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<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. 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).

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Welcome to the table of our Lord Jesus Christ!!! You are invited and you are welcome!!! All those who trust and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, as well as all those who long to draw closer to God on a personal level, are welcome to join together at the table of our Lord. God makes room for all! Come, the feast has been prepared!!!

The Lord's Supper is a physical, ritual action, mandated by Jesus, through which God acts to nourish, sustain, comfort, challenge, teach, and assure us. A richly symbolic act, the celebration of the Lord's Supper nourishes our faith and stirs our imaginations to perceive the work of God and the contours of the gospel more clearly. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of memory and hope. We remember all that God has done for us, especially in Christ. The Lord's Supper is a thankful remembrance of the entire life and ministry of Christ: his participation in the creation of the world; his birth at Bethlehem; his teaching and miracles; his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension; his sending of the Spirit; and his second coming and final reign. We remember how these events give us an identity and how they transform us and all creation. The Lord's Supper is also a celebration and proclamation of Jesus' real, spiritual presence with us, of the forgiveness offered to us through Christ's work on the cross, and of the ongoing spiritual nourishment he provides us. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the unity of Christ's body, the church, as well as a meal of hope, of anticipating the heavenly feast of Christ's coming kingdom.

The Lord's Supper is a celebration of God's grace, not human achievement; is not an end in itself for it always points beyond itself to celebration God's grace and covenant faithfulness; is a sign of covenant relationship for our relationship with God in Christ is based on promises; is deeply personal, but never private, for it is a communal actions of the gathered congregation, which represents the church at all times and places.

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Service of the Lord's Day

May 3, 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

Prelude #10 in G Minor

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 27, John 4:23

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple,

All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

*Hymn #324: Open My Eyes That I May See

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have not lived as you have taught us. We have put our longing for money, success, or happiness above our desire for you and your kingdom. We worry about what others will think, what we wear, how our reputation can be polished. We make idols out of the winning record of a sport team, the next promotion at work, the perfect family, the cleanliness of our house, or the latest technology. We are careless with our words, saying things we don't mean, things that are hurtful to our children or friends. We are so busy with our lives that we forget our every breath depends on you. While we waste time on meaningless activities, we fail to recognize moments of grace throughout our day. We indulge in hateful thoughts against those we feel have offended us, and we are indifferent toward the suffering in our own neighborhoods. We forget that all people bear your image. We long for what is not ours and begrudge the blessings of others. Forgive us for thinking of ourselves before others and before you. Free us so that we may glorify you in all we think, say, and do. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

*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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 119:9-32

"How can young people keep their way pure?... By guarding it according to your word."

"I treasure your word in my heart... I declare all the ordinances of your mouth..."

*I delight in the way of your decrees... I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways...
I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."*

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 4:10-18

"I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness."

"Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life."

"The path of righteousness is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day."

"Don't pass Go!, Don't collect \$200!"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

City Called Heaven

arr. Josephine Poelinitz

*I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow,
I'm left in this whole wide world,
I'm left in this wide world alone.
I have no hope for tomorrow,
But I've started to make Heaven my home.*

*Well, sometimes, I am tossed.
Sometimes I am driven low,
Sometimes, my dear lord, I don't know
To which way I can roam.
But I've heard of a city called Heaven,
and I've started to make heaven my home.*

*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 #371: Lift High the Cross**

Crucifer

Refrain:

Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
