



First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

SHARE the amazing love
of God

REFLECT the light of Jesus
Christ

LIVE and serve joyfully
in the Spirit's
power

757-397-3622 515 Court St. Portsmouth, VA 23704 www.fpcPorts.org

Made One by Christ

Welcome & News for the Good of the Church

Prelude – Selections by string quartet: Simon LaPointe (violin),
Heeding Weisbrod (violin), Satoko Rickenbacker (viola), Rebecca
Gilmore (cello)

Call to Worship “Where the Promise Shines” Joel Raney

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Christmas Eve– **The Promise of Arrival**

Readers and Advent candle lighters:

Elizabeth, Ava, & Colin Gerlach and Pat Sparks

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.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn King.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Candle Lighting and Reading - Today we light all the candles. The first candle ignites the thrill of **hope** in the hearts of weary people. The second candle shines **peace** that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The third candle expresses the **joy** of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The fourth candle shines with grace and new life in God’s unconditional **love**. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah’s birth. As God’s promises continue to shine, we echo the word shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

****Refrain – Congregation and Choir**

Prayer – Gracious God, in the wonder of the night we hear the Christmas proclamation. The cry of “Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” has become “Joy to the World!” Like the shepherds on that starry night when in a moment of majestic humility, may we now come to worship Christ, the newborn King.

****Amen.**

***Hymn # 134 “Joy to the World”**

** 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

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**** Prayer of Confession**

O God, as we remember the story of the holiest night, lead us to know the good news of Christ's birth for all people, even us. We want to imagine ourselves on the first Christmas day: worshipping with the shepherds, bowing with the animals, or praying with Mary for peace on earth. Still we worry that we would have ignored Your signs, surrendered to fear, and hidden our face from the majesty of Your Child. We want to imagine ourselves on this Christmas day: faithful servants worshipping Christ without hesitation or failure. Still we know that we are quick to turn away from Your good news, ignore the power of Your story, and surrender to the commercial Christmas of our world. Forgive us, Lord, and wrap us in Your peace. Pull us into the life of Your story, and empower us to find Christ anew in this world.

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken. 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

Offering for the Joy Fund

Choral Musical Offering "The Nativity Carol"

Rutter

***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

***Hymn #115** **"Away in a Manger"**

First Reading

Gospel Reading

Anthem "Before the Marvel of This Night" Carl Schalk

Sermon "" Steve Frazier

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

***Candle Lighting**

Hymn #122 **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

During the singing of "Silent Night," acolytes will light their candles from the Christ candle and pass the light to the congregation. The congregation will pass the light from the front of the sanctuary to the back until all candles are lit.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm; all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia: Christ, the Savior, is born; Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

*** Charge and Benediction**

Please leave the sanctuary in silence.

*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, 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	Birthdays -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



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.