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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

*Did you know?*

*A 2010 study found more phone calls were made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom caused U.S. phone traffic to spike by more than 11 percent.*

Happy Mother's Day to all motherly figures! What a joyous day to celebrate God in worship and remember God's gift of the ever-present love and support of mothers in our midst.

Do you know the origin of Mother's Day? Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service. Over time, the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children began presenting their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

From a blog *Glo*, "Above all else, mothering is loving. It's holding the space of loving awareness amidst the storm of "where's my other sock" and "I'm hungry." Mothering is a lovingness that welcomes it all. That's not to say that we become doormats and get walked all over. Tough love is some of the best mothering one can dish out, but while never losing touch with that heart center that envelops all parts unconditionally. *This absolute love is the true spirit of motherhood....* Beyond our own personal situations and stories, there is the mothering energy that is present throughout time. An unbroken continuum of loving it all."

1 John 4:7-12 reminds us "love is from God... we love because God has first loved us." Thanks be to God for love and thanks be to God for motherly figures who love.

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. All children are invited and encouraged to participate in 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](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)).

## Interested in joining?

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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

May 10, 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

**Be Thou My Vision**

arr. Curnow

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship: Psalm 115

Leader: To the name of the Lord give glory,

**All: for the sake of God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord!

**All: God is our help and our shield.**

Leader: The Lord has been mindful of us; God will bless us;

**All: God will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.**

Leader: Bless the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

**All: Praise the Lord.**

### \*Hymn #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

### Call to Confession

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. (Silent Prayer of Confession)**

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

**All: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: By God, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we can be at peace.**

## \*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

### Choral Prayer for Illumination: Spirit of the Living God

Hymn 322

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### New Testament Reading: John 14:15-21

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (helper), to be with you forever."*

*"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."*

*"... because I live, you also will live."*

"S.O.S."

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People using the Lord's Prayer

#### Call to Offering

#### Offertory Anthem

#### God Gives Us Those Who Love Us

Carter and Beall

*God gives us those who love us To help us on our way  
God gives us those who love us To love us come what may  
God gives us those who love us That we may love them too*

*God gives us those who love us Who give us life at birth  
God gives us those who love us Who care for us on earth  
God gives us those who love us To show what love can be*

*God gives us those who love us Our families and friends  
God gives us those who love us Whose love both guides and mends  
God gives us those who love us To teach us loves reward*

*God gives us those who love us Because God loves us too  
God gives us those who love us To show what love can do  
God gave us Christ who loves us The greatest love of all!*

**\*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 #210: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

arr. Curnow

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