

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886) | Charles Crozat Converse (1832-1918)

About the Anthem:

Joseph Medlicott Scriven was an Irish immigrant to Canada, having left his home in Banbridge, County Down, Ireland to follow a calling from the Lord. Scriven was a member of the Plymouth Brethren and dedicated himself to teaching and tutoring, as well as a good deal of writing. When he heard his mother was very sick at home in Ireland, he wrote her a poem, "Pray Without Ceasing," and mailed it to her. He later published a collection of 115 hymns, but he never considered the poem above to be a hymn. Joseph Scriven never dreamt it would be published in newspapers and later set to music, becoming one of the most beloved hymns of millions of Christians. The composer of this familiar tune, Charles Crozat Converse, was an American attorney originally from Warren, Massachusetts. At the age of twenty-five, Charles went to Leipzig, Germany to study law and philosophy. While he was there, he also attended courses on music theory and composition at the Leipzig Conservatory. He met Franz Liszt and Louis Spohr during his time there. Converse returned home and attended Albany Law School; after graduating he practiced law in Erie, Pennsylvania. He also became the manager of the Burdette Organ Company. Charles discovered Scriven's poem and set it to music in 1868, and thus "What a Friend" was born. This is my favorite hymn of all – I remember driving home from Richmond one night with my aunt, my granny, and my big grandma. It started storming, and Grandma was very afraid of storms. So, my aunt asked her to sing something to take her mind off the storm, and we all started singing this song together. We sang other songs that night, but this one stuck with me. I sang it at Grandma's funeral when I was twelve, and I later learned it was my granny's favorite hymn because it was sung at the revival before her confirmation. "What a Friend" became part of my graduate prospect research, and it remains my favorite.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations! Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday March 18th

Handbells 5:00pm

Wednesday March 19th

Ladies Dinner 6:00pm

Thursday March 20th

Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm

Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday March 22nd

Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

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

We will have pot pie, salad, and a delicious dessert for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 1 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

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!
~ Scholarship Committee

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship

Jackson Weller

Music Director

Ashley Stanley-Robey

Sound

Eddie Blount

Video

Alex Walthall

Liturgist

Brenna Takata

Greeter

Ava Barrett

Side door/Offering

Kim Wimer

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)

BUDGET UPDATE

	February 28	FY 2025
Contributions	\$9,961.12	\$82,359.33
Expenditures	\$26,149.49	\$70,411.70
Difference	\$(-16,188.37)	\$11,947.63

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

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent



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.**

***Celebrating 198 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

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 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross *with* In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

W. H. Doane, I.D. Conkey/arr. C. Berry

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 27:1)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

People: Whom shall I fear?

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

People: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: Come, seek God in this time of worship.

INVOCATION

We are gathered here by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are gathered here to rest – to find the refreshment the Spirit offers us. We are gathered here to hear again Christ’s words of life. We are gathered here because the Father has had compassion on us. Come, let us worship our God.

HYMN#12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed. Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not forsake us in times of trial. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. 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 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

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. May our offerings provide for others and be used to further Christ’s ministry and mission. Amen.

OFFERTORY “Lead Me, Lord” S. Wesley/ Daniel Burton

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 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” J. Scriven/ C. Converse

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, open us to your Word and your way. Help us to seek you, your truth, and the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (10/10) Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 (393/411) Psalm 27 (832/874) Philippians 3:17-4:1

SERMON “Contract Law” Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN#89 For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

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 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” Henry Purcell/Daniel Burton

BENEDICTION