

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

www.fpcports.org

(757) 397-3622

Sunday, August 9, 2020 – 10:30 AM

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

“Minuets 1 and 2” *Suites in G Major*

J. S. Bach

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)

‘Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him all ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.’

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.

Special Music

“Gravement”

F. Couperin

We are blessed this morning to have Rebecca Gilmore Phillips’s musical contribution to our worship service. Rebecca is the Assistant Principle Cellist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and is no stranger to First Presbyterian Church. She has played for us many times before which is why we’re so delighted to welcome her again.

The Lesson

Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Sermon

“Now, for some Good News”

Benediction

Postlude

“Shenandoah”

American Folk Song

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor

Billy Ricketts – Pastor for Admin and Mission Outreach

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music

Gabbi Furman – 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 August 3 - 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 on Sunday afternoons. Look for the Zoom link in your email or text on Sunday mornings. Please contact Raymond at bulletin@fpcports.org if you would like to be added to the email/text list.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Our 198th 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 Simonsdale 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.

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