



Father... into Your hands
I commit my spirit.

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!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. 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 is Palm Sunday and it marks the start of Holy Week. The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. We are at the end of our sermon series on the Last Seven Words of Jesus and today we will focus on "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit." It is important to note the irony of this day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph, but it was as a part of his journey to the cross. This is the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify him!" It has become my firm belief that taking the time to recall and reflect on the powerful events throughout this week, including our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service and Good Friday Reflection Experience, help to enhance and illuminate the life-changing, earthshaking, good news and hope of Easter. I pray you will join in the journey this week.

Many opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg to engage, impact, and expect. Engage in the life and ministries of God's church and mission. Impact our neighbors by sharing the love and light of Christ. Expect God's faithfulness and goodness to unfold before our very eyes. We welcome and encourage all to walk together in being who God has created us to be in this time and place. God has blessed us and bestowed on us many gifts and we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings and gifts with one another. We try but we don't always get things right; therefore, we give thanks for God's gifts of grace and forgiveness and acknowledge the importance of offering grace to one another. May God continue to fill us and use us to bring glory to God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (Modified from 04/08/25)

Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations may be helpful to you: 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 is located on the ground floor just outside the elevator. In addition to locations, there are two supports available to worship participants should they be needed: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex. Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions. Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.

Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. We believe we are better when all members of God's family are included! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts with a variety of resources to make a worship bag. After the children's moment, 4 years to 2nd grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in Room 1 (downstairs below the library) or stay for the remainder of worship. It is always a joy to have your children and all the wiggles, giggles, questions, noises, and insights they bring. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's ministries, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpclly.org).

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed a number of new members over the last year, and we are ready to welcome more. 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 (alex@fpclly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day... Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

**Those who are able, please stand.*

All are invited to join together in saying liturgy printed in bold.

Silent reflection: You give us tongues to speak comforting words to those who are weary and afraid. Each morning you wake us up to the life you give and the call you extend. Open our hearts that we like the crowd may proclaim your praise. Open our ears to hear your words of hope and salvation. Make us ever grateful for the gift that Christ has given us in forgiveness and eternal life. Our lives are in your hands, O God. Amen.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

The Holy City

Stephen Adams

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Luke 19:35-40, John 12:12-15

Leader: They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it.

People: As he rode along, the people who heard he was coming gathered to give him a grand welcome, with palm branches and their cloaks spread on the road.

Leader: As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples burst into enthusiastic praise over all the mighty works they had witnessed:

People: "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Leader: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, get your disciples under control and order them to stop." Jesus answered them,

People: "I tell you, if the disciples kept silent, the stones would shout praise."

*Hymn #88: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

*All are invited to wave palm branches during the singing of this hymn.
The children will lay down their palms and return to parents and/or guardians.*

(refrain) All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present.

To Thee before Thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!

(refrain) All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

***Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession**

Wonderful God, we want to live so that our lives praise you, but we are tempted by greed, and selfish pride. We have heard your call and witnessed in your name, but too often we are also silent or we run when frightened and unsure. Forgive us for not turning to you when we feel alone or frustrated. Help us to be faithful followers going where Christ leads. Amen. (*Silent Prayer of Confession*)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: It is the Lord who helps us; who will declare us guilty? Because of the grace we received in baptism, we have nothing to fear.

All: **By God, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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, let us share the love, joy, and peace of Christ saying, "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

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading Luke 23:44 - 46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

Sermon

"Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit."

Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith: From Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

The Palms

Faure

*O'er all the way, green palms and blossoms gay
Are strewn this day in festal preparation.
Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away,
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.*

*His word goes forth, and peoples by its might
Once more regain freedom from degradation.
Humanity doth live to teach His right,
While those in darkness find restored the light.*

*Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation.
Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem
Brings hope and faith to thee forevermore.*

Refrain:

*Join all and sing, His Name declare, Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation.
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord! Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation!*

***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 #90: Ride on! Ride On in Majesty!**

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hear all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue Your road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The host of angels in the sky
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes
to see th'approaching Sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne
awaits His own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die,
bow Your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O Christ, Your pow'r and reign.

***Benediction**

Postlude

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, and proclaimed,
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.*