

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**

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>	
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

<u>SERVING TODAY</u>	
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)

	<u>BUDGET UPDATE</u>	
	April 1-30	FY 2025
Contributions	\$17,800.70	\$157,861.33
Expenditures	\$28,343.01	\$134,818.53
Difference	(-\$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*

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E-Mail: admin@fpcdanville.com
Website: <http://www.fpcdanville.com>

We work for peace, faithful to You, Lord.