

“Love Is Come Again”
 French carol | Author: J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958)
 Arranger: Robert A. Roesch (1943-2009)

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
 Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
 Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love Whom men hath slain,
 Thinking that never He would wake again,
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
 He that for three days in the grave had lain,
 Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
 Thy touch can call us back to life again,
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
 Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.
 Love is come again.

About the Choir’s Music Today:

Today’s choral introit, “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry” is a famous paraphrase of Psalm 116 by Isaac Watts. This gospel arrangement was done by Richard Lee Smallwood (1948-2025), a legendary gospel composer, pianist, and singer. Smallwood was born in Atlanta, Georgia but spent most of his career in the Washington, D.C. area after completing both his bachelor’s degree (c/o 1971) and Master of Divinity degree (2004) at Howard University. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Sacred Music by Richmond Virginia Seminary in 2006. Smallwood was a founding member of the Howard University Gospel Choir and received the Howard University Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry” was famously sung by Whitney Houston in *The Preacher’s Wife*. Smallwood’s most famous anthem is “Total Praise,” which is sung by choirs of all ages in churches, schools, and colleges.

Our anthem, “Love Is Come Again,” is a French Easter carol often titled “Now the Green Blade Riseth.” It was written by an Anglican priest, author, and hymnwriter, Reverend Canon John Macleod Campbell Crum. He was born to Scottish parents in Knutsford, Cheshire (England). Rev. Crum was educated at Eton College and Oxford (BA 1895, MA 1901). Arranger Robert Allen Roesch was born in Philadelphia and graduated from West Chester University (BA/MA). He taught music in New Jersey for twenty years and then served twenty-three years as a church organist and director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
 Mission Committee will meet this morning at 9am
 Monday April 20 CE Committee 4:30pm
 Tuesday April 21 Handbells 5pm
 Tuesday April 21 Ladies Dinner 6pm
 Wednesday April 22 Youth 6pm
 Thursday April 23 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
 Choir 4:30pm
 Saturday April 25 Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study 8am
 Saturday April 25 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am
 Sunday April 26 Day School Sunday

Sunday April 26th Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm.

If you are applying or reapplying to college-it’s time to get your scholarship application from FPC. Call the church office for more info. We will email or mail you an application today! Deadline is April 30th!

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller
 Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey
 Video/Sound Alex Walthall
 Liturgist Gail Jones
 Greeter Eddie Blount
 Side door/Offering David Swann
 Counters Reynolds

List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer
 Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckney, Joan Reynolds, Kent Shelton
 Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall
 Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

2026 Budget Update

	March 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$64,772.75	\$123,495.68
Expenditure	\$43,117.30	\$121,646.15
Difference	\$21,655.45	\$ 1,849.53

If you enter the hospital, your church will have no way of knowing unless you notify us. Please let us know of your hospital stay so that we may respond with pastoral care.

A Warm Welcome

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

**THE COLUMNS
 OF THE**

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

April 19, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter



Welcome

This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 199 Years of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

First Presbyterian Church
 937 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541-1809—434-792-7822
 E-Mail: admin@fpcdanville.com
 Website: http://www.fpcdanville.com

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad to them.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT "I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry"

(Psalm 116) Isaac Watts/African American spiritual; arr. Richard Smallwood

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 116)

Leader: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

People: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

Leader: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN#828

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

INVOCATION

O risen Christ, kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our brothers and sisters may know you through us and that we may know you through them. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, even as we proclaim the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we fail to see the living Christ in our midst. We find ourselves preoccupied with our own well-being and success, forgetting your imperative to love our neighbor as ourselves. We turn away from systems that challenge our way of thinking, choosing to justify our actions instead of examining our intentions. Show us again how to live a resurrection faith, a faith that sees life and hope in the midst of death and destruction. Transform our hearts so that where they are hardened toward you, neighbor and self, they may once again be filled with love and moved to actions of grace and mercy. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Acts 2:39, Peter says: "For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." Receive the good news, Children of God, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been reconciled to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and mercy, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace and peace.

Please remain standing for the "Gloria Patri."

*RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Just as those who walked the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ, we too want to tell of our encounters with Jesus. One way we tell those stories is to share the gifts we have been given by God. Gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Gifts that demonstrate the transformation we have experienced in Christ. With hearts filled with love, let us give generously.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from you. We pray that the gifts of time, talent and treasure we have offered today will work for the good of the world, so that your love will be known not just in word but in action. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

John B. Dykes | Setting by Charles Callahan

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM

"Love is Come Again"

J.M.C. Crum/French carol, arr. Robert A. Roesch

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Creator, reveal yourself to us in the reading and proclamation of your Word. Give us ears to hear your voice, eyes that see you among us, and hearts that are willing to follow where you lead. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(811/771)

Acts 2:14, 36-41

(900/857)

1 Peter 1:17-23

(787/749)

Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

"Hearts Set on Fire"

Jackson Weller

*HYMN#249

"Because You Live, O Christ"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

African American spiritual, arr. Tom Fettke

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

**Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.*