



EZEKIEL 34:7-16



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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 behind the chapel down the hallway to the right of the main entrance. In addition to these locations, there are additional supports available to worship participants: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals, Bibles, and Bulletins 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@fpcly.org).

Interested in joining?

Last Sunday it was 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 26, 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 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.

**All: It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Leader: For the Lord is good;

All: his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Hymn #555: Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given
the one eternal God, Whom heaven and earth adore;
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Merciful God, have mercy upon us, and grant that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd. We shall not want for anything. He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters; he restores our soul. He leads us in

right paths for his name's sake.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long. 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: Ezekiel 34:7-16

"...my sheep..."

Thus says the Lord God, "I will... search, rescue, gather, feed, heal, nurture, and strengthen... my sheep."

"Mine!... Mine!"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Praise His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

*Sing till the power of the Lord come down
Shout hallelujah Praise his holy name
Sing till the power of the Lord come down
Shout hallelujah Praise his holy name*

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved that wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see*

*Jesus, Jesus how I love thee
Shout hallelujah Praise his holy name*

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone And all the world go free
No there's a cross for everyone And there's a cross for me*

*Jesus, Jesus how I love thee
Shout hallelujah Praise his holy name!*

***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 #354: Guide My Feet** *(all 6 verses)*

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

***Benediction**

***Postlude**
