



# MATTHEW 25



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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy New Year and grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. The beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us! God's mercy is new every morning! The joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and that the rest of this day is filled with opportunities for you to live into God's light and love in all you do and with all you may be with.

Today's worship focus is Matthew 25 and more specifically God's bold vision and invitation for us to circle up and be actively engaged in the world. You might also refer to this call as one of unity and equality. Matthew 25 is full of faithful and inspiring teachings from Jesus about the Kingdom of God. The parables Jesus teaches within this chapter, and chapters 23 and 24, have come to influence Christianity and the communal practice of faith all over the world. Matthew 25 specifically, with its "whatever you do unto the least of these you do unto me", has become the bedrock of what the Presbyterian Church (USA), the denomination to which FPCLY is a member, calls Matthew 25 Congregations. The logo on the cover of the bulletin this morning is symbolic to the themes of building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty found at the heart of Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25. On this MLK, Jr. weekend, we might even consider the faith and action of Martin Luther King, Jr. as an example of what it means to live out Matthew 25 faithfully.

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg, we acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed on us and trusted us with; we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings with one another; we acknowledge that we don't always fulfill our call to be God's church perfectly and thus need to ask God for forgiveness; we acknowledge our need for God's grace, and the grace we can offer one another; we acknowledge the truth that we are all better together. Faith is a journey and one we believe God has called us and gifted us to walk together as God's beloved children. Welcome to this journey!

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,  
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

## Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations may be helpful to you: Accessible Restrooms can be located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Elevator is also located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Nursery is located on the ground floor just outside the elevator. In addition to locations, there are two supports available to worship participants should they be needed: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex. Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions. Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.

## Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. We believe we are better when all members of God's family are included! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts with a variety of resources to make a worship bag. After the children's moment, 4 years to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in Room 1 (downstairs below the library) or stay for the remainder of worship. It is always a joy to have your children and all the wiggles, giggles, questions, noises, and insights they bring. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's ministries, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley ([marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)).

## Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed 20 new members over the last year, and we are ready to welcome more. If you'd like to be here in a more official capacity, you are invited to join First Presbyterian as a member. Everyone who is part of our community is treated the same. Joining isn't about special treatment, but rather about a commitment you make to following Jesus alongside others trying to do the same. New member gatherings take place throughout the year based on interest. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson ([peter@fpcly.org](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

January 19, 2025

*From the beginning of the early church, God's people have met to worship on the first day of the week, the day Christ Jesus rose from the dead. We **gather** to praise the Triune God, confess our sin, and seek God's grace. We **hear** the good news of the gospel and are invited to **respond** to that good news in prayer, mission, offering, and celebrating the Lord's Supper. We are **sent** forth to glorify God through the service of daily living.*

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*All are invited to join together in saying liturgy printed in bold.*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

**His Eye Is On The Sparrow**

arr. Jack Schrader

*Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloist*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Hymn #464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Hymn to Joy

## Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, creator of all life, teach us ever more to respect and love all the lives you create. Forgive us our lack of concern and love for those who are yet unborn, who are born with impairments, who are rejected by their parents. Teach us to open our hearts and our homes to all your children. Forgive us when we are negligent and uncaring for those who are elderly, for those who are forgotten in nursing homes, who merely exist in their old age, who cannot afford medical care, who suffer from a careless society. Teach us to open our hearts, to open our homes and churches, to visit the lonely, to bring your love into their lives on this earth. Forgive us, gracious God, and have mercy on us. *Please take a moment for Silent Prayer***

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

Hymn #579

*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.*

**\*Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Prayer for Illumination

**New Testament Reading: Matthew 25:31-46**

"Circle Up"

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*Hymn #372: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (verses 1 & 4 only)**

I Want to be a Christian

**\*Affirmation of Faith: from A Brief Statement of Faith**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory Anthem**

**Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

arr. Roy Ringwald

*Precious Lord, take my hand, Bring me home through the night.*

*Through the dark, through the storm, to Thy light.*

*I have been to the mount, I have seen the Promised Land: Precious Lord, take my hand.*

*Precious, Lord, take my hand, Bring Thy child home at last,*

*Where the strife and the pain All are past:*

*I have dreamed a great dream that Thy love shall rule our land: Precious Lord, take my hand.*

*Precious Lord, take my hand, Take Thy child unto Thee,*

*With my dream of a world that is free.*

*For that day when all flesh joins the glory Thou hast planned, Precious Lord, take my hand.*

**\*Doxology**

Hymn #592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE**

**\*Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide**

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

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*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, and proclaimed,*

*Inspired by the presence of God who is with us in this place and with us wherever it is we are,*

*Let us all now depart from this time together, empowered and encouraged on the wings of the Holy Spirit who gives us the courage, strength, and hope we need each and every day.*



**Vision:** Connect, Engage, and Draw Near to God and Others  
**Mission:** Celebrate God's Grace and Inspire the Next Generation for Christ  
*Worship Joyfully. Grow Spiritually. Love Boldly. Serve Faithfully.*

## This Week at First Presbyterian Church

For a full calendar listing and more information, please visit our website [www.fpcls.org](http://www.fpcls.org).

### Sunday, January 19

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle -MS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm For Real -HS Youth Group

### Monday, January 20- MLK JR. DAY

#### FPC Weekday School Closed for MLK, JR. DAY

- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

### Tuesday, January 21

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

### Wednesday, January 22

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

### Thursday, January 23

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am WC Lunch and Devo with FPC Staff (Fauber Rm)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, January 24 and Saturday, January 25 Session Retreat and Stated Session Meeting

### Sunday, January 26

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

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#### Pastor on Call... January 19 to 26

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

#### Members Helping Members... January

Ginny McCraw- 434.528.1927 & Sally deNiord- 434.384.8153

#### Prayer Joys and Concerns

Please share with a pastor, staff member, in person or share your request online at [fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

### Notes for Today

#### Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Helen Gilmer

#### Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

#### Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson  
*Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff*

#### Key Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-46

#### Message Title:

Circle Up

#### Music:

Joshua O'Dell  
*Director of Music and Organist*

Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley

*Soloist*

Josh Davis

*Percussion*

Russ Hovda

*Bass*

#### Anthem:

Chancel Choir

#### Ushers and Greeters:

Donnie Ore, Rob Cleland,  
Taylor Cleland, Barkley Cleland

#### Worship Workshop Leader:

Becky O'Brian

#### Sound Technicians:

Will Absher and Lloyd Agnew

#### Chancel Flowers Today:

Given to the glory of God in loving memory  
of Sally D. Wood, mother of  
W. Bass Wood.

## Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231 Email: [office@fpcly.org](mailto:office@fpcly.org)

Website: [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org)



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

### Youth Group Returns- TONIGHT @ 5 pm

Come get the new year started off right by getting into gear with Meeting in the Middle (MS) and For Real (HS). With each gathering focused on a nugget of faith, you are sure to be inspired and equipped for all life has to offer you in this adventurous time of your life. Come explore, discover, and grow with others who are looking to connect and engage more with God and others. Homecooked dinner included! INVITATION: If you are interested and willing to provide a dinner for a future youth group gathering, please contact Marcia ([marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)) or talk with Laura Borel.

### Park View Café Dinner – Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

We are excited to partner with Park View in this new way, with the first opportunity on 1/22. The sign-up board is in the Narthex and on-line, and we could still use a few more folks to help serve dinner at Park View from 1-3pm. Contact Alex for more information!

### Prayer for Session Retreat and January Stated Meeting

This Friday and Saturday, your prayers are coveted as Session, Staff, and other committee leaders will be gathering for an extended time of team building, polity review, and ministry planning and organizing.

### You're Invited to Host a Coffee and Goodies Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings!

The opportunity to gather around the table for coffee, lemonade, and cookies is a great way to connect and engage with others! But we cannot do it without your help. If you would like to lend a hand as a host, spots remain! Scan the QR code to the right for the online form.



### Coming Up! IMPACT Weekend – February 19-22

Mark your calendars for the next opportunity to serve with fellow FPCLY Members in our community! More details to follow!

## Covenant Giving @ FPCLY

- Place your gift in the offering basket today
- Checks payable and mailed to First Presbyterian Church  
1215 V.E.S. Road  
Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Use a credit card online at [fpcly.org](http://fpcly.org)
- Download and use the *Vanco Mobile Faith* App on your phone
- Set up an automatic bank draft or bill pay

## FPCLY LEADERSHIP

### Session

Diane Stroud, Clerk of Session  
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach  
Nancy Strosnider- '25, Finance  
Mary Ann Tate- '25, Personnel (Chair)  
Marilyn Hartman- '26, Outreach/ C&N  
Sam Howe- '26, Outreach  
Martin Knight- '26, Facilities (Chair)  
John Osinga- '26, Worship  
Kathryn Overstreet- '26, Education/  
Weekday School Board  
David Cheatham- '27, Personnel  
Caskie Giles- '27, Finance/ Facilities  
Bucky Neal- '27, Worship

### Corporation

David Tate, President  
Tom Pettyjohn, Vice-President  
William Paxton, Treasurer  
Diane Stroud, Secretary  
Johnny Alford, At-Large  
Trustees, Session

### Other

David Tate, Finance (Chair)  
Cathy Oakes, C&N (Chair)  
Gary Williams, S&O (Chair)  
Bill Perkins, Malawi Mission Partnership  
Marilyn Hartman, Presbyterian Women  
Becky O'Brian, Chancel Guild  
Arline Ore, Wedding Guild  
Joan Roberson, Bereavement

### Staff

Alex Collier, Director Outreach  
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Assoc.  
Susan Hall, Financial Manager  
Maria Karalekas, Director FPC WDS  
Joshua O'Dell, Director Music/Organist  
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider  
Jody Sprinkle, Director Facilities  
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director Educ.  
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor



<b>FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>			
<b>DECEMBER 31, 2024</b>			
<b>2024 OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
	Year To Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budgeted	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Covenant Giving	\$647,985	\$650,000	\$650,000
Other Income	\$109,769	\$142,944	\$142,944
Endowment Withdrawal	<u>\$175,000</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>\$932,755</b>	<b>\$967,944</b>	<b>\$967,944</b>
<i>Income to date was <b>35,189 Less</b> than budgeted</i>			
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Outreach	\$64,505	\$72,000	\$72,000
Worship	\$11,853	\$11,550	\$11,550
Education	\$17,184	\$18,000	\$18,000
Personnel	\$574,596	\$639,519	\$639,519
Operations	\$72,012	\$83,851	\$83,851
Facilities	\$74,036	\$86,410	\$86,410
Utilities	<u>\$46,557</u>	<u>\$53,089</u>	<u>\$53,089</u>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>\$860,742</b>	<b>\$964,419</b>	<b>\$964,419</b>
<b>*Excess Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$72,012</b>	<b>\$3,525</b>	<b>\$3,525</b>
<i>Expense to date was <b>103,676 Less</b> than budgeted</i>			
<b>* Excess Income will be returned to the Endowment Fund in order to reduce the additional withdrawals made in 2024</b>			
<b>2024 BALANCE SHEET</b>			
Endowment =	\$2,172,307		
All Other Funds * =	<u>\$1,415,426</u>		
* Some are restricted	<b>\$3,587,733</b>		
<i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i>			
<b>2025 COVENANT GIVING</b>			
<b>COVENANT GIVING GOAL</b>	\$700,000		
<b>COMMITMENTS TO DATE</b>	<u>\$576,660</u>		
<b>COMMITMENTS NEEDED</b>	<b>\$123,340</b>		
Thank you for answering God's call to give abundantly in response to God's abundant love for you.			

~ The FPCLY Finance Committee

### December Memorial Gifts

We gratefully acknowledge all memorial gifts to First Presbyterian Church and are honored to recognize them in our bulletin.

***In Memory Leta Reinhardt and John Craddock by:***

Pendleton Agnew

***In Memory Hugh Jones by:***

Purnell Pettyjohn, and Mr. & Mrs. Leyburn Mosby

***In Memory of Budd Adams by:***

Ruth Withers

***In Memory of Eleanor & Paul Grier by:***

The Grier Family Foundation

***In Memory of Wistar Nelligan by:***

Mr. & Mrs. Bobby O'Brian

***In Honor of Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson by:***

Elizabeth Clarkson

***In Memory of Dick Harbison by:***

Mr. & Mrs. Leyburn Mosby, and Barbara Harbison

***In Memory of Harold Riley by:***

Barbara Westbrook

***In Memory of Betty Jo Kendall by:***

Mr. & Mrs. Leyburn Mosby

***In Memory Mami Catherine Ngo Tebit by:***

Emaculate Tebit

***In Honor of Diane & In Memory of Gary Stroud by:***

Kathryn Ramsey

***In Honor of Josh O'Dell by:***

Bucky Neal