



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



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.

Wow, what a Holy Week! And what a Lenten season it has been. Today is Easter! Our Lord and Savior, Jesus, is risen! And that is wonderful news for us, not only today, but every day, and for all days. All the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, making Easter the most celebrative day of the church year. Easter is a day, a season (Eastertide, "the great fifty days", begins today and goes to Pentecost), an attitude, of joy, celebration, and renewal. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living. Even amid all the struggles, challenges, trials, and disruptions of life, I pray we may all rejoice and be glad in the good news and HOPE of God given to us through the resurrection of Jesus! In Christ, sorrow turns to joy, darkness turns to light, indifference and hate turns to love, death is overcome with life, and fear is overcome with HOPE. Happy Easter everyone!

As we seek to live into and respond to the good news of God's love and grace through Jesus the Christ, 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 (Written 04/16/25)

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 stay and participate in the remainder of worship with their families. We consider it 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, Director of Educational Ministries (marcia@fpcl.org).

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed several new members over the last year, and we are open and 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 Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (peter@fpcl.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org).

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

April 5, 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

Easter Celebration

arr. Camp Kirkland

Welcome and Announcements

Easter Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice, O heaven! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne!

All: Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!

All: Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Leader: Rejoice, O church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

All: Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

*Hymn #123: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

***Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8**

Leader: Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of Christ. Nothing, whatsoever, in fact, nothing in all creation, neither height nor depth, nothing either in life or in death.

All: Christ, our Lord, is risen indeed! 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, 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

Worship Workshop for ages 4 to 2nd Grade will not be hosted today. All children are encouraged to return to their seats with their families to continue participating in worship. Other supportive resources are also available on the worship carts in the Narthex. Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

Choral Anthem

On the Third Day

Allan Pote

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

"Life-Giving..."

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating Confirmation and Commissioning: Class of 2026

Presentation and Professions of Faith: James Munro McCain and William David East

Welcome and Charge

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Anthem

I Will Rise

Tomlin, arr. Harris

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. Hal Hopson

***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

*Closing Hymn

Because He Lives

Gaither

*God sent His son, They called Him, Jesus; He came to love, Heal and forgive;
He lived and died To buy my pardon, An empty grave is there To prove my Savior lives!*

*Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow! Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!*

*How sweet to hold A newborn baby, And feel the pride And joy he brings;
But greater still The calm assurance: This child can face Uncertain days because He Lives! [Chorus]
And then one day, I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final War with pain; And then, as death Gives way to
victory, I'll see the lights of glory And I'll know He lives! [Chorus]*

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Hallelujah (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

*Postlude



Easter Flowers

The beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary this morning were arranged by the Chancel Guild and given to the Glory of God in memory of those listed below.

In Memory Of...

Bill Neal
Francis & Elizabeth Whitehouse
Sarah Whitehouse
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Preston Craighill, Jr.
Haley Elizabeth Spence
John Alford, Sr.
William Clarkson
Lib and Bob Richards
Peggy, Jensie, and Kay Teague
Sussanah Williams
Julia and Henry Williams
Our Parents
Joanne White
Marshall Ebert
Leland Berkley Lupton
Charlie Burton

Given By...

Bucky Neal
Frank Whitehouse
Frank Whitehouse
Ed Craighill
The Family
His Family
Elizabeth Clarkson
Gary and Beth Williams
The Family
Gary and Beth Williams
Gary and Beth Williams
David and Marilyn Hartman
Becky and Caskie Giles
Betty Anne Ebert
Barbara Neely
Theresa Burton

Praise the Lord for the hope of the resurrection!

