

About this Hymn:

This spiritual is very popular, especially in the American South. There are several additional and alternate verses, and sometimes the word ‘morning’ is spelled ‘mourning’ indicating the sadness inspired by the “end of the world,” or the end of this present age, in scripture. Arranger Melva Ruby Wilson was born in Due West, South Carolina in 1933. She graduated from Harbison Junior College (1948), Johnson C. Smith University (1953), and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1964), where she earned the Master of Arts in Teaching Music degree. While attending college at Johnson C. Smith University, Melva met and married seminarian James Costen. When James was called to pastor Church of the Master Presbyterian Church in Atlanta (1965), Melva became their music director. She joined the faculty at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (1973) and directed the Center Chorus. She went on to earn a PhD in curriculum and instruction with a cognate in music from Georgia State University (1978). Dr. Costen was named Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in 2005. The Costen Institute for Worship Leadership at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary was named in her honor. Reverend Dr. Diane Givens Moffett remembered Dr. Melva Wilson Costen as “a premier professor in Reformed Christian worship and African American Presbyterianism. She was a friend and colleague to so many people, serving faithfully with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.” Dr. Costen left a rich example to church musicians, ministers, and Christian educators. May we each aspire to serve God and the church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

“My Lord! What a Morning”  
African American spiritual |

Arranger: Melva Wilson Costen (1933-2023)

Refrain: My Lord! What a morning; my Lord! What a morning.  
O my Lord! What a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.  
(Refrain)

You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.  
(Refrain)

You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations  
underground,

Looking to my God’s right hand, when the stars begin to fall.  
(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad  
Tuesday July 21st Ladies Dinner 5:30pm  
Saturday July 26th Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Looking ahead...  
Worship Committee will meet immediately following church Sunday August 3rd.  
Youth will start meeting Wednesday at 6:00pm on August 13th.  
Thursday Bible Study starts back up on August 14th at 10:30am.

Thank you congregation for your continued hospitality in hosting Son Servants during their mission week. Keep Son Servants in prayer this week while they are in West Virginia.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Eddie Blount
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Nancy Clayton
Greeter	Pat Pinckney
Side door/Offering	David Swann

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

	June 1-30	FY 2025
Contributions	\$46,226.42	\$221,148.01
Expenditures	\$37,170.48	\$207,956.36
Difference	\$ 9,055.94	\$13,191.65

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

July 20, 2025

6th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome

This church opens wide its 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

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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

**“Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House?”** (Psalm 15)  
Christopher L. Webber/Roy Hopp

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us here to worship. We carry many worries and are distracted by many things, but here, in this time and place, we are invited to set them aside, to be fully present. Let’s pause and take a deep breath. We remember who we are:  
**People: We are the body of Christ.**  
Leader: We remember whose we are:  
**People: We are God’s beloved children.**  
Leader: We remember our chief purpose:  
**People: To glorify and enjoy God forever.**  
Leader: Let us worship God!

### INVOCATION

Come, Holy Spirit. Take full control of this service. Stir our hearts to worship. May Your presence be undeniable and Your voice clear. We yield to You. Have your way in this place. Amen.

**\*HYMN#634** **“To God Be the Glory”**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we are pulled in many different directions. We are distracted by the news, quick to point fingers and pass judgment, but reluctant to examine the ways we benefit from the injustice in our world. We are distracted by our fears. We fear the loss of health, safety, and financial security. Instead of proclaiming your abundance, we operate from a mindset of scarcity. We are distracted by our tasks, by calendars that shape our priorities, leaving us with less time and energy for what is most important. We confess our distraction, even as we acknowledge that sometimes we embrace it because it’s easier than sitting at Jesus’s feet, learning what it means to follow him. We confess that distraction is easier than discipleship. Forgive us. Help us discern and choose the better path as we seek to follow Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This good news will not be taken away: We are seen as God’s beloved children, holy and blameless, reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Let us live into this good news: 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.*

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

In Christ, we have received the better part, which will not be taken away. We offer our gifts with joy and gratitude. Freely we have received; now freely let us give.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Abundant God, we give thanks for your grace and provision in our lives. Use these gifts to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community and the world. May they witness to your love and care for all people, as we offer our time and energy to do the same. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

**OFFERTORY** **“The Love of God”** by Jason W. Krug

**\*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

**ANTHEM** **“My Lord! What a Morning”**  
African American spiritual, arr. Melva Wilson Costen

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, still our hearts and silence our distractions so that we can be fully present to your Word. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, let us hear what you have to say to us today, and give us the courage to listen and respond to your call. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** **(651/687)** **Amos 8:1-12**  
**(833/875)** **Colossians 1:15-28**  
**(735/773)** **Luke 10:38-42**

**SERMON** **“The Better Portion”** **Jackson Weller**

**\*HYMN# 213** **“In the Cross of Christ I 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** **“Be Thou My Vision”**  
Traditional Irish tune, arr. Ovid Young

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*Please stand if able.**