

Immortal Love, Forever Full

Lyrics by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
Composer: Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

Immortal love forever full, forever flowing free,
Forever shared, forever whole, a never ebbing sea.

Our outward lips confess Thy name, all other names above;
Love only knoweth whence it came and comprehendeth love.

Blow winds of God; awake and blow the mists of earth away.
Shine out O light divine! And show how wide we stray.

O Lord and Master of us all, whate'er our name or sign,
We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call,
We test our lives by Thine Immortal love, forever full.

About the Anthem:

American poet John Greenleaf Whittier was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, the son of farmers. When he was fourteen, his teacher introduced him to the work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. John fell in love with poetry and began writing many verses. At age nineteen, he had his first poem published in a local newspaper. He was encouraged by the editor to continue writing and finish his education. After two years working as a cobbler and schoolteacher, Whittier became a very successful writer and editor, as well as a renowned abolitionist. His lifelong Quaker faith deeply influenced his writings, especially in his later years. He wrote at least 190 hymns throughout his career. Whittier's most popular hymn text is, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," followed by today's anthem, "Immortal Love, Forever Full."

This poem describes God's omnipresent character eloquently – immortal, forever, never ebbing. The entire work references Scripture in 1 John chapter 4, especially the verses 4:8b, "...God is love." and 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." Composer Eugene Butler used long sustained phrases, a slow tempo, and repeated lyrics to paint a picture of God's everlasting love. Softer dynamics illustrate the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, "the winds of God," revealing the light of Christ. In that clear Light, we examine ourselves and test whether we reflect God's Immortal Love to our neighbors.

Eugene Butler was a native of Durant, Oklahoma. He was a "Renaissance man," participating in band, chorus, drama, and his high school's 1951 Class B state championship football team. He went on to the University of Oklahoma (BME), Union Theological Seminary in NYC (MSM), and the University of Missouri-Kansas City (DMA composition). He was a community college professor and music director for twenty-five years, as well as adjunct professor at UMKC and William Jewell College. Dr. Butler was a church musician throughout his career, for over thirty-eight years. He received many awards and published more than a thousand compositions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday February 16 CE Committee meeting 4:30pm
Tuesday February 17 Handbells 5pm
Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday February 18 Ash Wednesday Service 6pm
Thursday February 19 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm
Saturday February 21 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6pm in the sanctuary, there will be no meal.

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!

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound Alex Walthall
Liturgist Bernadine Hayes
Greeter David Swann
Side door/Offering Jackie Rochford

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

	December 1-31	FY 2025
Contributions	\$87,037.16	\$472,215.88
Expenditures	\$43,889.84	\$426,848.37
Difference	\$43,147.32	\$45,367.51

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

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration 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
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 "All Night, All Day" African American spirituals,
arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 99)

Leader: Our God is holy and mighty, a leader who loves justice, who established honesty, justice, and righteousness.

People: God has done this! We exalt you, O God! We worship at your footstool. You are holy!

Leader: Miriam, Moses and Aaron were among them, and Samuel, too was among those who invoked the Name; they called on God, and God answered them.

People: We exalt you, O Lord our God, and we worship you at your holy mountain; for you, O God, are holy!

***HYMN#81 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"**

INVOCATION

Radiant God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of radiant light, we confess that we are a people who are sometimes too comfortable dwelling in darkness. We say we want things to change, that we do not accept the way things are. But, in reality, we want someone else to take care of the changing. We resist transformation and sometimes do not even believe it is possible. Forgive our unbelief. Soften our hearts toward one another and ourselves. May your Spirit move through and among us. Make us light bearers for your sake, and for the sake of your people. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news is this: while we do not always – or perhaps often – get it right, God is faithful. God keeps God’s promises. Let this truth deep down seep into your weary bones: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free for life in God’s Spirit. 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

We are created in the image of a generous God, and we participate in God’s generosity when we share of what we have with one another. Not because we have to, but because we are grateful, let us a return a portion of what God has so given to us through our tithes and our offerings.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and holy God, we give you thanks for the many gifts in our lives. We are well and truly blessed. We dedicate these offerings to you. Multiply them beyond our imagining, that others might experience your love and grace, your mercy and justice. May we come to know a world where each person is enough and has enough. These things we ask boldly in Christ’s name. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Johann G. Werner, arr. Cindy Berry

*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 "Immortal Love, Forever Full"

John Greenleaf Whittier/Eugene Butler

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Wisdom, your Word is at once ancient and brand new. As we read together this day, enlighten our hearts and minds. May we be transformed. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(58/60) Exodus 24:12-18

(861/903) 2 Peter 1:16-21

(682/719) Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON "Glory That Carries Us Through the Wilderness"

Jackson Weller

***HYMN#192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining"**

(Shine, Jesus, Shine)

*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

"Give Me Jesus" African American spiritual,
arr. Mark Hayes

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

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