

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 13, 2020 – 10:30 AM  
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704  
[www.fpcports.org](http://www.fpcports.org) (757) 397-3622

## Order of Worship

### Welcome and Call to Worship

We come to you in the midst of anxiety and uncertainty.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

We come today following those who have given witness to the faith.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

We come seeking a Word which will guide and strengthen us.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Let us worship God.

Prelude

*"What Wonderous Love is This?"*

John Hackworth, Guitarist

### Prayer of Confession

**Ever-present God, we are grateful for the cloud of witnesses who have served as examples of faith. We want to do the same. Yet, we know they were not always strong, courageous and faithful. Like us they failed and fought with weakness. All of us have not followed in the ways of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to serve others but the demands and worry of life keep us focused on our own interests. We desire to be led by the Holy Spirit to bring justice and peace. Yet, systems of injustice and oppression seem insurmountable. We turn a blind eye and often shrink away in despair. O God, forgive us. Create in us a desire to stay connected to your Word that empowers and reveals your ever-present hope. Use our witness to set the captives free. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

*Silent prayer of Confession*

### Assurance of Pardon

Jesus knows our every weakness, and loves us still. Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace. Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Doxology (Sung in our hearts, played by John Hackworth)

Prayers of the People – Followed by the Lord's Prayer in Unison

**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.**

## The Lesson

Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 22-28

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.'

So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.' "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him." On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord. "See!" he said to all the people. "This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the Lord has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God." Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

Sermon

"Confirm Your Inheritance"

The Rev. Steve Frazier

Benediction

Postlude

"Blessed Assurance"

Arr. Hackworth

## Church Staff

*Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor*

*Billy Ricketts – Pastor for Admin and Mission Outreach*

*Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music*

*Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary*

*In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. Thank you for helping us maintain social distancing and a clean worship environment. Until the Corona Virus is no longer a health threat, we are participating in a more limited liturgy. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plate on the piano by the front Exit door. True worship is a gift of the Holy Spirit. God's healing, forgiving power flows freely to those here and those online. Our prayer is the grace we experience and learn will be shared with our wider community.*

***Week of September 13<sup>th</sup> - Prayers of the People***

*All members and friends who are staying at home until the corona virus is contained.*

- *Paul Butler*
- *Maryann Taylor*
- *Penny Brangan*
- *Kathy Goolsby*
- *Lane Pittman*
- *A.T. and Nancy Mayo*
- *Bob and Judy Powell*
- *Al and Annette Crandall*
- *Frances Hasty*

**Post-worship fellowship is online at [www.fpcports.org](http://www.fpcports.org) Sunday afternoon.**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3	Lyra Furman
8	Sonia Powell
10	Bentley Breeden
10	Collin Taylor
15	Rudy Simpson
18	Rebecca Tanner
20	Pat Rayburn
20	Karen Diggs
23	Alfred Fry
23	Patrice Winkler
24	C. C. Smith
28	Agnes McFadden
28	Dee Dee Straus
29	Roberta Stegall
30	Toni Rutsch



**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church**  
**Celebrating Our 198<sup>th</sup> Year of Ministry**

We are delighted to welcome you to the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. We are new and long-time residents, single adults, couples, black, white, Asian, LGBT, one and two parent families, military personnel, teens, and college students. Our faith traditions and stories are varied. What gathers us is God's inviting grace.

Our mission is to glorify God through joyful worship, hospitality, unceasing prayer, engaging study and acts of compassion. Our summer Peace, Love and a Bag of Chips needs volunteers to prepare 25 lunches (in their home) on August 30. Please let Oralie Wilhite at 757-319-5020 know of your interest.

Dr. Steve Frazier, was born in Seoul, Korea and raised in Washington State. He received his Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He works full time for TowneBank as an insurance broker specializing in the senior adult market. He came to First Presbyterian in 2016 as our part-time Covenant Pastor. Steve and his wife, Nancy, have a blended family of three grown children and one grandchild.

Billy Ricketts, a lifelong Presbyterian, was baptized at Simondale Presbyterian, confirmed at Cradock Presbyterian Church and certified by The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary. Billy has served First Presbyterian Norfolk, Second Presbyterian Norfolk and Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. He retired from full-time ministry in 2020 and joined the staff of First Presbyterian Portsmouth as part-time Pastor for Administration and Outreach. Additionally, Pastor Ricketts is the Moderator of the Council of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Billy and his wife, Loretta, have two adult children.

Edna Broadhurst, our Director of Music Ministries, was baptized as an infant by her grandfather, Rev. H. Turner. Edna came to First Presbyterian Church in 1981 as the organist and choir director. She also teaches music at The Williams School in Ghent, Norfolk, teaches private piano/organ lessons, and sings with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus. She generously shares her musical talents. She holds a degree in Organ Performance from Old Dominion University and advanced studies from Appalachian State University and Westminster Choir College. She is married to Michael and they have a daughter, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

If you are looking for a church family, we believe First Presbyterian is a community where you can grow spiritually and share the life and gifts God has given to you. Covid19 has derailed some of our plans. Nonetheless, we are confident God has new adventures and opportunities in store to serve God and love our neighbors. For regular updates please visit our website: [fpcports.org](http://fpcports.org).

**The Session**

Dr. Steven E. Frazier – Moderator  
Elder Kim McCormick - Clerk

**Class of 2020**

Paul Butler  
Michael Broadhurst  
Pat Sparks

**Class of 2021**

Oralie Wilhite  
Stuart Shippey  
Mary Ann Taylor

**Class of 2022**

Sue Faye  
Kim McCormick  
Todd Taylor