

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart	Minister of Word and Sacrament
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
Sound	Sam Meadema
Liturgist	Jackie Rochford
Side door/offering/Saturday Lunch	Barry Cutright
Greeter	David Swann
Communion	David Clark & Jackie Rochford

BUDGET UPDATE

	March 31	YTD
Contributions	\$72,044.33	\$121,710.65
Expenditures	\$48,729.76	\$127,972.20
Difference	\$23,314.57	(\$6,261.55)

First Presbyterian Church

May 5, 2024

11 a.m.

AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN
faith hope & love
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS
love

937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

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www.fpcdanville.com

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

As you enter the sanctuary please end your conversations and respect those worshippers who seek quiet time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all electronic devices. If you need a hearing assistance device, please request one from the usher. Remaining seated is as worshipful a posture as standing. Please worship in a way that is comfortable for you.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”* J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to join with all the earth in praise: **to sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, who has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness.**

We praise the Lord with joyful noises joining the symphony of the earth: **the roar of the ocean, the call of the birds, the wind across the hills, people in every corner of the globe.**

On this sabbath day of rest and gladness, **we greet you with joy, our living God!**

INVOCATION

O Beloved One,
All the ends of the earth marvel
at your deeds of power; we feel your presence
as growth returning to the countryside;
we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love
revealed in the risen Christ.
Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love
Fill us with generosity and courage
so that we may be called your friends
and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- Monday, May 6** **Evening Circle** will meet at 7 p.m. in the home of Karan Johnson at 320 Hawthorne Drive.
- Tuesday, May 7** **Handbells** at 5 p.m.
Property Committee at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 8** **Youth Activities** at 6 p.m.

Special Offering

The Missions Committee will hold its **Sunnyside Communities Mothers Day Offering** on Sunday, May 12. Sunnyside Communities serves three retirement communities in Virginia including King's Grant in Martinsville. This offering supports the Fellowship Fund which provides financial and personal resources for residents who can no longer fully pay for their care. In most cases these residents have no other means of support and often no family. Checks can be made out to FPC - put Sunnyside Community in the memo line. Envelopes are in the window this Sunday and next.

Saturday, May 18th **“Songs About Faith, Hope, and Love”** a voice recital by Danielle Talamantes and Kerry Wilkerson, our organist Patricia Taylor’s daughter and son-in-law. They will be joined by pianist Sam Wellman. A free will offering will be taken. 4:00 pm, First Presbyterian sanctuary.

List of Session members

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart

Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann
Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*
Class of 2026: Randy Brooks, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones*, Kim Meadows

*Denotes Steering Committee Members

“I Will Arise!”

Text by Joseph Hart (1711/12 – 1768) | HOLY MANNA, Anonymous refrain

Columbia Harmony, 1825, attributed to William Moore (c. 1790 – c.1850)

Arranged by Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;

True belief and true repentance, ev'ry grace that brings you night.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream:

All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.

I will arise, I will arise! I will arise! I will arise!

Come, ye weary heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Arise. Arise. I will arise!

I have particularly enjoyed meditating on the lyrics, “Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream: all the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.” It is a relief knowing that there is nothing we can do to be worthy of God's love. We must only believe and understand that we need God's salvation and unconditional love. Each of us is a beloved child of God, made in His image, born of the Spirit. There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

HYMN

“Earth and All Stars”

GTG#26

CALL TO CONFESSION

There is nothing that can separate us from God's love. Therefore, let's confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and help us transform our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear fruit anyone would rejoice in. How can a faith like that conquer the world? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News! The only one who could judge us calls us friends. Jesus chose us over his own life, so let us choose Jesus in the life we have now.

By the power of the Spirit, our sins are washed away, and we are made new. Let us live as God's forgiven children. Alleluia! Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet each other with cupped hands filled with God's blessings and 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

In response to God's abundant grace at work in our lives, let us present with gratitude our gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the building up of God's kingdom.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring you our offerings today, and ask that you bless them. Bless the money in the plates that it might be saved, stewarded and spent in ways that honor you. Bless the tasks we will undertake this week that we might be coworkers in your coming kingdom. Bless the hours of our week – until we meet again – that our lives may be our offering to you. Bless us to be blessings in this world. Amen.

OFFERTORY "O Word of God Incarnate" Meiningens/arr. Berry

DOXOLOGY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "I Will Arise!" J. Hart/W. Moore, arr. H. Helvey

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Redeeming God, as we hear your Word spoken to us, open our eyes to see the risen Christ, open our ears to hear the good news of his salvation for all the world, and open our minds to understand the mysteries of your love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE John 15:9-17

SERMON "The Greatest Of These is Love"

HYMN "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" **GTG#833**

COMMUNION LITURGY

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
... **Pastor Continues** ...

With all of creation and all the saints and angels, we offer you back our breath as we join the universe in praise: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Come, Holy Spirit. Overwhelm us and fulfill us, inspire us and guide us in Your ways of love, justice, and mercy. Renew our hearts, open our minds, reenergize our spirits to seek You around us and to know You are within us. The terrible news of the world continues to drag us down, but You lift us up on the wings of eagles. Your Holy Spirit catches us at the first breath of dawn and does not let us go. Help us, Holy Movement, when we feel stagnant and stuck in despair, drowning in the losses of this world. Breathe new life in us and remind us that You are the One who truly makes all things new. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Variations on St. Anne" W. Croft/L. Smith

BENEDICTION

Friends, Christ has called us to love but has not left us to fulfill that command on our own. Christ drenches us in love every moment of our lives. So go out to live in that love, to share it, and to rejoice in it. And may the God who made you uphold you, the Christ you saved you enfold you, and the Spirit who dwells within you embolden you, this day and forevermore. Amen.