

**About the Anthem:**

Natalie Allyn Sleeth was an American organist and composer of over 180 pieces. She earned the BA in music theory from Wellesley College in Massachusetts (1952). Originally from Illinois, Mrs. Sleeth spent much of her adult life in West Virginia, Nebraska, and Texas. Her husband, Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Sleeth, was a professor of Homiletics and later a college president. Natalie is best known for composing “Hymn of Promise,” also known by its first line, “In the Bulb, There Is a Flower.” She dedicated her most well-known composition to her husband, Ron, who passed away shortly after its premiere in 1985. “Hymn of Promise” became immensely popular in the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Canada, and the United Methodist Church when it was published in these denominations’ hymnals. Its popularity spread to many American churches, and it was translated into German for inclusion in the Evangelical Methodist Church Songbook in 1999. While far less popular, today’s anthem is equally beautiful and full of God’s promises. This song is a prayer or blessing sung to the congregation and fellow singers. We are reminded that God’s care for us never ends, His Spirit is with us everywhere, and His love surrounds each of us. As Christians, we have comfort and peace remembering that God is always with us, everywhere. God has promised, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5b); “...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:20). Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

**“Blessing”**

By Natalie Allyn Sleeth (1930-1992)

O may the peace of God be with you ever more,  
And may the pow’r of His great love your soul again restore.  
And may you feel His hand upon you day by day  
to strengthen and sustain you along your way.  
O may He be your guide as long as life shall last,  
And in the time of Trial, may His strong arm hold you fast.  
And may you always know His never ending care,  
And may His gracious Spirit be with you ev’rywhere.  
The one eternal God is King o’er all the earth.  
He made the universe so vast and gave to Man his birth.  
But though He reigns supreme, His love surrounds us all,  
And from His throne He tends His own: His creatures great and small.  
So may the peace of God be with you ever more,  
And may the pow’r of His great love your soul again restore.  
And may you always know His never ending care,  
And may His gracious Spirit be with you ev’rywhere.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Monday March 3rd Day Circle 12:30pm  
Evening Circle 7:00pm  
Tuesday March 4th Handbells 5:00pm  
Property 6:00pm  
Wednesday March 5th Choir 5:00pm  
Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm  
Thursday March 6th Bible Study 10:30am  
NO Choir  
Saturday March 8th Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Evening Circle will meet Monday March 3rd at the home of Karan Johnson, at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For information you may call Bernadine Hayes, 799-5662.

Ash Wednesday Service will be at 6:30pm. There will be no meal, just the imposition of ashes. Please join us for this meaningful service. Our offering will go to the Coldest Night of the Year (House of Hope).

If you are interested in serving on the 200 Year Committee, please contact the church office.

**SERVING TODAY**

Pastor Joyce Perez  
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey  
Sound C. B. Strange  
Video Alex Walthall  
Liturgist Kathy Dolianitis  
Greeter Ava Barrett  
Side door/Offering Pat Pinckney

**List of Session members**

**Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema, Eddie Blount, Jackie Rochford**  
**Class of 2026: Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer, Ava Barrett**  
**Class of 2027: Barbara Wilkins, Joan Reynolds, Pat Pinckney, Kent Shelton**  
**Trustees: Bob Newnam(27), Ray Beale(26), Gary Wimer(25)**

*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.

**First Presbyterian Church**

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*THE COLUMNS  
OF THE*

# First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

**March 2, 2025**

## Transfiguration of the Lord



### Welcome

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### If you are visiting,

We warmly welcome you to our service today and invite you to join us for refreshments after the service.

*Celebrating 198 Years of Knowing Christ  
and Making Him Known*

# 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

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”  
Johann G. Werner, arr. C. Berry

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 99)

Leader: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns,  
let the earth shake!

**People: For the Lord our God is exalted over all people!**

Leader: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns,  
let the earth shake!

**People: For the Lord our God loves justice and works for  
righteousness!**

Leader: So come and proclaim at the holy mountain of the  
Lord:

**People: God reigns, let the people tremble! God reigns,  
let the earth shake!**

### INVOCATION

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us  
with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that,  
with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and  
bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**HYMN#620** Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts.  
You know the ways we’ve fallen short. You know the work we’ve  
left undone, the mercy we’ve left ungiven, the love we’ve left un-  
shared, the peace we’ve left unmade. You know the arrogance, pride  
and violence that we’ve chosen instead of your path of forgiveness  
and reconciliation. You know who we are. Help us to see who we  
might be. Forgive us, and transform us, that we might become who  
you imagine us to become, in your sight, and by your mercy. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the Lord sees you and knows you. The Lord sees you and loves  
you. The Lord sees you and calls you. Know that you are forgiven, and  
be at peace.

### 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 those around us  
with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God’s blessings  
and then 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

The Lord our God is exalted over all people. All that we have, and all  
that we are, belong to God. Let us therefore give back to God what God  
has given to us, using our gifts of tithes and offerings.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living Christ, we offer these humble gifts as tokens of our thanks, and  
as signs of our hope in the world you are creating. In your hands and  
with our hands may these gifts be transformed: into bread for the  
hungry, comfort for the weak, shelter for the lost and peace for the  
world. Amen.

**OFFERTORY:** “God Is Here Today” Javier Gacias,  
arr. Hawn & Gonzalez

### 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

### HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

**ANTHEM** “Blessing” by Natalie Sleeth  
Kayla Stork, flute

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, in your light may we see light, in your truth may we  
see truth and in your Holy Word may we be called into holy work.

**SCRIPTURE:** (68/66) Exodus 34:29-35  
(771/733) Luke 9:28-36

**SERMON** “The Mother of All Epiphanies” Joyce Perez

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**HYMN# 193** Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

### 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 for-  
giveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlast-  
ing. Amen.**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** “Blessing II” N. Sleeth

### BENEDICTION