

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – 10:30 AM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

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.

Call to Worship

What shall we return to the Lord for all of the good things God has done for us?

We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prelude

"The Three Kings"

Held

Invitation to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins: Please cleanse us from all of our offenses and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, so that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength.

Assurance of God's Grace

As Paul reminds us, "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, all are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ." Friend, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Doxology (Sung in our hearts)

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.

Special Music

"Another Year of Grace"

Lovelace

The Lesson

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

“2021 Gifted”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy source and origin of all, deep within us, far beyond us, we thank you and praise you for creating and bringing to birth this unfathomed universe of space and time, with stars and planets, and our own good earth.

From the dawn of time, you loved the earth and its peoples. You revealed yourself to the people of Israel, set them free from slavery, and made a covenant with them that all humankind might be blessed.

When the time was right, you came to live among us. In Jesus you fully shared our life, showing us what human life can be, confronting evil with good, bringing good news to the poor, and deliverance to people in bondage.

Jesus did not work alone, but called people to be with him; he made them a loving community, and sent them out to tell the good news.

We thank you and praise you, Holy God, that at this table we taste and see the evidence of your love in Jesus Christ, healing, teaching, suffering, crucified, risen and alive. Therefore, we offer ourselves, in Christ, to be a living sacrifice, of body, mind and spirit, joyfully proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one in Christ. Hear us, O Lord, as we lift before you the prayers of your people....

[“Lord, in your mercy” will follow a petition. Congregational response, “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.

Institution of the Bread and the Wine

Benediction

Postlude

"March of the Wise Men"

Voirs

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 January 3 - 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
- Thomas and Becky Kullman
- Elizabeth Turner

Post-worship fellowship is online at www.fpcports.org Sunday afternoon.

**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 2021

Nancy Grant
Stuart Shippey
Mary Abb Taylor

Class of 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson