

“God So Loved the World”

Based on John 3:16-17 | Composer: John Carter (b. 1930)

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son
that whosoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

God gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

God did not send His Son to condemn a sinful world,
but to save the world, to save the world,
to save the world through Him.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son
that whosoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

God so loved the world.

About the Music in Today’s Service:

Contemporary American composer John Carter is originally from Nashville, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (B.M.) and Peabody College in Nashville (M.M.). Carter studied composition with Forrest Goodenough and Philip Slates. He has written several hundred choral compositions (sacred and secular); over sixty collections of piano music including hymn settings and original compositions; several musicals; and an opera. Throughout his career, Mr. Carter taught public school music classes in Ohio and served on the music faculty at Morehead State University in Kentucky. He has been a church musician since his college days, recently serving as Director of Music at University Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Carter’s most frequent collaborator has been his wife, Mary Kay Beall. They wrote several musical dramas together, including “Ruth” based on the Biblical story.

The prelude today, “There Is a Balm in Gilead” was arranged for handbells by Cynthia Dobrinski (1950-2021). Cynthia served as the organist and music director at First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville, Virginia until her death in 2021. She left a large collection of handbell music there, and the church gave their excess handbell selections to other churches and schools in the area. Our library inherited this music directly from Cynthia by way of First Presbyterian of Martinsville. Cynthia used mallets with suspended bells and vibrato in this arrangement. She was able to create one arrangement to be played with 3-7 octaves of handbells, hand chimes, or a combination of both.

Kevin McChesney (b. 1963) composed our postlude, the first half of “Two Peaceful Benedictions.” Mr. McChesney hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan and currently resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he works as a freelance composer and handbell clinician. Kevin is an alumnus of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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!

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary during worship, please contact Rebecca Moore at 434-203-1666 or email her at Rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound Alex Walthall
Liturgist Kathy Dolianitis
Greeter Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering Kent Shelton
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

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 flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of our church family by Rebecca and Chris Moore.

**THE COLUMNS
OF THE**

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

March 8, 2026

3rd 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

PRELUDE "There Is a Balm in Gilead" African American spiritual, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 95:1-7a)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also.

People: The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

*HYMN#267 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing "

INVOCATION

Father, we thank You for Your never-ending mercy and forgiveness. We confess our sins before You and ask for Your cleansing touch. May we walk in Your light and truth, knowing that we are forgiven and made new in You. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake...Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 8:34)

Leader: Who is to condemn?

People: It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.

Leader: Believe the promise of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

From the dust of the earth, God made our mortal bodies, and with God's breath, life was instilled in us. There is nothing that we have that is not a gift from God. Remembering all of God's manifold blessings, let us worship God with our tithes and our offerings.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said that we may freely take, and freely share. As we return to you what is already your own, we ask that you would bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us through Christ our Lord, Amen.

OFFERTORY

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image/Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

Johann B. Konig/Traditional Welsh tune | 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 "God So Loved the World" by John Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(52/54) Exodus 17:1-1-7

(798/839) Romans 5:1-11

(752/791) John 4:5-42

SERMON "Thirsty People and Living Water" Jackson Weller

*HYMN#645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

*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 I" 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.