

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 10:30 AM  
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704  
[www.fpcports.org](http://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

*Prayer*

Peeters

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

*Be Thou My Vision*

Rutter

Prayers of the People – Followed by 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.**

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 NIV

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us closer to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Second Lesson

Mark 1:21-28 NIV

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!” “**Be Quiet!**” said Jesus sternly. “**Come out of him!**” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Sermon

“A New Celebrity”

Benediction

Postlude

*Allegretto*

Mozart



### **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 January 31 - 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
- The Family of Gwen Brown
- Lane Pittman
- A.T. and Nancy Mayo
- Bob and Judy Powell
- Frances Hasty
- Monica Manley
- Karen Diggs

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

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

7 David Turner  
17 Carl Rhodes, Jr.  
26 Barry Westerwick  
26 Sylvie Joyner  
27 Kay Kidd  
27 Kerry Westerwick  
31 Kelsey Smith  
31 Abbey Taylor

**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 Peace, Love and a Bag of Chips outreach 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](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 Fay  
Kim McCormick  
Todd Taylor

