

**About the Anthem:**

This anthem is the most famous piece of music by the renowned Scottish composer, arranger, and choral director Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson. Robertson hailed from Glasgow and became popular as director of the Toynbee House Choir. A dispute among the choir resulted in it splitting, and Robertson founded the Glasgow Orpheus Choir with some of the former Toynbee singers. The Orpheus Choir became Britain’s foremost choral group; they toured under Robertson’s baton for 45 years (1906-1951). Sir Robertson was a stern taskmaster when needed; he required annual auditions from all singers as well as constant attendance at rehearsals. A lifelong pacifist, Robertson reluctantly accepted his knighting as “recognition for the choir.” He was so beloved by his singers, when Robertson announced his ill health had caused him to retire they voted unanimously to disband. Some of the members formed a new choir, the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, which still performs today. The lyrics of this anthem are taken from a poem by the Irish writer Katharine Tynan Hinkson. Many listeners dismiss this piece as being about a pastoral scene in the countryside. However, upon closer examination Robertson used Tynan’s poem to compose a program piece. There is certainly a pastoral scene, but there is a much deeper symbolism. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, took the punishment for the sins of all God’s children. The little lambs in the poem represent you and me, the lambs Christ sought after when we went astray. The dewy pasture in the blue, blue mountain recalls the twenty-third Psalm. This place of rest represents God’s constant presence, and the spiritual rest we believers have in the church. Rest in the presence of God each day, knowing He made the ultimate sacrifice, and your soul has been made spotless.

*“All in the April Evening”*  
Hugh S. Robertson (1974-1952)  
Lyrics by Katharine Tynan (1859-1931)

All in the April ev’ning, April airs were abroad;  
The sheep with their little lambs pass’d me by on the road.  
The sheep with their little lambs, pass’d me by on the road,  
All in the April ev’ning I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary and crying with a weak human cry,  
I thought on the Lamb of God going meekly to die.  
Up in the blue blue mountains, Dewy pastures are sweet,  
Rest for the little bodies, rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb, the Lamb of God, up on the hilltop green,  
Only a cross, a cross of shame, two stark crosses between,  
All in the April ev’ning, April airs were abroad;  
I saw the sheep with their lambs, and thought on the Lamb of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS		
Tuesday April 29th	Handbells 5:00pm	
	Ladies Dinner 6:00pm	
Wednesday April 30th	Youth	
Thursday May 1st	Bible Study	
	Choir 4:30pm	
Saturday May 3rd	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am &	
	Clothes give away	

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

It’s time to spring clean your closet and bring your casual wear clothes you don’t wear anymore to church. We have scheduled a free clothes give away for our Saturday lunch program guests for May 3rd. Bags of clothes can be left in the church parlor.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected this morning. This special offering helps neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disaster, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

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SERVING TODAY	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Eddie Blount
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Kathy Dolianitis
Greeter	Eddie Blount
Side door/Offering	Barry Cutright

**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		
	March ’25	FY 2025
Contributions	\$57,701.30	\$140,060.63
Expenditures	\$36,063.82	\$106,475.52
Difference	\$21,637.48	\$ 33,585.11

*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

## April 27, 2025

## 2nd Sunday of Easter



## Welcome

**This church opens wide it’s doors and offers welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*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  
Website: http://www.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

### CHORAL INTROIT “That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

Latin hymn (5th cen.)/Manuscript of Triers, arr. Michael Praetorius

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 118:14-29)

Leader: God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel’s corner stones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

**People: Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.**

Leader: We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

**People: The Gospel of Grace is the Lord’s doing.**

Leader: Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

**People: this is the day that the Lord has made.**

Leader: Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad.**

### INVOCATION

Creator God, you call us to take on the holiness you have planted within us. In our worship this day, open our eyes and hearts to your movement that longs to make a home in us. Amen.

**\*HYMN#1 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord, God Almighty!”**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on John 20:19-31)

Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard your voice. We have not recognized you on the move in the world, wounds in your side and life in your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly. God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

### 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

We are called to invest in the church, not just because the church needs money — although, of course, it does. Not just because it needs prayers and hopes and people willing to share all that makes them human. But mostly because we need our practices to speak back to us that we are invested in life together. We believe in gospel hope and structures of mercy. Therefore, our bodily, financial and logistical practices must remind us that our hope is not only in lonesome financial security. We are called to give because we confess a God who invites us into community. We believe in the preaching of the good news and the binding up of the broken hearted that happens when we share life. Giving reminds us that God calls us beyond ourselves, and this is good news. So come and share in life together – whether you give an offering of prayer or praise, money, or time – come and practice a life invested in community.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance, take these gifts, which were already yours, and use them to knit us closer to each other and closer to the world you so love. Amen.

**OFFERTORY “Praise Ye the Lord”(Psalm 150)**  
by J. Jefferson Cleveland | Greg Robey, bass

### \*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 “All in the April Evening”**  
Katharine Tynan/Hugh S. Robertson

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we have come here for a word of life. As we seek you in your Word, meet us here. Grant us your wisdom and your hope.

**SCRIPTURE: (265/275) 2 Kings 7:1-16**  
**(769/808) John 20:19-31**  
**(867/910) Revelation 1:4-8**

**SERMON “Hope in the Darkness” Jackson Weller**

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN# 238 “Thine Is the 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 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”**  
by Samuel McFarland, harmonized by Richard Proulx | Greg Robey, bass

### \*BENEDICTION

**\* Please stand if able.**