

# Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby (A La Ru)

Hispanic folk song, arr. Michael Hawn (b. 1948)

Oh, sleep my dear little baby in your mother's arms of love.  
I will protect you and hold you while angels sing from above.  
*Refrain: A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé,  
A la ru, A la ru, A la mé.*

Oh, do not fear the future and the sorrow it may bring.  
Rest in the arms of your mother and calmly sleep while I sing.  
*(Refrain repeats)*

## About the Choir's Hymns Today:

Here is a direct Spanish to English translation of the two original verses of this beautiful folk song – "Sleep, sweet child, in the arms of love, while the sorrow of my pain sleeps and rests. Do not fear King Herod, for he will do you no harm; in your mother's arms, no one will offend you." I would make some poetic adjustments, as follows – "Sleep, beautiful Baby, in the arms of love. While he sleeps, the pain of my sorrow rests. Do not fear the king, Herod, for he cannot do anything to you. In your mother's arms, no one can do anything to hurt you."

The refrain, "A la ru, A la mé," has no meaning. It is meant to mimic the sound of a mother humming and singing syllables to lull her baby to sleep. I love the simple beauty of this song, traditionally sung with guitar accompaniment. I imagine the first verse as Mary's lullaby, and the second verse as Joseph reassuring Mary and Jesus. The arranger, Reverend Dr. C. Michael Hawn, is Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Southern Methodist University and the current director of the Sacred Music program at Perkins School of Theology. He arranged this song for a two-part choir, but we have adapted it as a duet. It is sometimes called by other English titles, such as "O Sleep Now, Holy Baby" or "O Sleep Well, Beautiful Baby."

The anthem, "I Believe in God the Father" is a metrical paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed written by David Gambrell. He served as liturgist for the 2025 Worship and Music Week at Montreat, and he wrote much of the spoken liturgy for that conference. I briefly got to meet him at a couple of sessions last summer. I find his writing to be so beautiful – rhythmic, eloquent, poetic, and yet still digestible while singing. You can read the full anthem text at #481 in the *Glory to God* hymnal. Mr. Gambrell chose this tune because of its strong connections with our Reformed worship tradition. The tune was originally printed in the 1551 Genevan Psalter as the tune for Psalm 42, and so it is called GENEVAN 42. You will likely recognize this melody from the popular Advent hymn, "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" (#87 in the hymnal).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad  
Tuesday January 13 Handbells 5pm  
Ladies Dinner 6pm  
Session 6:30pm  
Wednesday January 14 Youth 6pm  
Thursday January 15 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am  
Choir 4:30pm  
Saturday January 17 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Just a reminder you can still turn in your 2026 pledge card. We have 40 cards turned in for a total of \$214,840.

## SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller  
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey  
Video/Sound Alex Walthall  
Liturgist Gail Jones  
Greeter Barry Cutright  
Side door/Offering Ava Barrett

## List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer  
Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckney, Joan Reynolds, Kent Shelton  
Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall  
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

## BUDGET UPDATE

<u>November</u>	<u>1-31</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
<b>Contributions</b>	\$24,218.23	\$385,178.72
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$24,272.72	\$382,959.03
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(-\$54.49)</b>	<b>\$ 2,219.69</b>

*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

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord



## Welcome

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

*Celebrating 199 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](mailto: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

**INTROIT "Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby"** Hispanic folk song, arr. Michael Hawn | Gregory Robey, guitar | Ashley Stanley-Robey and Mack Williams, soloists

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 148)

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty

**People: May the Lord bless us with God's Peace!**

Leader: The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God's beloved.

**People: In our own baptisms, we are claimed as God's beloved.**

**\*HYMN#286 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

### INVOCATION

Lord, we prepare our hearts to receive Your Word. May it be alive, powerful, and piercing. Let it convict, correct, and comfort us. Use it to shape our minds and lives.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — and of Jesus' solidarity in his own baptism by John with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin. In his name, God has forgiven us of our own sins and set us on new paths. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

### 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.*

### \*CALL FOR THE OFFERING

On the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we celebrate the great gift of Baptism and the life of promise therein. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, in our baptisms we have been named and claimed as your covenant people, connected deeply with you, with one another, and with the earth. May these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth.

**OFFERTORY** **"Blessed Quietness"** Manie P. Ferguson/  
W.S. Marshall, arr. James M. Kirk

### \*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** **"I Believe in God the Father"** David Gambrell/  
Genevan Psalter, 1551 | GENEVAN 42

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

### LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(541/513) **Isaiah 42:1-9**  
(819/779) **Acts 10:34-43**  
(718/682) **Matthew 3:13-17**

**SERMON** **"Beloved, Not Yet Finished"**  
Jackson Weller

**\*HYMN#321 "The Church's One 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.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION**  
**Hymn #543 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"**  
(O Christ, Surround Me) by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

**\*Please stand if able.**

*\*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.*