



First Presbyterian Church  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 23, 2018

<b>SHARE</b> the amazing love of God	<b>REFLECT</b> the light of Jesus Christ	<b>LIVE</b> and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757.397.3622	515 COURT STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704	WWW.FPCPORTS.ORG

## Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Bell Prelude "Huron Carol"

Call to Worship "Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Third Sunday – **The Promise of Love**

Readers and Advent candle lighters: Estelle Englund & Robert Carlisle

**The congregation is asked to join the choir in singing the refrain.**

**\*\*Refrain**

LEAD US ON, LEAD US ON TO A  
MORN-ING WHERE THE PROM-ISE SHINES LEAD US

### Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

**God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.**

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

**God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.**

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

**God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.**

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

**God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.**

Candle Lighting and Reading - Today we light four candles. The first candle is the light of **hope**, granting strength to the weary. The second candle is the light of **peace** that surpasses our understanding. The third candle is the light of **joy** that touches the depths of our soul. The fourth candle reminds us of the light of God's **love** poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **\*\*Refrain – Congregation and Choir**

Prayer – God of grace, you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son to all who believe. Jesus is the true gift of Advent, shining forth Your glory and grace. As the light has grown brighter through the season, we pray that you would shine forth the promise of your hope, peace, joy, and love within our lives and within our world.

**\*\*Amen.**

**\*Hymn #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

*\* Please rise in body and spirit. The hymns are in the burgundy Glory to God hymnal found in the pew racks.*

*\*\* Words in bold print are spoken aloud as a congregation.*

## *Clothed by Christ*

Moment of Silence

### **Corporate Prayer of Confession**

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

#### **\*\* Prayer of Confession**

**Living God, You beckon us to wake from our sleep: to open our eyes to the goodness of Your reign, the injustice of our world, and the gap in between. You call us to follow in the path of Your love. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way, the fast way, the successful way, the nice way, the friendly way, the comfortable way. Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us to follow the Way of justice and love. You have told us what we should do: live humbly, give generously, and be rich in compassion. Even still, O God, we fall back into our selfish ways. We have been claimed in the waters of baptism, but we do not live as people redeemed. We have been washed in waters of grace, but we do not trust the depth of Your love. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us, guide us, and call us to try again.**

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

#### **\*\*Thanks be to God.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

**\* Song of Praise, Hymn #633 "Praise Ye the Lord" (see today's insert)**

## *Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

"Pifa"

Handel

**\*Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

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

**\*\*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power*

*Tapestry of Light*  
A Celtic Christmas Celebration  
by Joseph M. Martin

Narrator	Steve Frazier
Piano	Edna Broadhurst
Guitar	John Hackworth
Soprano	Jean Byers Nancy Grant Kara McCormick Kim McCormick Oralie Wilhite
Alto	Gabrielle Goodrich Sylvia Hutson Gail Pittman Bobbie Stegall
Tenor	John Hackworth Todd Taylor
Bass	Michael Broadhurst Bill Faas Matthew Goodrich Raymond Rodrigues

Movements

"Carols of Hope and Light"  
"Longing for the Light"  
"An Advent Garden"  
"The Holy Child of Mary"  
"O Wondrous Night"  
"A Celtic Noel"  
"Carols of the Quest"  
"A Celtic Gloria!"  
"Bethlehem Light"  
"Carols of Celebration"

*Taking Christ's Blessing to the World*

Charge

\*Benediction (sung) "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

Postlude

"Celtic Carol"

Martin

*The Vision of the Congregation: We see ourselves  
as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ  
for each other, for the community,  
and for the world.*

## **Welcome to our friends and visitors!**

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.  
Please join us after worship for post-worship fellowship  
(refreshments and fellowship) in our courtyard lobby.

### **Prayer List**

Dick Barnwell (friend of the Butlers),  
Brenda Berry (friend of Oralie & Raymond),  
Alan Butler (Paul Butler's brother),  
Jeanne Butler (Paul Butler's sister),  
Rebecca Duncan (friend of Oralie & Raymond),  
Jackie & Tyler Forsythe,  
Lt. Col. Rob Gerlach (deployed to Kuwait),  
Mary Alice Jarman (friend of the Powells),  
Brian Mills,  
Carl Rhodes,  
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

### **Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery**

#### **Our friends at home, especially**

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son),	Lanier Halterman,
Frances Hardy,	A. T. Mayo,
Sue Parker,	Lane Pittman,
Harvey Spiers,	Grace Yingling

### **Leading in worship today**

The Rev. Steve Frazier  
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries  
Ushers: David Culpepper, Yolanda Faas, Dan Swanson  
Counters: David Culpepper, Nancy Grant

*Our bulletin is printed on Wednesday. We are pleased to include any you wish to be added to the prayer list. You may contact Raymond (email: [bulletin@pfpcports.org](mailto:bulletin@pfpcports.org), cell: 757-319-5019) or the church office (757-397-3622) by Tuesday evening.*

**December Offerings**

12/2	\$ 3,997.00	12/23	
12/9	\$ 4,814.00	12/30	
12/16	\$ 4,327.50	MTD	\$13,138.50

**December Attendance**

12/2	Worship	71	Sunday school	25
12/9	Worship	58	Sunday school	26
12/16	Worship	41	Sunday school	17
12/23	Worship		Sunday school	
12/30	Worship		Sunday school	

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 1:00 – 4:00.

***To assist with timely preparation of the bulletin, please send all notices to pastor@fpcports.org and/or bulletin@fpcports.org no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday.***

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**Session**

Moderator of Session – The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier  
 Clerk of Session – Gail Pittman (2019) | Administration/Property – Paul Butler (2020)  
 Christian Formation – Kim McCormick (2019)  
 Congregational Fellowship/Care – Betty Bartlett (2019), Pat Sparks (2020)  
 Finance - Diane Griffin (2018) | Mission/Outreach – Oralie Wilhite (2020)  
 Worship – Michael Broadhurst (2020)

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to contact the appropriate elder with their comments and suggestions.

**Church Staff**

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Covenant Pastor - 397-3622 ext. 202 | pastor@fpcports.org  
 Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries - 397-3622 ext. 203 | ednafpc@aol.com  
 Gabbi Goodrich, Secretary - 397-3622 | g.furman121@hotmail.com

**Sunday Ministries**

12/9	Breakfast	Nancy & Steve Frazier
	Sunday school	Bill Faas
	Post-Worship Fellowship	<b>Birthdays</b> -Pat Sparks
12/16	Breakfast	Pat Sparks
	Sunday school	Paul Butler
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Ashley & Cameron McCormick
12/23	Breakfast	Frankie Austin & Nancy Grant
	Sunday school	Chreston Holoman
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Betty Bartlett
12/30	Breakfast	
	Sunday School	Chreston Holoman
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Gail Pittman

**December Birthdays**

2 Kathy Goolsby, 6 Joyce Kallaher, 12 Jay James,  
 12 Viki Goolsby, 18 Michael Broadhurst, 20 Bill Faas,  
 21 Pat Sparks, 22 Earl Griffin, 26 Sarah Arambula,  
 28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach, 28 Malakai Allen Goodrich,  
 28 Riley Winkler, 30 Kara McCormick, 30 Ian Taylor

***Missing a birthday? Contact the Church at pastor@fpcports.org or call 397-3622 or email the bulletin editor at bulletin@fpcports.org.***

[pastor@FPCports.org](mailto:pastor@FPCports.org)



[www.FPCports.org](http://www.FPCports.org)



First Presbyterian Church  
Portsmouth, VA  
Coming Events

**Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship, including the cantata *Tapestry of Light***

11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

**Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

7:00 Worship

**Wednesday, December 26**

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

**Thursday, December 27**

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

**Sunday, December 30– First Sunday of Christmas**

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship**

11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

**Wednesday, January 2**

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

**Thursday, January 3**

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

**Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord**

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship**

11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

**Wednesday, January 9**

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

**Thursday, December 10**

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

**Saturday, January 12 – Friday, January 18**

**Shelter Week – Please consider volunteering as an overnight chaperone. See Sue Fay or Oralie Wilhite for details.**



## First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth Announcements

**"Advent"** has its origin in Medieval Latin and means "arrival." The circular wreath made of evergreen boughs represents eternity. One candle is lit each Advent Sunday and represents our spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

**The First Candle** is called the Prophecy Candle in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents **hope** or expectation in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

**The Second Candle** is often referred to as the Angels' Candle and represents **peace**.

**The Third (Pink) Candle** is customarily called the Shepherds' Candle, and it represents **joy**.

**The Fourth Candle** represents **love**, and some call this the Bethlehem candle. It symbolizes Christ's birth and being laid in a manger.

**The Christmas Eve (White) Candle** at the center of the Advent wreath is called the **Christ Candle** and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world.

**Overflowing baskets** for a large family Christmas dinner were delivered on Tuesday, December 11. Our church family donated the items including a Christmas tablecloth, napkins, plates, cups, and candy canes. A large turkey and ham were added by the church. It was a blessing to be able to do this for a special EDMARC family.

**\*Today's Song of Praise** (sung after "Sharing Christ's Peace")



Praise ye the Lord, Hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-ery-bod-y praise the Lord.



Praise God on top of the moun-tains. Praise God both day and night.



Praise God down in the low val-leys. Praise God with all of your might.