

About the Anthem:

Composer Robert Lau is quite prolific, with more than five hundred titles published for chorus, organ, strings, band, and solo voice. He attended Lebanon Valley College, then the Eastman School of Music, and finally the Catholic University of America. He returned to Lebanon Valley College as a professor for twenty years (1968-1989). Dr. Lau then moved into the role of Organist/Choirmaster at Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Penn State – Harrisburg for twenty years. In addition to his work as a church musician and professor, Robert Lau taught through the *Leadership Program for Musicians*, a joint project of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches to provide accessible training for church musicians. He is the founder and artistic director of *Jubilate!* Choral ensemble of Gettysburg, PA. Dr. Lau currently teaches as a workshop leader and clinician; he continues to receive commissions for new compositions.

This anthem was commissioned in 2004 by Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Linglestown, Pennsylvania in honor of their pastor’s 30th ordination anniversary. Reverend Dr. William Q. Stickley was ordained in 1974. Although he retired from full-time ministry in 2013, he continues to serve the congregation at Christ Evangelical. Dr. Stickley celebrated 51 years of ministry this past Monday, June 23rd . The lyrics of this piece were based on John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

“I Am the Vine”

Composer: Robert Lau (b. 1943)

When Jesus walked the earth among us,  
long ago and far away,

He brought the people hope of salvation.

They heard Him teach. They heard Him say:

(Refrain): I am the Vine, you are the branches;  
if you believe you will be free.

You are my sheep, I am your Shepherd.

You will bear fruit, come follow Me.

If we believe He still walks among us day by day and year by year,  
Will we know He brings us salvation? Will we see? Will we hear?

(Refrain repeats)

Holy, holy, holy Lord. Teach us today, show us the way.

(Refrain repeats)

I am the Vine. Come follow Me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Tuesday July 1st	Ladies Dinner 5:30pm
Thursday July 3rd	NO Choir
Saturday July 5th	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The office will be closed Monday July 7th in observance of July 4th.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Ray Beale
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jackie Rochford
Greeter	Sam Meadema
Side door/Offering	Ava Barrett

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 UPDATE

	May 1-31	FY 2025
Contributions	\$17,060.26	\$174,921.59
Expenditures	\$35,967.35	\$170,785.88
Difference	(-\$18,907.09)	\$ 4,135.71

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

June 29, 2025

3rd Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome

This church opens wide its 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

### PRELUDE “When We Walk with the Lord”

by Daniel B. Towner, arr. Ovid Young

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

**People: Lord, help us follow where you lead.**

Leader: Jesus said, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

**People: Lord, help us put you first and follow you.**

Leader: Jesus said, “Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.”

**People: Lord, help us follow you that we may serve you.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you.

**People: And also with you. Let us worship God.**

### INVOCATION

**Lord, we prepare our hearts to receive Your Word. May it be alive, powerful, and piercing. Let it convict, correct, and comfort us. Use it to shape our minds and lives.**

\*HYMN# 738

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you claimed us as your own in our baptisms and called us to be your covenant people. We confess we do not live as people created in your image, nor do we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Jesus still calls, “Follow me” and we offer excuses because we can’t do that. Jesus calls us to new life in the Spirit, and we cling to our old habits and tired traditions. Gracious God, forgive our sins. Open our ears and hearts to hear Jesus’s call and give us grace and strength to respond in faith and love. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Titus 3:4-7)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God’s mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God’s grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

### 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.*

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

When Jesus sent his disciples on their mission, he told them, “Freely. you have received, freely give.” Surely the same applies to us as followers of Jesus today. We are who we are, and we have what we have because of God’s grace freely given in Jesus Christ. With grateful hearts, let us present our tithes and offerings.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the undeserved blessings you give us. Most of all, we thank and praise you for your indescribable gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Give us grateful hearts and willing lives so we may follow our Lord where he leads us and serve our Lord as he calls us. Amen.

### OFFERTORY Carillon on “Whispering Hope”

Alice Hawthorne/Setting by C. Callahan

### \*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

“I Am the Vine”

by Robert Lau

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed this day, may our hearts be enlightened and our spirits strengthened that we may be more faithful followers of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE:

(270/260)

2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14

(867/825)

Galatians 5:1,13-25

(772/734)

Luke 9:51-62

### SERMON

“Following the Fire, Living by the Spirit”

Jackson Weller

### \*HYMN# 288

“Spirit of the Living God”

### \*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

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

by Doris Akers, arr. Richard Smallwood

### \*BENEDICTION

\*Please stand if able.