

“This Is the Day”
Psalm 118:24 | Composer: Robert Lau (b. 1943)

This is the day which the Lord has made;
Rejoice all believers, and be very glad.
This is the day which the Lord has made; Rejoice all believers, Alleluia!
(Repeat)

Al-le, Alleluia! We raise our song to praise God’s name.
Al-le, Alleluia! God loves us all the same, Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made;
Rejoice all believers, and be very glad.
This is the day which the Lord has made; Rejoice all believers, Alleluia!
Rejoice all believers, and be very, be very, be very, be very – be very glad!

About the Music in Today’s Service:

Robert Lau is an alumnus of Lebanon Valley College (Bachelor of Science in Music Education), the Eastman School of Music (Master of Arts in Music Theory), and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where he earned the PhD in Musicology. Dr. Lau is Professor Emeritus of Music at his alma mater, Lebanon Valley College, where he taught for twenty-one years. He also served as an adjunct Professor of Music at Pennsylvania State University of Harrisburg for twenty years. He has held positions as organist and music director at various churches, most recently at Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Robert Lau has written more than six hundred pieces of music for choir and keyboard instruments; he has been awarded fifteen ASCAP Special Awards for his compositions. Dr. Lau is a member of the Harrisburg, PA chapters of both the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Today’s anthem is a contemporary setting of a popular Scripture verse, Psalm 118:24, “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (NRSVUE). I love Dr. Lau’s use of repeated rhythmic motifs to emphasize the joy of Christ, as well as thoughtfully placed rests which add suspense to a familiar text. Crescendos and accents add to the musical excitement, and repetitions of the text emphasize how glad and joyful we believers are on the Lord’s Day. I found this joy and gladness alongside several alleluias very fitting for an Easter celebration!

“Lord of All Hopefulness” was published in 1931 and can be found in our hymnal (#683) set to another tune. This prelude illustrates Christ’s eternal hope and presence. I chose organ pieces for today’s service to emphasize our organ’s versatility and the highest joy of Easter. “The Risen Savior’s Diadem” is a section of Mozart’s 17th violin sonata set as an organ reed duet by Eric Lewis, also a Catholic University alum and director of the University of Dallas Chapel Choir. “Arise to Life” is a twentieth century original organ composition by Edward Broughton (likely the prolific composer Lani Smith, as Edward Broughton was one of his six pen names).

Music during Communion -

“Were You There” African American spiritual | Setting by Thomas Keesecker
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Lowell Mason, arr. Cindy Berry
“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” William Bradbury, arr. C. Berry

The cross of lilies are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Temple and Wilson families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday April 6 The church office will be closed in observance of Easter Monday
Monday April 6 PW Circle 12:30pm
Tuesday April 7 Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday April 8 NO Youth 6pm
Thursday April 9 NO Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
NO Choir 4:30pm
Saturday April 11 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The Presbyterian Women’s Day Circle will meet on April 6th at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. We will continue our Series on First Peter “Sojourners and Exiles” by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Harriet Beale, on Westmoreland Ct., April 13th at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662. (Please note date change)

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 Bernadine Hayes
Greeter Eddie Blount
Side door/Offering David Swann
Counters Reynolds
Communion Ava Barrett, Kim Wimer

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

	February 2026	FY 2026
Expenditures	\$38,205.33	\$78,116.13
Revenues	\$47,304.17	\$56,758.95
Difference	\$ 9,098.84	-\$21,357.18)

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 5, 2026



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

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision/Lord of All Hopefulness"

Irish melody, Setting by Mark Sedio | Gregory Robey, trombone

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (From Hymn #248 Glory to God, "Christ is Risen Shout Hosanna!")

Leader: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader: Celebrate this day of days!

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader: Let all creation be amazed!

All: Hosanna! Hosanna! Christ is Risen!

*HYMN#232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

INVOCATION

In thy hand, we see the whole cosmos, heaven and earth reflect the mystery of thy handiwork. In thy hand, we see a little child, men and women are recaptured by the event of Bethlehem. In thy hand, we see the scar of the cross. Sin and death are vanquished by thy suffering on Golgotha. In thy hand, behold a new light, day and night are transformed in the glory of Easter morning.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Savior God, forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment of others; the way we evaluate and compare. Forgive our death-dealing sins, our habits that demean and degrade, our addiction to violent and destructive behavior. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Hymn #232 Glory to God, "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today")

"Jesus Christ is risen today. But the pains which he endured, our salvation have procured." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.

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

Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's resurrecting ministry.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds, your generosity fills to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

OFFERTORY "The Risen Savior's Diadem" W. A. Mozart, from *Violin Sonata No. 17, K. 526*, arr. Eric Lewis

*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 "This Is the Day" by Robert Lau

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(779/819)

Acts 10:34-43

(708/743)

Matthew 28:1-10

(834/876)

Colossians 3:1-4

SERMON "Risen Indeed" Jackson Weller

*HYMN# 403 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*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 "Arise to Life" by Edward Broughton

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

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