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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. As we gather to worship today, I want you to know you are welcome here and that you are enough just as you are. Thanks be to God!

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 😊 .

Believe it or not, we are a mere 3 days away from Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent. Lent is the season of 40 days leading up to Easter and the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. That means today will be the final stop, at least this go around, to zero in on our theme of "Putting God First" and work together to unpack how that can be a real thing we experience throughout our life.

To jump start us back into rhythm, powerful and unforgettable words ring loud from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." This text serves as a climax in Jesus' lifechanging sermon, and we are invited to embrace it with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. To unpack this text a little more, maybe we can consider where we are sitting and/or standing to view the things of life. Are we at sea level, in the trenches, at ground zero, perched on a hill, or nestled at a higher altitude? What does our view afford us and how is it effecting our ability to "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"?

An additional text we will encounter today is Joshua's question to the Israelites, "Who is it you will serve?" Joshua's declaration, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!", is a great charge for each of us to own and embody. May God be the one in which all our devotion, attention, praise, honor, and glory is given.

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

February 15, 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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee!

arr. Kingsmore

Choral Introit

Lift Thine Eyes

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 29

Leader: In holy splendor, we worship the Lord.

All: In God is glory and strength. The Lord is mighty. God is with us.

Leader: In torrents and storms, God's peace pervades.

All: In rumbling thunder, God's mighty voice soothes. The Lord is majestic. God is with us.

Leader: The whisper of the Lord snaps silence.

All: The unwavering sound persists. The Lord is awesome. God is with us.

Leader: As flames being fanned, the presence grows.

All: In its shadow the wilderness pleads. The Lord is powerful. God is with us.

Leader: Enthroned, God rules the universe.

All: The peaceful scepter prevails. God reigns. God is with us.

Leader: In whirling winds, nature acknowledges glory.

All: The people in the temple rejoice. It is certain. God is with us.

*Hymn #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Call to Confession
Prayers of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not always loved you with a pure heart, nor have we always loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (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

New Testament Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

"As for me and my house"

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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Runyan and Howell

Text of Hymn #276

***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 and Benediction**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***Hymn #339: Be Thou My Vision**

Slane

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Called Congregational Meeting

***Postlude**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. Cranfill

*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.*
