## **About the Anthem:**

Writer Gracia Grindal, originally from Powers Lake, North Dakota, was educated at Augsburg College (Minneapolis, C/O 1965) and the University of Arkansas (MFA, 1969). She served as professor of English and poet-in-residence at Luther College in Decorah Iowa for over fifteen years (1968-1984). Ms. Grindal became very interested in the connections between theology, culture, and hymnody. She completed a master's degree at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota (1983). She went on to serve Luther Seminary as professor of pastoral theology and ministry communications. Professor Grindal was named professor of rhetoric in 1992 and is now professor emeritus. Also in 1992, she created the Reformation Festival (first called "Songfest"), a series of hymn festivals; her series included "Singing the Faith," Reformation Day services focused on Luther's Catechism. Gracia Grindal is a prolific writer, having penned at least thirty- eight hymn texts and eleven books. She also compiled and translated a collection of 150 Scandinavian hymns, wrote a book of sonnets on biblical themes – *The Sword of* Eden, and a translation of fifty Icelandic hymns – Hymns of Passion. In 2021, Grindal's collection of 366 devotional sonnets on Jesus was published, Jesus the Harmony. She publishes a weekly hymn blog at Hymnfortheday.com. More of her writings and translations can be found at #98, 538, and 853 in the hymnal, Glory to God.

Composer Rusty Edwards, DMin, DD, hails from Dixon, Illinois. He has written many hymns, including six collections – *The Yes of the Heart* (with foreword by Chick Corea), *Grateful Praise*, *As Sunshine to a Garden*, *Each Breath Every Heartbeat*, and *Bidden*, *Unbidden*. His sixth book, *Uncommon Mercy*, included a tune composed by Dave Brubeck for his song, "As the Moon is to the Sun." He was a Visiting Fellow at Yale University Institute of Sacred Music in 2009 and at Africa University (Zimbabwe) in 2012. Edwards received the Doctor of Divinity degree in 2015 from Lutheran Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC). Some of his music and lyrics can be found at #98 and 733 in our hymnal.

# **Rejoice! I Found the Lost**

Lyricist: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943) | Based on Luke 15 Composer: Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) | Arranger: Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

And Jesus said, "Our God is like a shepherd who has lost a sheep, And leaving all the rest he searched until he found what had been lost." "Rejoice," he cried, "I found the lost! Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice!"

And Jesus said, "Our God is like a woman who has lost a coin; She lit a lamp and searched all night until she found what had been lost." "Rejoice," she cried, "I found the lost! Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice!"

And Jesus said, "Our God is like a father who has lost a son;
He waited every day for him until his son returned to him."

"Rejoice," he cried, "My son came home!

Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice!" he cried.
"Rejoice with me, my son came home! Rejoice, rejoice with me, rejoice!"

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Mission Committee meets this morning at 9:00am Tuesday September 16 Handbells 5:00pm

Handbells 5:00pm Ladies Dinner 6:00pm

Wednesday September 17 Youth 6:00pm

Thursday September 18 Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday September 20 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

#### **SERVING TODAY**

Minister of Word & Sacrament
Music Director
Sound
Video
Liturgist
Greeter
Side door/Offering
Rev. David Baker
Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sam Meadema
Alex Walthall
Ray Beale
Joan Reynolds
Ava Barrett

#### **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**

	August 1-31	FY 2025
Contributions	\$20,849.32	\$278,044.35
Expenditures	\$25,505.81	\$278,094.64
Difference	(-\$ 4,656.49)	(-\$ 50.29)

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

# September 14, 2025 14th 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

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 "The Foolish in Their Hearts Deny"

(Psalm 14) Marie J. Post/Richard L. Van Oss

# **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Luke 15:1-10)

Leader: Have you come here to grumble?

People: No! We are here to rejoice!

Leader: Oh. Are you lost? **People: No! We are found!** 

Leader: Okay, I see. Do you seek a welcome at this table?

People: Yes! We are here to let go of the past and begin

fresh.

Leader: We are here to celebrate the joy of heaven. **People: We are here to feast with Christ, our Lord!** 

Leader: Wonderful! You are in the right place.

People: You are welcome here.

Leader: Let's worship God together!

# **INVOCATION**

Father, we thank You for Your never-ending mercy and forgiveness. We confess our sins before You and ask for Your cleansing touch. May we walk in Your light and truth, knowing that we are forgiven and made new in You. Amen.

## \*HYMN#12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 51:1-10)

God of loving kindness, have mercy on us. According to your multitude of tender mercies, blot out our transgressions, thoroughly wash us from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. We know our transgressions, our sin, our evil done against you as we distort your love and corrupt your creation. From the moment of our conception we have worked to separate ourselves from your love. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom, purge and clean our hearts, put your Spirit anew within us. Let us hear joy and gladness so that our ragged bones might rejoice with you.

# SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on 1 Timothy 1:14,16)

Hear the good news: With utmost patience, Christ offers mercy so that we may thrive in eternal life. In Christ's name, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!** May the grace of our Lord overflow for you with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

#### **SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION**

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been reconciled to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and mercy, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace and peace.

Please 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 (based on Exodus 32:7-14)

God has offered us our lives and bestowed us with mercy, grace, and love. Let us now respond to God's offering to us by returning to God in part what is God's in whole.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (based on Luke 15:1-10)

We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed. Amen.

# OFFERTORY "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

W.B. Bradbury, arr. Lani Smith

#### \*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 "Rejoice! I Found the Lost"

Gracia Grindal/Rusty Edwards, arr. Wayne L. Wold

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(based on Luke 15:1-10 and Psalm 51:10)

Lord who welcomes sinners, send your Spirit to sit with us as we hear your Word proclaimed. Find us where we are lost, create in us clean hearts, and help us to see the joy of your mercy. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE: (592/561) Jeremiah 31:33 NEW TESTAMENT (805/766) John 17:17

SERMON "Be Like Christ" Rev. David Baker

\*HYMN# 463 "How Firm a Foundation"

#### \*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 "Praise and Glory"

F. Giardini and W.H. Doane, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

\*BENEDICTION

\*Please stand if able.