

GRACE FLOWS DOWN *with* “Amazing Grace”

By David Bell (b. 1954), Louie Giglio (b. 1958), and Rod Padgett

Arranger: Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound; amazing love, now flowing down

from hands and feet that were nailed to the tree,

as grace flows down and covers me. It covers me.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see!

It covers me, amazing love covers me, it covers me.

About the Music Today:

Happy Reformation Sunday! And a very happy 200th church anniversary, First Presbyterian Church of Danville! The prelude today, “Glorious Celebration,” was commissioned in 2014 for the 200th church anniversary of another First Presbyterian Church in Washington Court House, Ohio. Cynthia Dobrinski (1950-2021) was a renowned composer of handbell music, and a longtime organist at First Presbyterian in Martinsville, Virginia. After her passing five years ago, Cynthia’s church gave much of her music to other churches. We are grateful for Cynthia’s gift that keeps giving.

One of the earliest publications of “Lord, I Know I Been Changed” was in the songbook *National Baptist Jubilee Melodies* (1916), arranged by Phil V.S. Lindsley (c.1879-1939) of Nashville, Tennessee. Very little is known about Mr. Lindsley, other than he was a musician by trade and resided in Nashville. He composed at least six hymns and published at least eighty-five arrangements. The chorus published in 1916 read, “Lord, I know I been changed... Angels in heaven done wrote it down.” In contemporary songbooks, they read, “Lord, I know I been changed... The angels in heaven done signed my name.” This is a song of confidence in one’s faith and eternal heavenly home. May it be a reminder – the church is Reformed and always reforming. With God’s help, we can be changed, restored, and reconciled to God and one another.

The anthem today was inspired by the beloved hymn, “Amazing Grace.” Author John Newton (1725-1807) lived a perilous life on the high seas with his father from age eleven until joining the Royal Navy as a young man. Newton attempted desertion but was caught and flogged; soon after he was taken captive by a slave trader and forced to work on a slave ship. John experienced a dramatic Christian conversion, left the slave trade, and become an ardent abolitionist in 1754; he became an Anglican minister in 1764. Newton wrote 280 hymns, but this is by far his most popular. “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” is a distant second, followed by “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” and “Safely Through Another Week.” Of the contemporary writers, I will highlight Mr. David Bell, the composer of the bunch. Bell hails from Middletown, Ohio where his father Paul Bell was the high school music teacher. His instrumental music can be heard on shows such as “Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman” and *Star Trek*. He has also written musicals, “And the World Goes Round” and “The Boys from Syracuse.”

OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

ABUKLOI SECONDARY SCHOOL (Abukloi Foundation) Rembek, South Sudan

CHRIST FOR THE ISLAND WORLD Greensboro, NC, Indonesia

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PERROW, WILLIAM & WANDA (Open Arms Foundation) Medellin, Colombia

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WEHMEYER, DONALD & MARTHA (The Antioch Partners) Merida, Yucatan,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Tuesday October 27	Morning Bible Study 10:30am
Tuesday October 27	Handbells 5pm
Tuesday October 27	Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday October 28	Youth 6pm
Thursday October 29	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday October 31	Sat. Lunch Ministry

+Kirkin’ of the Tartans! Reformation Sunday is today and we will have special music during worship and lunch after our worship service! This will be a catered lunch in Overbey hall. Please welcome Rev. Ray Williams as our guest speaker

+Church Members are asked to bring gently used clean blankets, sheets and towels to give away to our Saturday Lunch guests on November 7th. You can bring them to the parlor where they will be sorted. Thanks for your help!

+We will honor our new members and 5 years of service for Ashley Stanley-Robey Sunday November 1st immediately following the worship service with refreshments in the Dunglinson-Roberts Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

*Commitment Sunday will be Sunday November 8th, please remember to bring your commitment cards to place in the baskets before service.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Word & Sacrament	Ray Williams
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jackson Weller
Greeter	Harriet Beale
Side door/Offering	Pat Pinckney
Counters	Beale/Moore

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., Kathy Dolianitis, Jackie Rochford, Alex Walthall

Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

	2026 Budget Update	
	September 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$74,436.78	\$347,947.12
Expenditures	\$62,727.24	\$375,131.27
Difference	\$11,709.54	(- \$ 27,184.15)

A Warm Welcome

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

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.

THE COLUMNS
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

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 Tim Carpenter

KIRKIN’ O’ THE TARTANS Gaelic Blessing
A Dhè, beannaich na Gàidheil agus na h-Albannaich bho ‘n d’ thàinig Sinn;
Beannaich sinne, ’s na breacain a tha sinn fhathst a’ cur oirn; Agus
beannaich an dualchas a tha sinn a’ cumail suas. Amen. (O God, bless the
Gaels and Scots from whom we are descended; Bless us, and the tartans we
still wear, bless the heritage that we uphold. Amen.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

PRELUDE “Glorious Celebration” by Cynthia Dobrinski

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: We gather here to worship God.
People: We are here, with heart, soul and mind.
Leader: We gather here as Christ’s body.
People: We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.
Leader: The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.
People: We are here to worship and to be transformed.
Leader: Let us worship the Triune God!

*HYMN#275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

INVOCATON
Happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full, our ways are yours, our
spirits enlivened by your call. Happy are we, O God, when our lives are
guided by delight. We gather here today for just that, holy God. We gather
to draw on all you would give us to be more fully yours. In Jesus’ name.
Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God, who appointed Christ our high priest, may he intercede for us as
we confess our sin. We are lame when we do not walk by faith. We are
blind when we do not seek your truth. We crave self-fulfillment rather
than your righteousness. We are in bondage to ourselves. Through Christ,
release us from our captivity, and in him forgive us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
The gospel we proclaim is good news for us all: God’s mercy is eternal. We
are made blameless through Jesus Christ. Freed from sin’s power over us,
we can bear the fruit of God’s love and righteousness. Thanks be to God!

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
We are called to love God with all that we are, and all that we have. As God
has given so generously to us, we are invited to return our gratitude by
offering the gifts of our labor, lives and love.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Generous God, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts yield the fruits of
your Spirit, meeting scarcity with your abundance, and fear with your love.
Use our offerings and our lives in love and service. We ask this in the name
of Jesus, Amen.

OFFERTORY "Lord, I Know I Been Changed" African American
spiritual, Arr. Larry Shackley | Greg Robey, bass

*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.*

NECROLOGY “Flowers of the Forest” Tim Carpenter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Grace Flows Down" with 'Amazing Grace' Louie Giglio,
David Bell, and Rod Padgett | Arr. Lloyd Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Holy God, by the power of your Spirit, help us meditate on your law and
commandments. As your Word is read today, help us be fully present –
heart, soul, and mind – and show us your way of love. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES

SERMON Ray Williams

*HYMN# 326 For All The Saints

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Scots Confession of 1560
We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to Whom alone we must
cleave, Whom alone we must serve, Whom only we must worship, and in
Him alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable,
incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in
three persons-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By Whom we confess
and believe all things in heaven and earth to have been created, to be
retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable
providence, and for such end as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice
have appointed, and to the manifestation of His own glory.

*BENEDICTION
*RECESSIONAL Tim Carpenter
*Please stand if able.
*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the
“Glory to God” hymnal in the pew.
*Thanks to The Virginia-Carolina Scottish Society for participating in worship today,
with special thanks to President Bill Smith and Pipe Major Tim Carpenter.*

*The flowers in the chancel today are in honor of Pastor Appreciation
Month and Jackson Weller. Jackson has been an outstanding leader
and we want to honor him for his service to our church and church
family.*

Sermon Notes: