



It is finished.

Photo Art by Scott Erikson



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! Lent is here and I want to encourage and invite you to accompany me on a journey for the next 40 days. As a matter of fact, and more accurately, I want to encourage and invite you to accompany Jesus in a journey. Lent is a season that doesn't make a whole lot of sense to many of us, and it is a season that doesn't appeal to many of us; however, Lent is a season that seeks to celebrate the most authentic and genuine spirit of our faith. We are mortal... we are dust and to dust we shall return... we are going to die. We are sinful... we do mess up. We need to remember, reflect, repent, and reach out to God for grace and mercy as a resolution. We are mortal and sinful, but we are not hopeless.

"Lent is a season in which we remember that we have been claimed by something much larger than ourselves, someone much larger than ourselves. We've been claimed by one who took on this journey long before us. One who journeyed it so that we would not be alone in it. Lent is a season in which we remember that we've been claimed by God and if God lays claim to us, then nothing can change that... not our mistakes, shortcomings, failures, and not even our death. If God lays claim to us nothing can change that, nothing will ever destroy that." (Brian Coulter)

Peter shared a quote on Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, that he encouraged all to embrace. Emily Heath, a pastor in New England shares, "There is hope rising out of these ashes; new life of which a phoenix could only dream. There is a promise of resurrection that comes only from the one who has been resurrected. Maybe there isn't the rich pageantry of Easter Sunday on Ash Wednesday (during Lent). Maybe there aren't flowers and eggs, but in these ashes, there is hope, hope for our even our darkest nights, and a sign of the joy that is to come."

May you be filled with the courage and strength to mean everything in your heart as you repent and return to God. May you in turn experience the fullness of God's love, grace, mercy, power, and hope, not only in this season, but forevermore.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith... Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (Written February 19, 2026)

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 Alex Collier, Director of Outreach (alex@fpcly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day... Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Curnow

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #78: Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

MARTYDOM CM

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession (based on Psalm 107)

Eternal God, by your word you create and by your breath you give life. We worship you with joy and thanksgiving, praising you for the fullness that your presence brings to our lives, and our life together. We praise you that by your word you feed us; we are satisfied, and there is always more. Your goodness is displayed in your wonderful works for all humanity, and in your perfect love. In our humanity we are rebellious and sometimes follow after foolish ideas, going ways which lead away from life with you. And yet, when we cry out you are there, your word healing our inner emptiness and pain, embracing us, leading us in your life-giving ways. For your unending faithfulness, revealed to us in Christ Jesus, and made present to us in your Holy Spirit we praise you, Lord God.

(Please take a moment for silent prayer)

Choral Prayer of Repentance: **Jesus Remember Me**

**Jesus, Remember Me... When you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, Remember Me... When you come into your kingdom.**

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.

*Choral Response: Great is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

*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. Children may also return to their seats and utilize the Worship carts for activities to learn more about God and worship.

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: John 19:28 - 30

Pew Bible NT pg.114

"It is finished."

Alex Collier

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 the Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Lord, I Need You

arr. Keveren

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus: Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

***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 #442: The Church's One Foundation**

AURELIA

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Tho' with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One.
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

To God Be the Glory

arr. Hayes