

About the Anthem:

This anthem was published in 1978, a year after “Joy in the Morning” and seven years before Natalie Sleeth’s most popular work, “Hymn of Promise.” In addition to composing over 180 pieces of music, Natalie also wrote a poetry book, Adventures for the Soul: 35 Inspirational Poems and the Stories Behind Them. She studied composition and arranging with both Jane Marshall and Lloyd Pfautsch. While Natalie did not gain much notoriety during her life, she is remembered as the composer of one of the most beloved hymns of the twentieth century.

Natalie took inspiration from Matthew 6:25-34 when writing these lyrics. When I hear this anthem, I am filled with an immense sense of peace. As Christians we can rest assured that God will take care of us, as He cares for the flowers of the field and the birds of the air. Natalie reminds us that if we seek first the Kingdom of God, all the things we need will be added to our lives by the Lord who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Consider the Lilies

By Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

Consider the lilies and how they grow, blossoming there in the field,

‘Tis not for their labor they flourish so, flowers of beauty to yield.

Through the grace of God above, tending all in constant love,

Ev’ry want shall be supplied, for God the Lord will provide.

Consider a moment the birds in flight, ev’rywhere filling the air,

With never a worry they seek the height, nourished in bountiful share.

Through the grace of God above, tending all in constant love,

Ev’ry want shall be supplied, for God the Lord will provide.

Store not up in great array treasures for the coming day;

In the Kingdom first believe, and all good things you shall receive.

For more than the lilies that bloom and grow, more than the birds of the air,

Your Maker forever your need will know and feed you with heavenly care.

Through the grace of God above, tending all in constant love,

Ev’ry want shall be supplied, for God the Lord will provide,

God the Lord, the loving Lord, will ev’ry blessing provide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	St. Luke’s UMC Broadway tunes concert 3:00pm
Tuesday March 25th	Handbells 5:00pm Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
Wednesday March 26th	Youth 6:00pm
Thursday March 27th	Bible Study 10:30am Choir 4:30pm
Saturday March 29th	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

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

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	David Clark
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Becky Meadema
Greeter	Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering	Brenna Takata

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 ‘25	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 23, 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 “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

arr. Barbara Semmann

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

People: My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

People: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live;

People: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

INVOCATION

This morning, God, we want everything to be for your glory. We want our thoughts, our words, our songs, our church, our community, our resources, our time our lives, — all to be for you. Everything ours is yours, and we come together to declare this to be so, on this Sunday, your holy day. Bless our time together with your holy presence. Amen.

HYMN#65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Luke 13)

Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others’ shortcomings instead reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 55:8-9)

God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. Let us find peace in God’s ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven. 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

The Confession of 1967 reminds us that “Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.” God has given each of us and all of us a variety of gifts and we are grateful. As an act of worship, let us commit to returning those gifts to God and God’s service.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We dedicate these gifts of time and talents and tithes to you and ask that you continue to lead us as we use these gifts to join your work in this community.

OFFERTORY “What Wondrous Love Is This”

from Southern Harmony, arr. Douglas Wagner

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 “Consider the Lilies” by Natalie Sleeth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all times and places, be with us here and now. As we read from and reflect on Scripture, may your Holy Spirit move among us that we might hear your Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (553/524) **Isaiah 55:1-9**
(853/811) **1Corinthians 10:1-13**
(776/738) **Luke 13:1-9**

SERMON “The Old Days” Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN#307 God of Grace and God of Glory

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 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
W. Craft, arr. C. Berry

BENEDICTION