

"The Upper Room"  
Composer: Don Besig (b. 1936) |  
Lyricists: Don Besig & Nancy Price (b. 1958)

There in a quiet upper room they gathered together once again.  
The Master stood among the twelve he called his closest friends.  
"Soon I must leave you," said the Lord. "My Father will call me from this place. Although you may not understand, my life is in his hands I must obey."

They sat in the silence, tears in their eyes. He spoke once again to ease their minds: "Be not afraid. Do not despair. When you need me I will always be there."

"Come, sit beside me," said the Lord, "For here at this table we are one. Come, share this simple meal with me, and show that you believe I am God's Son. This bread is my body broken for you.

This cup is my blood which is shed for you. Take, now and eat, take, now and drink. Do this always in remembrance of me."

"Walk in my footsteps," said the Lord, "Be steadfast in everything you do, And keep me always in your heart, though we may be apart I am with you."

#### **About the Choir's Music Today:**

Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) was a United Church of Canada minister, prison chaplain, author, and editor. She attributed her love of song to her grandparents who sent her for music lessons with a nun at a local convent. Sylvia began writing songs as a teenager; mentors included Sister Miriam Theresa Winter and Alan Barthel. Ms. Dunstan graduated from York University and then completed two master's degrees in theology and divinity at Emmanuel College in Toronto. She wrote today's introit on the bus after a "particularly bad day" of prison ministry in 1984. Full lyrics can be found at #274 in the hymnal, "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd." Sylvia was invited to lead the annual conference of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada in 1990. Her exposure there led to the publication of her first hymn collection, *In Search of Hope and Grace*. Sadly, Sylvia Dunstan passed away on July 25, 1993, four months after being diagnosed with liver cancer. A smaller collection of her hymns was published posthumously, *Where the Promise Shines*.

Don Besig is the director of adult choirs at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He previously taught music for thirty-one years in New York state. Recognizing a need for accessible choral music, he started composing around 1960. He began collaborating with his former student Nancy Price in 1980. Ms. Price is also a nationally renowned choral clinician and singer. She taught high school chorus for ten years before becoming a freelance music engraver, editor, and proofreader for the Shawnee Press. Together, Mr. Besig and Ms. Price have released nearly four hundred choral compositions and arrangements. Over eighteen million copies of Besig & Price works have sold in the forty-six years they have worked together. Both are members of ASCAP and have received many ASCAP special awards for their collaborations. Their dedication to choral music is a blessing to churches and schools worldwide.

Music during Communion -

"Adoration" by Florence B. Price and "Let Us Break Bread Together"  
African American spiritual | Arranged by Tom Fettke

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday March 2	PW Day Circle 12:30pm PW Evening Circle 7pm
Tuesday March 3	Handbells 5pm Property Committee 5:30pm Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday March 4	Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm
Thursday March 5	Thursday Bible Study 10:30am Choir 4:30pm
Saturday March 7	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on March 2nd at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. All are welcome.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Ava Barrett, on Carolina Ave., March 2nd at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

We will have lasagna, a salad, a tasty dessert, and tea/coffee for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 3 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

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	Gail Jones
Greeter	Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering	Kim Wimer
Counters	Beale
Communion	Beale/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**

	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

March 1, 2026

2nd 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

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# 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 "Christus Paradox"

Sylvia G. Dunstan/ French melody, 17th cent.

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 121:1-2)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills--

**People: from where will my help come?**

Leader: My help comes from the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

### \*HYMN#166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

### INVOCATION

Loving God, heart of all life, you loved this word into being with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved. Your presence does not separate but unites; love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this, we know we are loved, never rejected. Thanks be to God! Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from John 3:17)

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ, 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 gives generously. Let us honor God by giving generously in return.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. Amen.

**OFFERTORY "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"** C.H.H. Parry |  
Setting by Charles Callahan

### \*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.*

### NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ANTHEM "The Upper Room"** by Don Besig and Nancy Price

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Book of Common Worship)

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

### LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(8/8)

Genesis 12:1-4

(838/797)

Romans 4:1-5

(790/751)

John 3:1-17

**SERMON "Called Out, Counted Righteous, Born Again"**

**Jackson Weller**

\*HYMN#816 "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee "

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### \*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

**Voluntary on "Beach Spring"**

B.F. White |

Setting by Jason W. Krug

### \*BENEDICTION

\*Please stand if able.

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