

Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart

Pashto hymn, Translator: Alison Blenkinsop | Arranger: Geoffrey Weaver (b. 1943)

Refrain: Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden. :||

This our sinful hearts require: flame of God's refining fire,
working in us day by day till the dross is burned away. *R*

Jesus knows our deepest fears, knows the pain of hidden tears.
By his words of love and peace every heart can find release. *R*

When our lives are in his hand nothing can his work withstand;
His forgiveness sets us free, saves us for eternity. *R*

So our faith will be restored by the word of Christ our Lord;
for the warmth his love imparts melts the very hardest hearts.

About Today's Music:

The choral introit, "Steal Away," is attributed to Wallace Willis (c. 1800-84) and his daughter Minerva Willis (c. 1820-?). Both were born into slavery in Mississippi and transported on the Trail of Tears to what later became the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. Wallace and Minerva were given their names by plantation owner Britt Willis; he also sent them to work at Spencer Academy, a school for Choctaw boys. In 1849, Reverend Alexander Reid came to the academy as superintendent. He spent twelve years working there with Wallace and Minerva. In 1871, Rev. Reid moved to Princeton, New Jersey with his three children upon being widowed. He saw the Fisk Jubilee Singers perform and asked the director if he could teach them Wallace and Minerva's songs. Rev. Reid taught them six songs by rote; he later had photographs taken of Wallace and Minerva to be preserved at Fisk University in their honor. "Steal Away" was sung by enslaved people (c. 1830s) to indicate impending travel on the Underground Railroad. The verses indicated that departure would take place during the next thunderstorm. The thunder drowned out the sounds of running; rain washed away evidence; and lightning provided occasional visibility to traverse heavily wooded areas and swamps.

The anthem is a Pashto hymn, the national language of Afghanistan and a provincial language of Pakistan; it is spoken by more than fifty million people. British midwife, author, and pianist Alison Blenkinsop translated the song while practicing midwifery in Pakistan with the Church Mission Society. Alison began piano at age six; she still performs as an accompanist and soloist. Geoffrey Weaver hails from Bath, Somerset and is an alumnus of Cambridge. He taught music at Maidstone and Bristol Grammar Schools before working with the Church Mission Society leading musical groups in Hong Kong (1975-81). He later became the director of music at Bradford Cathedral, lecturer at Leeds, and Director of Studies at the Royal Society of Church Musicians (RSCM). Mr. Weaver was invited on a lecture tour of Pakistan in 2003. He conducted the RSCM Millenium Choir in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II after his return to the UK in November 2003.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Tuesday February 24 Handbells 5pm
Ladies Dinner 6pm
Finance Committee 6pm

Wednesday February 25 Youth 6pm
Thursday February 26 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm

Saturday February 28 Men's breakfast & bible study 8:00am
Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Today, Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm.

Men's breakfast & bible study will be Saturday February 28th at 8:00am in Westminster Room. Please bring your breakfast as we join together in study.

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	Nancy Clayton
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Sam Meadema
Counters	Reynolds

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 22, 2026
1st Sunday in Lent



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

CHORAL INTROIT "Steal Away" African American spiritual | Mack Williams, soloist

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 32)

Leader: The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!

People: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

***HYMN#175** "Seek Ye First"

INVOCATION

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace. Amen.

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

God is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity like a parent giving up an only child. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and kingdom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Create in Me a Clean Heart" (Psalm 51)

by James M. Capers, arr. Dennis Friesen-Carper

*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 "Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart" Pashto hymn, translated by Alison Blenkinsop, arr. Geoff Weaver

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Still-speaking God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear, and by hearing, grow in faith and love. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(2/2) Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7

(839/798) Romans 5:12-19

(719/682) Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON "From Garden To Wilderness"

Jackson Weller

***HYMN#819** "Be Still, My Soul"

*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 "Ain'a That Good News!" African American, spiritual setting: Christina Snehi | Gregory Robey, trombone

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

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