays due to the snow. I pray you were safe, had a chance to embrace the blanket of silence and maybe even enjoy some childlike play.

As we gather to worship today, I want you to know you are welcome here and you are enough just as you are. I believe God sees it that way too. As a community of faith, we are all seeking to do our best in being faithful to God and it feels great to have others to walk along side in this journey. I pray you will find a place of purpose and belonging in the life and ministries of FPCLY and if I can help you specifically in any way, please let me know. A good cup of coffee and conversation never hurts either 😊.

Today is Scout Sunday and as a church community we are grateful to be joined by all the scout leaders, scouts, and families of Cub Pack 7, Troop 7, and Troop 49. Scouting is built on the values and virtues embraced and taught through the church. *A scout promises duty to God and country, duty to other people, and duty to self. A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.* For decades, First Presbyterian Church has partnered in ministry with scouting through the sharing of space, Eagle Scout projects, God and Country and PRAY classes, and of course, popcorn, cookie, and bake sale fundraisers. As we gather for worship today, we do so as ONE in celebration of the grace of God empowering our relationship to be everything it has become.

Today, we also have the opportunity to welcome Erik Koroneos to the pulpit. As a longtime member of FPCLY, Erik is no stranger. For the last several years, he has been serving as a Commissioned Pastor in the Presbytery of the Peaks, leading worship and preaching in many smaller congregations. In addition, Erik has been following God's opportunities to share how God has worked in and through his life, motivating many groups of men through Souly Business and the Journey. His own personal journey is one of "Priority" and I thank God for Erik's willingness and ability to be with us today. Let us worship God together.

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. 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. 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... Scout Sunday

February 8, 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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Curnow

Welcome, Announcements, Minute of Scouting

*Litany of Scouting as a Partner in Ministry

Leader: Celebrating the glory of God,

All: we praise and honor God today by worshipping joyfully through singing, proclaiming, and sharing the good news;

Leader: we celebrate God's grace,

All: the unmerited favor of God's goodness and generosity given to us for salvation and true life;

Leader: we celebrate the call of God for us to inspire the next generation for Christ,

All: to be faithful disciples, teachers, and witnesses to God's word, will, and way.

Leader: Celebrating a joyful partnership in ministry with scouting,

All: we give thanks to God for opportunities of exploration, discovery, and growth:

Leader: opportunities to celebrate the call of God for all of us to be

All: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent;

Leader: opportunities to celebrate the call of God for all of us
to honor our commitment to God and others,

**All: to do our best, to do our duty, to help other people at all times,
and to help ourselves be physically fit, mentally awake, and morally straight.**

Leader: We celebrate the role scouting plays to help develop necessary skills for life

**All: through listening and learning, communication and collaboration,
experiment and experience;
while camping, canoeing, hiking, knot tying, serving, and team building.**

Leader: We celebrate growth through individual and group accomplishments

All: recognized by badges, pins, awards, and stages climbed.

Leader: May God continue to empower and give favor to God's holy work through the joyful partnership in ministry between First Presbyterian and scouting.

All: All praise, honor, and glory belong to God!

Leader: Let us now pray together...

All: Wonderful God, Give us clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts.... Teach us to work hard and to play fairly. Forgive us when we are unkind and help us to help others. Send us strength to do a good turn each day and help us to do your will in all areas of our life. We pray in the name of Jesus, the ultimate example of how to faithfully fulfill God's will and way. Amen.

***Hymn #150: Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. (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**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

"Priority"

Erik Koroneos

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

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands
O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious
With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

***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 #341: Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

***Postlude**

Improvisation on Diademata

George Elvey, Gary Lowe
