

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

By William Lamartine Thompson (1847-1909)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

About the Anthem:

"Softly and Tenderly" is an exceptionally popular hymn, included in eighty-four contemporary hymnals and over 860 hymnals prior to 1980. Will Lamartine Thompson composed it in 1880, inspired by Mark 10:49. The hymn was beloved by Dwight L. Moody and often sung at his evangelistic services in both America and Britain. Moody was quoted in conversation with the composer, "Will, I would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" than anything I have been able to do in my whole life." This hymn has been recorded by many famous singers and artists, including The Andrews Sisters, Pat Boone, and Rosemary Clooney in the 1950s, Amy Grant (2002), Reba McEntire (2017), and Carrie Underwood (2021). "Softly and Tenderly" was sung as a congregational hymn at the funeral of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968.

American composer and music publisher William Lamartine Thompson was born in East Liverpool, Ohio, the youngest of seven children. His father Josiah Thompson was a merchant, manufacturer, banker, and Ohio state legislator. William's mother, Sarah Jackman Thompson, was deeply invested in social work and charity. He was a graduate of Mount Union College (Alliance, OH) and the New England Conservatory of Music. Early on in his career, Thompson was rebuffed by music publishers. In response, he started his own publishing house, W.L. Thompson Music Company. It became one of the most successful music publishers in the United States.

Will Thompson composed secular songs before settling firmly into the gospel genre. "Softly and Tenderly" is by far his most popular work, but "Jesus Is All the World to Me" is a close second. He always wrote down his melodic and lyrical ideas immediately, as soon as they came to mind. Thompson's hymns have been translated into many languages including Arabic, Chinese, Esperanto, French, German, Hawaiian, Norwegian, Malayalam, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tamil, and Tagalog. In addition to composing and publishing, he edited two hymnals, *The New Century Hymnal* (1904) and *Enduring Hymns* (1908).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday January 19 Office Closed MLK day
Tuesday January 20 CE Committee meeting 4:00pm
Handbells 5pm
Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday January 21 Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm
Thursday January 22 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm
Saturday January 24 Session Officer Training
Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

We will have chili, cornbread, a salad, a delicious dessert, and tea/coffee for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 3 is in charge. Our program will be from House of Hope director. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

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

Sunday January 25th Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm. Please join us at Stratford for this worship service.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Word & Sacrament	Rev. David Baker
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Kathy Dolianitis
Greeter	Barry Cutright
Side door/Offering	David Swann

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

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 18, 2026

2nd Sunday after Epiphany



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

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

PRELUDE "This Is My Father's World" Franklin Sheppard,
arr. Cindy Berry

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

People: We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Leader: Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

People: Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Leader: Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

People: Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

*HYMN#451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

INVOCATION

Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly. Warm our hearts with the glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite. Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day. Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 40)

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Psalm 40)

God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground.

God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that we are forgiven! 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.

Amen.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDERS

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God doesn't desire our sacrifices or offerings. God's desire is for us to be partners in the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth. We have been given all we need to fulfill that call, and so we are invited to offer what God has given us in this service.

Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as vain sacrifice, but as a joyful response for your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Children of the Heavenly Father" Swedish tune,
Setting by Daniel Burton

*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 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

by William L. Thompson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, reveal yourself to us once again as we hear your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow where you lead, and to answer your call. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(905/862)

1 John 1:5-10

(893/851)

Hebrews 10:14-18

SERMON

"Finding Freedom From Sin"

Rev. David Baker

*HYMN#442

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

*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

"O Zion Haste"

James Walch,
arr. C. Berry

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

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