

“Peace Like a River”  
African American spiritual | Arranger: Charles Kirby

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul, in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got love like a river, I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in my soul, in my soul.  
I've got love like a river, I've got love like a river,  
I've got love like a river in-a my soul, in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a river, I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in my soul.  
I've got joy like a river, I've got joy like a river,  
I've got joy like a river in-a my soul.

I've got peace, love and joy in-a my soul.

About the Music in Today's Service:

The prelude and anthem today go hand in hand, as both illustrate the continuous, peaceful presence of God in our lives. The prelude, “It Is Well with My Soul,” was commissioned by hymnwriter Horatio Spafford after his children sadly perished in a shipwreck in November 1873. When writing the refrain, Spafford paraphrased the well-known words of Julian of Norwich, “And all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” He asked his friend Philip Bliss to compose a gospel tune for his text. Bliss named the tune after the ship that sank, Ville du Havre.

The anthem today also uses superlative repetition which is common in many hymns. “I've got peace like a river” is repeated three times; this linguistic device illustrates that's God's peace is superior to any earthly peace we experience. In the second and third stanzas, love and joy are given the same treatment. Charles Kirby's arrangement is a blend of gospel and folk music styles. I love the walking bass line he included for string bass or bass guitar. It is rare to find a choral anthem with a written-out bass part that does justice to the instrument's versatility. The alto and tenor lines contain many suspensions and neighbor tones which are common in four-part gospel singing. Kirby also makes use of call and response phrases between choir sections, another popular stylistic device in African American spirituals and gospel music.

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” our offertory, is popular in Bible and Sunday School classes. It was one of the first hymns I learned to play around age nine or ten. This arrangement evokes a sense of peace and deep gratitude for Christ's ultimate sacrifice at Calvary. The postlude today, “Easter Joy,” echoes the third verse of the anthem and continues our celebration of Eastertide on this sixth Sunday of Easter.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Tuesday May 12	Handbells 5pm
Tuesday May 12	Ladies Dinner 6pm
Tuesday May 12	Session 6:30pm
Wednesday May 13	Youth 6pm
Thursday May 14	NO Bible Study
Thursday May 14	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday May 16	Sat. Lunch Ministry

Our mission project for May will be the Baby Bottle Boomerang. We are collecting donations to help the local Transition Pregnancy Solutions Center. They provide parenting classes, Bible studies, and sharing God's love to clients facing a pregnancy. With your help they can continue their mission of helping women considering their options in an unexpected pregnancy. Baby bottles are on the table behind the sanctuary. Make your check payable to FPC with Transitions in the memo line. This will run until Sunday May 17th.

**SERVING TODAY**

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Becky Meadema
Greeter	Kent Shelton
Side door/Offering	Pat Pinckney
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		
	March 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$64,772.75	\$123,495.68
Expenditure	\$43,117.30	\$121,646.15
Difference	\$21,655.45	\$ 1,849.53

*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 by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

**Scan the QR code for today's scripture readings.**



*THE COLUMNS  
OF THE*

**First Presbyterian Church**

Danville, Virginia

**May 10, 2026**

**6th Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day**



**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

**PRELUDE** "It Is Well with My Soul" Philip P. Bliss, arr. Cindy Berry | Greg Robey, bass

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to celebrate the God of wonder and majesty!

**People: Awesome God, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate Jesus Christ, who was dead and buried, and now risen indeed!

**People: Jesus, renew our hope in your great power and love.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the Holy Spirit, our promised comforter and guide!

**People: Come Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence and peace.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the ancient hope of Christians:

**People: God is with us and will never let us go.**

**\*HYMN# 12 "Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise"**

### INVOCATION

Awesome God, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing. Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us into the people you have made us to be –poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-present God, we come before you knowing we have ignored your promised Holy Spirit living within us. Therefore, we forfeit peace and bear needless worry. We become confused and deaf to your voice of truth. We struggle with obedience to your Word and fight an overwhelming sense of loneliness. Forgive us! Help us to remember that we are never alone, that you are with us and for us, by the power of your Spirit abiding in us, the Spirit of Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 8:31-32)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! 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 great gratitude to God that we are never left to our own devices, let us give joyfully and generously for God's work in the world.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord our maker, defender, redeemer and friend, accept and multiply the gifts we give today to be for your glory and for the good of your people. Amen.

**OFFERTORY "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"** Lowell Mason, arr. C. Berry

**\*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 "Peace Like a River"** African American spiritual, arr. Charles Kirby | Greg Robey, bass

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit! As the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed, bear witness to the truth in our hearts and minds, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES;**  
(785/826) Acts 17:22-31  
(858/901) 1 Peter 3:13-22  
(764/803) John 14:15-21

**SERMON "The God Who Is Not Far Away"**  
**Jackson Weller**  
**\*HYMN#735 "I Need Thee Every Hour"**

**\*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 "Easter Joy"** by George Blake

**\*BENEDICTION**  
**\*Please stand if able.**  
\*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.

Sermon Notes: