

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 29, 2020 – 10:30 AM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

First Sunday of Advent Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Risen Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. If you are a visitor, we are glad you're with us and hope you will return. May God's Holy Spirit fill our worship with joy, our hearts with forgiveness, and our lives with hope.

Prelude

O Come, Emanuel

Held

Advent Litany

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

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

Candle Lighting and Reading *Refrain sung by Choir

Invitation to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive our shortcomings and guilt. We often ignore or take for granted each precious moment of life. We are more accustomed with living in darkness than the light of Christ. We claim Christ is our strength and armor, yet we live in fear and anxiety of an unknown foe. Give us your courage to greet the new day. O God, lead us to embrace each moment of the life you grant us. Dispel the shadows, so your will is clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those who are awake to the abundance of life around us all. Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of God's Grace

Hear the good news! In baptism you were buried with Christ Jesus. In baptism you were also raised to life with him through faith in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone, a new life has begun. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology (Sung in our hearts and by our choir)

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

Prayers of the People: “Lord, in your mercy” will follow each petition. “**Hear our 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.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

[a]Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to **[b]** our sins. Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

The Second Lesson

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sermon

“Breaking the Mold”

Benediction

Postlude

Joy

Benoit



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 November 29 - Prayers of the People

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

- *Sonja Powell*
- *Paul Butler*
- *Kathy Goolsby*
- *Lane Pittman*
- *A.T. and Nancy Mayo*
- *Bob and Judy Powell*
- *Frances Hasty*
- *Bradley Breeden*
- *The Sadler Family*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Betsy Brown
4 Toby Pennell
9 Graham Fitzwater
12 John Hackworth
15 Tanner Furman
19 Susan Fay
19 Corbin Taylor
20 Paul Butler
23 Diane Turner
28 Connor McCormick

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 PLBC Volunteer Hosts (every Sunday), and Sandwich Makers/Meal Packers (first and fifth Sundays) are needed from Nov 1 through Feb 28. 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 [Towne Bank](#) 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 Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor