

About the Anthem:

Nolan E. Williams, Jr. is an American composer, musicologist, producer, and music director. His parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were all Baptist ministers. Nolan grew up spending a lot of time in church, and on a particular Sunday his father’s church choir sang “Lean on Me.” After the service, four-year-old Nolan went up and asked the pianist to play the song again for him. When he got home, he sounded out the notes and played through the song himself. His great aunt, Daisy Marie Young, started teaching him piano after this incredible display of talent. Nolan grew up to attend Oberlin College (1990, BA in Music, piano performance) and Howard University (1993, M.Div.). Reverend Williams’ commentary on the book of Habakkuk was published in Many Voices: Multicultural Responses to the Minor Prophets (1995). He also served as an editor for the African American Heritage Hymnal (2001). Williams’ music has been lauded as a ‘language all its own,’ while the African American Heritage Hymnal has been called the “most important contribution to Protestant hymnody within a century” (Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker). Williams’ music was sent into space on the test flight of the Orion spacecraft in 2014 alongside Maya Angelou’s poetry manuscripts. He has directed music at the Major League Baseball All Star Game, the White House’s annual National Christmas Tree Lighting, the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln Theatre, and Philadelphia’s Monumental Baptist Church. This arrangement of “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” was completed in 2000 for inclusion in the African American Heritage Hymnal. This spiritual is included in our hymnal’s section on “lament and longing for healing,” and it is often sung during the Lenten season to aurally illustrate the Christian’s daily walk with the Lord.

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

African American spiritual | Arranger: Nolan Williams, Jr. (b. 1969)

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I’m in trouble,
Lord, walk with me.
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday March 11th Handbells 5:00pm
Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
Session 6:30pm
Wednesday March 12th Youth 6:00pm
Thursday March 13th Bible Study 10:30am
NO Choir
Saturday March 15th Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

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

For the past four years we have been using the Presbyterian "Glory To God" hymnal projection during Sunday morning Worship. The Worship Committee recommended to Session purchasing physical "Glory To God" hymnals. Session approved \$1,200.00 in the 2025 budget to be used to supplement the purchase of "Glory To God" pew hymnals. Session also approved a special donation to collect for new "Glory To God" hymnals. We will be collecting for new hymnals now through March 21st, if you would like to contribute to the purchase please note in checks "Hymnal." The new hymnals cost \$25.00 each. The goal is to at a minimum match the \$1,200.00 approved, however we would also like to be able to distribute new hymnals throughout the sanctuary.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller
Guest Music Director Greg Robey
Sound David Parris
Video Alex Walthall
Liturgist Nancy Clayton
Greeter Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering Kent Shelton

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 9, 2025

1st 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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 91)

Leader: Where is our home?

People: Our home is in the shelter and shadow of God.

Leader: How can this be our refuge?

People: Because God's angels will guard your house and those in it from evil and threat.

Leader: How can we flourish?

People: Staying close to God's ways will bring our lives to abundance.

Leader: Let us worship God.

INVOCATION

God, you are our refuge. You are the shore in sight, you are hands that reach out, you are the ground on which to rest. God, you are our strength. You are the life we long for, you are the refusal to give up, you are the keys of home we carry with us. God, you are our help in time of trouble. We call on you from the ruins and the rubble, We call on you from the wildness and the deep, We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.

HYMN# 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wide circles, we too often revert to our fear-filled instinct to cut off those unfamiliar and distant. May we evaluate others based on your heart. In Romans, you remind us when we lean into your kingdom agenda, our worldview is expanded to focus on our common humanity. May we embrace your created diversity and include all in our cherished life's work.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Romas 10)

Everyone. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Having called upon the wide arms of our gracious God, know that you are forgiven. With joy, may we amplify God's grace into the whole world. 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

In our deliverance and abundance, we are asked to use the first fruits of our labor to build the kingdom. Let us be prayerful about how we may give our bounty to our benevolent God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (based on Deuteronomy 26:10-11)

Now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me. I bow before you and shall celebrate with immigrants and strangers in our community the bounty of all you have given to me and my household.

OFFERTORY:

Greg Robey, guitar
Charlotte Garrett, recorder

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 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

African American spiritual, arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.

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:

(148/143)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

(445/424)

Psalm 91:1-2,9-16

(764/727)

Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

"The Wilderness"

Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN# 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

"Sing Praise to God"

from Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang* (1566), setting by C. Callahan

BENEDICTION