

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 21, 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. 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

Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Arr. Wilbur Held

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^[RR1]

Celtic Prayer

Cabaniss/Purifoy

Hear my voice, most gracious Lord. O, hear the prayer within my soul. May the words rise to You with songs of praise? Give me peace; touch my heart, to feel Your everlasting love. Hear my prayer, Holy Lord, in the morning when I rise.

Lead my life most faithful Lord, to seek Your thoughts and know Your will. For my soul longs to dwell within Your care. Give me strength; guide my steps, to live according to Your word. Lead my life, Holy Lord, in the beauty of Your grace.

Search me, O Lord, and know my heart. Try me, O God, and know my thoughts. Find any wrong that dwells within my heart. Lead me forever in Your everlasting love.

I will sing with all my heart; I sing of God's unchanging love. For His mercy endures forevermore. May my trust rest in God To know the fullness of His grace. Hear my prayer, Holy Lord, In the stillness of this hour.

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

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 NIV

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever." Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord, we bless you. The Lord is God, and He has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, and I will exalt You. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Second Lesson

John 12:20-33 NIV

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Sermon

"Drawing a Crowd"

Benediction

Postlude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Arr. Wilbur Held

E	C	N	E	T	N	E	S	V	F	WORSHIP	FESTIVAL	WHEAT
L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	E	T	BETHSAIDA	SINGLE	SOUL
G	E	D	S	D	E	A	T	H	R	VOICE	THUNDER	ANGEL
N	L	G	I	C	V	S	L	I	O	SENTENCE	PRINCE	DEATH
I	I	E	N	A	T	O	O	L	U			
S	S	I	G	A	S	H	I	U	B			
H	R	P	E	E	K	H	U	C	L			
P	I	H	S	R	O	W	T	N	E			
I	W	O	L	L	O	F	A	E	D			
R	E	D	N	U	H	T	S	E	B			



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 21 - Prayers of the People

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

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| ❖ Sonja Powell | ❖ Frances Hasty |
| ❖ Paul Butler | ❖ Monica Manley |
| ❖ Kathy Goolsby | ❖ Karen Diggs |
| ❖ Lane Pittman | ❖ Scott Fry |
| ❖ A.T. and Nancy Mayo | ❖ Kerry Westerwick |
| ❖ Rose Layman (Mother of Deb Hardie,
Mom to Sylvia Cox) | ❖ Cecilia Fry |

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Our 199th 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.

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