

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. David Baker	Minister of Word and Sacrament
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
C.B. Strange	Sound
Brenna Takata	Liturgist
Randy Brooks	Security, side door and offering
Randy Brooks	Greeter

First Presbyterian Church

January 14, 2024

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

434-792-7822

www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

As you enter the sanctuary please end your conversations and respect those worshippers who seek quiet time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all electronic devices. If you need a hearing assistance device, please request one from the usher. Remaining seated is as worshipful a posture as standing. Please worship in a way that is comfortable for you.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger"* arr. Anna Laura Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

Where can we go from God's spirit?

If we ascend to heaven, God is there; if we make our bed in Sheol, God is there. If we take the wings of morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, Even there God's hand shall lead us, and God's right hand will hold us fast.

INVOCATION

Creator and Ruler of the Earth, we lift up our voices, our eyes, our hearts, our lives to You in praise. Make us Your alleluia people. Uphold the weary, for whom praise may be very difficult. Humble the strong, for whom "alleluia" may be too easy. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, continue to form us into Your new creation, that we might welcome You to more fully become the ruler of our hearts and minds. Through Him who came as a servant, and who now reigns over all creation, Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

HYMN *"O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"* **GTG#610**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 15 **Office Closed**

January 16 **Handbell Choir** at 5:00 p.m.

January 10 **Youth Activities** at 6p.m.

January 11 **Choir Rehearsal** at 4:30 p.m.

January 20 **Funeral service** for Lois Hayes at 11:00 a.m.

List of Session members by Class

Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*

Class of 2026: Randy Brooks, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Meadows

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart

*Denotes Steering Committee Members

*The flowers that enhance our worship are given
to the Glory of God, and in memory of Ronnell D. Belton
by his family*

“Be Thou My Vision”

Old Irish hymn | Translator: Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931)

Lyricist: Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

About the Anthem: The original author of this Irish hymn is unknown. The folk tune's composer is unknown, as well. Irish linguist and author Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the lyrics from Old Irish “Bi Thusa ‘mo Shuile” into the English “Be Thou My Vision” in 1905. The first translation appeared in Eriu, an academic journal of Irish language studies. Eleanor Hull, an Irish-English writer, created the English versification of the hymn text. Hull was a bit of a Renaissance woman, having studied science (electricity), Celtic studies, Asian studies, and the Vikings.

This hymn text contains deep and multifaceted theology. Examining the first verse - I am reminded of the book of Ecclesiastes, particularly the line, “All is vanity.” However, Hull managed to weave comfort within that sentiment, “Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.” Earthly life is miniscule compared to the eternal presence of God. I am reminded of Philippians 4:8, “...if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” How often do we spend time contemplating the vast wonder and awe of the presence of God in and around us? I am reminded of 1 John 1:5b, “...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” There are many more scriptural references throughout the five full verses of this hymn. It is a fantastic devotional as well as a truly remarkable hymn.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even as we enter into the presence of God, we exclaim with Isaiah: “Woe is me, I am a person of unclean ways, dwelling among a tainted people.” If we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Trusting in the steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord, let us pray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy Lord, I know I struggle and I'm sinful. I want to be made new in You. I ask for you to create me a new creature, where I can start fresh today and live for You. Hear now our silent prayers of confession:

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet each other with cupped hands filled with God's blessings and 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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen

OFFERTORY "Depth of Mercy with Search Me, O God" arr. 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

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM *"Be Thou My Vision"* arr. Shephard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation’s birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus’ baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 5:17

SERMON “Finding New Life in the New Year”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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.

HYMN *“Guide My Feet”* **GTG#741**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

POSTLUDE *“With Praises All Unite!”* Sweelinck/G. Edwards

BENEDICTION