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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. As we gather for worship today, it can be powerful for us to remember that we are not alone in our worship. Each week Christians gather for worship in mud huts and Gothic cathedrals, in prisons and nursing homes, in storefront buildings and village squares, in sprawling megachurches and old country chapels. In these diverse contexts the style of worship varies greatly: from formal sermons to extemporaneous outpourings of emotional fervor, from music led by rock bands to pipe organs or rusty old pianos, from formal dress to casual beach clothes. Yet for all the diversity of cultural expressions and worship styles, there remain several constant norms for Christian worship that transcend cultures and keep us faithful to the gospel of Christ. Here at First Presbyterian, we seek to be true to these norms as we gather to worship God joyfully and faithfully. Christian worship is *biblical*, for the Bible is the source of our knowledge of God and of the world's redemption in Christ. Christian worship is *dialogic* and *relational*, for God both speaks and listens, and through the Holy Spirit we listen and then respond. Christian worship is *covenantal*, for God's gracious and new covenant with us in Christ is renewed, affirmed, and sealed. Christian worship is *trinitarian*, for God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God in three persons. Christian worship is *communal*, for the gospel of Christ draws us into communal life with other people. Christian worship is *hospitable, caring, and welcoming*, for worship not only comforts us with the promises of the gospel but also disturbs us as we realize the significance of fear and brokenness in our world and the world's desperate need for a Savior. Christian worship is *"in but not of"* the world, for it always reflects the culture out of which it is offered but must not be enslaved to culture. Christian worship is a *generous and excellent outpouring of ourselves before God*, for worship is not stingy but a lavish outpouring of our love and praise to the God who has created and redeemed us. Christian worship is *expressive and formative*, for worship expresses what a community already feels and has experienced and stretches us to take to our lips words that we would not come up with on our own that will shape new and deeper dimensions of faith and life with God. (from *The Worship Sourcebook*) May we worship God together in Spirit and truth.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

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 baptism today, 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@fpcly.org).

Interested in joining?

Today, it is a joy to welcome Dustin Rosser into full and active membership through public profession of faith and baptism. 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

April 19, 2026

**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

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 34

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good;

All: happy are those who take refuge in him.

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good;

All: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: and let us exalt his name together.

*Hymn #138: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Celebrating Profession of Faith and Baptism:

Dustin Thomas Rosser

*"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One
who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light."*

1 Peter 2:9

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism:

Holden Thomas Rosser, Harrison Wade Rosser
Parents: Dustin and Mallory Rosser
Session Representative: Kathryn Overstreet

Presentation of Purpose and Promise

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are now a child of the covenant, may God bless you, and keep you, and may you always be open to God's guidance.

Prayer and Welcome

Leader: Holden and Harrison have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made them members of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Holden and Harrison into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support them, to share the good news of the gospel with them, and to help them know and follow Christ.

*Hymn #304: Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

"Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him."

*"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know
the things that have taken place there in these days?"*

"Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!"

*"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."*

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-16

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

"The Holy Hiding in Plain Sight"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem**

They Shall Soar Like Eagles

Manzo

*They shall soar like eagles Rise up and soar like eagles
They who wait upon the Lord Shall not be weary.
They shall never stumble But gain new strength and power
They who wait upon the Lord*

*Those who are weary and burdened with sorrow
Do not despair there is hope for tomorrow
God will be there each time you call on him.*

*They shall soar like eagles Rise up and soar like eagles
They who wait upon the Lord Shall not be weary.
They shall never stumble But gain new strength and power
They who wait upon the Lord*

They who wait upon the Lord. Wait upon the Lord.

***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 #369: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

I'm Gonna Live

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***Benediction**

***Postlude**
