

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, March 14, 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. We are delighted to have her help enhance our worship this morning. May God's Holy Spirit fill our worship with joy, our hearts with forgiveness, and our lives with hope.*

**Call to Worship**

The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky above is testimony to the Creator.  
**One day tells earth's story to another; one night imparts knowledge to the next.**  
God has set a pavilion for the sun, and nothing is hidden from its brilliant light.  
**Let us worship the God of our Salvation.**

**Prelude**

"Prayer"

Dubois

**Invitation to Confession**

**Corporate Prayer of Confession** – followed by silence for personal confession

**God of mighty deliverance, we gratefully embrace the redemption You have offered us through Jesus our Savior, who was lifted high on the cross for our sake. Yet we have dishonored His sacrifice for us; we have not followed His example of loving service, and have spurned His call to honor your life-giving law. In mercy, forgive us for rejecting Your way of life. Quicken us by your Spirit to take up our cross that we may walk purposefully and joyously in the ways of life and peace you have set before us this Lenten season, loving You with all our heart and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

Jesus Christ comes to a world of sin, sickness and death to those who need him. He bears our burdens; he carries our sorrows. In his broken body he breaks the power of sin and death. Believers rejoice in what he has accomplished: by his wounds we have been healed; death has been defeated.

**Praise be to God! Amen.**

**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**

"Teach Me, O Lord, The Way of Thy Statutes"

Young

## 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

**Numbers 21:4-9 NIV**

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

### Second Lesson

**John 3:14-21 NIV**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

### Sermon

“Snake Theology”

### Benediction

### Postlude

“Toccata in A Minor”

J. S. Bach



## **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 March 14 - 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
- ❖ Rose Layman (Mother of Deb Hardie, Mom to Sylvia Cox)
- ❖ Frances Hasty
- ❖ Monica Manley
- ❖ Karen Diggs
- ❖ Scott Fry
- ❖ Kerry Westerwick
- ❖ Celia Fry

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Edna Broadhurst
- 12 Burma Smith
- 13 Penny Brangan
- 13 Mary Fitzwater
- 15 Lanier Halterman
- 21 Mallory James Smith
- 22 Mae Harmon
- 22 Jennifer Patgorski
- 24 Nancy Frazier
- 26 Mike McCormick
- 28 Nancy Grant

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church**  
***Celebrating Our 199<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 15 lunches (in their home). 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. 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