

# This Little Light of Mine

African American Spiritual | Arranger: George Mabry

*Refrain:* This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
Every day, every day, every day, every day, every day, every day,  
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

On Monday, he gave me the gift of love;  
on Tuesday, peace come from above.  
On Wednesday, told me to have more faith;  
on Thursday, gave me a bit more grace.  
On Friday, told me to watch and pray;  
on Saturday, told me what to say.

On Sunday, gave me pow'r divine just to let my little light shine.  
*(Refrain repeats twice)*

### About the Choir's Songs Today:

The Choral Introit, "Fill My Cup," can be found at #699 in the *Glory to God* hymnal. It was written by a Presbyterian pastor and gospel musician, Rev. Dr. Isaiah Jones, Jr. (1940-2008). Dr. Jones was an alumnus of California State University, Los Angeles (BA, 1972), Talbot Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1977), and San Francisco Theological Seminary (D.Min., 1989). Jones served as associate minister for Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles (1979-87), associate pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (1985-87), pastor of Community Presbyterian Church, campus minister for Oregon State University (1995-99), and pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, CA (1999-2007). Isaiah Jones wrote over a hundred hymns; his works have been included in Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist, and Catholic hymnals. He won "Best Songwriter of the Year" from the Gospel Music Academy in 1973, along with a 1979 Grammy for his song, "Abundant Life." Isaiah Jones also performed with Billy Graham's Crusade. We can learn more about Dr. Jones' life, music, and ministry by reading his book, *God Has Smiled on Me: An Isaiah Jones Songbook* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2005) and listening to his album, *Everlasting God Be Blessed* (Validus, 2001).

Today's anthem is one of the most popular and well-known Christian songs. Many of us have fond memories of singing, "This Little Light of Mine" during Sunday School and Bible School as very young children. We do not know who originally wrote this song. The lyrics take inspiration from Jesus's words to his followers in Matthew 5:14-16 and Luke 11:33. The phrase, "This little light of mine" was published in the poetry of Edward G. Ivins of Montana in 1925. The song was first mentioned in a 1931 Los Angeles newspaper as "Deaconess Anderson's song." It was mentioned in newspapers in 1933 as having been sung by a choir at an African Methodist Episcopal conference in Helena, Montana. Early recordings of the song were produced in state penitentiaries in Texas. The singers were Jim Boyd of Jacksonville, Texas (1934, State Penitentiary in Huntsville, TX) and Doris McMurray who learned the song from her grandmother in Waco (1939, Thomas Goree Unit in Huntsville, TX). Doris's lyrics included the second verse, "Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin' let it shine," and the third verse, "In my neighbor's home, I'm goin' let it shine." You can listen to Doris McMurray's singing at the Library of Congress site: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000628/>

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad  
Tuesday February 10 Handbells 5pm  
Ladies Dinner 6pm  
Wednesday February 11 Youth 6pm  
Thursday February 12 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am  
Choir 4:30pm  
Saturday February 14 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Today we will take up our "Souper Bowl" offering. This offering is taken each year and given to help our Saturday Lunch Ministry.

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	Ray Beale
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Eddie Blount

### 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>
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

February 8, 2026

5th 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](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

CHORAL INTROIT "Fill My Cup" by Isaiah Jones, Jr.

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 112 )

Leader: People of God, praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Leader: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**People: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.**

Leader: We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

**People: Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!**

\*HYMN#744 "Arise, Your Light Is Come! " (FESTAL SONG)

### INVOCATION

Everlasting God, we gather together knowing You are present among us. Guide our hearts and mind to listen for Your word: in our hearts, in our movement, in our prayers. Open us to new insights, to be challenged by the scriptures, to be assured by our songs, to be encouraged in prayer, knowing that You are making all things new, including us. May we be open to the Spirit in this time. Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 58:6-9)

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

**Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the home less poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"**

We are blessed to know that very light which breaks forth. We know God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.

**Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life. Thanks be to God! 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 (2 Peter 3:8-15)

All that we know, and all that we have, comes from God. In gratitude for all that God has given us, let us give back to God what was God's to begin with in the form of our tithes and offerings.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept these, our gifts, almighty God, as a statement of our faith. May our offering bring goodness and light wherever it is needed. May our communities of faith be bearers of your light. And may we be sources of that same light to the world in all we say and do. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Come! Live in the Light!" by David Haas

### \*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 "This Little Light of Mine"  
African American spiritual, arr. George Mabry

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, the words we read are ancient and true. On this day, may we hear them anew. Grant us hearts to discern your Spirit within them, and grant us courage to follow them in our lives this day. Amen.

### LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(555/526) Isaiah 58:1-9

(848/807) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

(719/683) Matthew 5:13-20

SERMON "Salt, Light and the Power We'd Rather Avoid"  
Jackson Weller

\*HYMN#700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

\*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 "Lift High the Cross" Sydney Nicholson,  
arr. Cindy Berry

### \*BENEDICTION

**\*Please stand if able.**

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