

“When You Prayed Beneath the Trees”
Lyrics by Christopher Idle (b. 1938) | Music by Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

When you prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord;
when you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears, you dismissed your final fears,
when you faced the soldiers’ spears, you stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord;
when it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone – you were silent as a stone,
and a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord;
when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;
when they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die,
and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

About the Anthem:

Christopher Martin Idle was born in Bromley, Kent in the United Kingdom. He is an alumnus of Eltham College and St. Peter’s College, Oxford (c/o 1962). After college, he went to seminary at Clifton Theological College in Bristol. Beginning in 1965, Idle served as a deacon, priest, and rector in the Church of England for over thirty years. He began writing hymns in the 1960s and helped form Jubilate Hymns with a group of other composers including Michael Baughen, Michael Seward, and Michael Perry. He has written more than four hundred hymns; his works are featured in nearly every major contemporary hymnal including ours. You can find one of his hymns, “Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus,” at #262 in *Glory to God*. Chris Idle is also a respected hymnologist, editor, and author. His books include *Hymns in Today’s Language?* (1982), *Hymns for Today’s Church*, and *Exploring Praise!* (2007), a commentary on the contents of the hymnal, *Praise!*, published in 2000.

Today’s anthem is an excerpt from Lloyd Larson’s 2002 Lenten musical, “The Shadow of the Cross.” Larson, originally from Illinois, set Chris Idle’s hymn text to his own composition. The piano accompaniment is the original accompaniment, although additional instrumental parts have since been composed. Larson left out the final verse of Chris Idle’s text to center his musical on Lent, Holy Week, and Good Friday. The final verse reads as follows:

When you spoke with kingly power, it was for me, O Lord;
in that dread and destined hour, you made me free, O Lord;
earth and heaven heard you shout, death and hell were put to rout,
for the grave could not hold out; you are for me, O Lord.

The palms in the sanctuary have been given in loving memory of our family that has joined the Church Triumphant by Harriet and Ray Beale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday March 30—Friday April 3 12 Noon—1 pm Holy Week Services
Tuesday March 30 Handbells 5pm
Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday April 1 Youth 6pm
Thursday April 2 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm
Saturday April 4 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing allow partnership with community development projects throughout the world that empower economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged communities to promote positive changes in their lives. Funds also assist communities recovering from major disasters. You may write checks to FPC (put OGHS in the memo line) and place them in the offering plate. Envelopes are available in the windowsills next to the bulletins. We will collect the offering today and Easter Sunday.

The Presbyterian Women’s Day Circle will meet on April 6th at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. We will continue our Series on First Peter “Sojourners and Exiles” by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Harriet Beale, on Westmoreland Ct., April 13th 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.

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 Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering Joan Reynolds
Counters Beale

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

2026 Budget Update

	February 2026	FY 2026
Expenditures	\$38,205.33	\$78,116.13
Revenues	\$47,304.17	\$56,758.95
Difference	\$ 9,098.84	-\$21,357.18)

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 29, 2026



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

PROCESSIONAL on "All Glory, Laud and Honor,"

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Hosanna!" They shouted. "Save us!"

People: "Hosanna!" We're shouting. "Save us!"

Leader: Savior, ride into our hearts again,

People: wash us with excitement and hope,

Leader: give us a reason to praise

All: and to shout again, "Hosanna! Hosanna!"

*HYMN# 197

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

INVOCATION

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey, and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, "Hosanna in the highest!" Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Christ, we confess that amidst all the Palm Sunday crowds, we find ourselves in more turmoil than triumph. Our faith is unsteady. Our wisdom is eroding. Our resolve is shaken. Our mercy is hardening. Our hope is weakening. Come again and save us from these sins. Give us strength to follow you, our humble Savior, our wise fool, our all in all. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this promise: Jesus has set his face toward the cross.

Nothing we can do can deter him. He has determined that we are worth saving. **By the power of the cross, by the power of wondrous love, we are forgiven. 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

In a village there were two donkeys, and the Lord needed them. Strange request, and stranger choice, but the Lord needed them. You never know what God needs. You never know what God can use. Trusting that what you have is just what God needs, commit your offerings to the Lord. Whether they are given physically or online, of your time, your talent, your treasure, whether they are extraordinary or humble, your gifts build up the body of Christ in the world.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy one, we cannot offer you great treasures as the world measures them. Here is only what we have at hand: cloaks and palm fronds to line your path, and all our ordinary sacrifices. Accept these gifts, and transform them, that we may share in your great work of love. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"In the Cross"

Conkey/Doane |

Setting by Thomas Keesecker

*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

"When You Prayed Beneath the Trees"

Christopher Idle/Lloyd Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, share with us your wisdom; gift us with your hope; sustain us with your truth. Be in our hearing and our thinking, that through the words of Scripture we might know your call on our lives. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(549/521)

Isaiah 50:4-9

(413/395)

Psalms 31: 9-16

(873/831)

Philippians 2:5-11

SERMON

"The King At the Gate"

Jackson Weller

*HYMN# 212

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

*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

"Peaceful Benediction II"

by Kevin McChesney

*BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

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