About the Anthem:

Reverend Dr. Robert Lowry was born in Philadelphia and attended Lewisburg University. He became an ordained Baptist minister and served churches in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. After being asked to edit a Sunday school songbook, *Bright Jewels*, he became a music editor. This was followed by other famous song books: *Pure Gold; Royal Diadem; Welcome Tidings; Brightest and Best; Glad Refrain; Good as Gold; Joyful Lays; Fountain of Song; Bright Array;* and *Temple Anthems*. Dr. Lowry took the responsibility of music editorship seriously and began to study music intensively. He studied composition, musical philosophy, and the science of sound. Lowry went on to compose many popular hymns, including "I Need Thee Every Hour," "How Can I Keep from Singing?," "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," "We're Marching to Zion," and today's anthem, "Shall We Gather at the River."

This hymn was written during the summer of 1864 when an epidemic was sweeping through New York City, causing many deaths and prolonged illnesses. Rev. Lowry sat at his parlor organ, and contemplated the question, "Shall we gather at the river of life?" The words and music of the hymn began to flow out, and he composed the text and tune simultaneously. The passage that inspired Dr. Lowry was Revelation 22:1-2a, "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life..."

"Shall We Gather at the River"
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)
Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. **R**

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. **R**

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. **R**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Monday May 26th Memorial Day Office Closed Tuesday May 27th Ladies Dinner 6:00pm

Wednesday May 28th Youth 6:00pm

Thursday May 29st Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday May 31st Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 8am

Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller

Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey

Sound C. B. Strange
Video Alex Walthall
Liturgist Jay Hayes
Greeter Kent Shelton
Side door/Offering Brenna Takata

List of Session members

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema, Eddie Blount, Jackie Rochford Class of 2026: Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer, Ava Barrett

Class of 2027: Barbara Wilkins, Joan Reynolds, Pat Pinckney, Kent Shelton Trustees: Bob Newnam(27), Ray Beale(26), Gary Wimer(25)

BUDGET UPDATEApril 1-30FY 2025Contributions \$17,800.70\$157,861.33Expenditures \$28,343.01\$134,818.53Difference (-\$10,542.31)\$23,042.80

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

May 25, 2025 6th Sunday of Easter



Welcome

This church opens wide it's doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 198 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

"O God Show Mercy to Us (Psalm 67)" CHORAL INTROIT

The New Metrical Version of the Psalms/Gustav Holst

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 67)

Leader: May God be gracious to us; May God bless us.

People: We gather in worship, knowing God is here.

Leader: May God's face shine upon us.

People: May God call us into the joyful work of creating

peace.

Leader: Let us worship our God in praise.

INVOCATION

Lord our God, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred circle. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN#275

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the city, you call us to come to you in the world, but we disobey you. We choose power and profit over the acts of love that you exemplify for us again and again. We are content to work within systems that oppress instead of working to change things. We forget that everything comes from you, and that we are just stewards of what you have given. We seek out mountain tops instead of being among your people. Forgive us Lord, for the times that we forget your call to fully follow your example in the world. Embolden us to live fully in your call: to love our neighbor.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God blesses us, again and again, despite the times that we mess up, despite us ignoring God. Friends, know and believe the good news of the Gospel: 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 those around us with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God's blessings and then 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

God has blessed us so much. So let us give back to our Lord some of that blessing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord our God, we appreciate the many blessings that you have provided us with. Empower us to bless others through our actions, words, resources so that we may support and love others as you have loved us, so we can truly be your people in the city. May we use this offering to reflect you in our world.

OFFERTORY Fantasia on "O How I love Jesus" Jason W. Krug/ American folk tune

*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 "Shall We Gather at the River"

by Robert Lowry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, speak loudly through your text. May we hear your truth, especially when it challenges us. Be the loud voice of love that we need to hear. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (784/824)

Acts 16:9-15

(878/922)

Revelation 21:10-22:5

(764/803)

John 14:23-29

"God Calls, Gathers, and Glorifies" **SERMON**

Jackson Weller

HYMN# 547

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

*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

"Song of Hope"-"Canto de esperanza" Alvin Schutmaat/Argentine folk melody

BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

Song of Hope - Canto de esperanza Translation of Spanish verse: God of hope, grant us joy and peace! To the world in crisis, speak Your truth. God of justice, send us Your light - light and hope in the darkness. We pray for peace; we sing of Your love. We work for peace, faithful to You, Lord.