

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 15, 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.

Prelude

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

We gather, as God's people, bringing our fears and pain,
knowing that when our spirits have grown cold, God rekindles the gift of faith in us.
We gather, as God's people,
hanging our broken hearts on the branches of the tree of life,
**knowing that while friends may turn against us,
God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.**
We gather, as God's people, hungering for healing and hope,
knowing that even when life is no picnic, God prepares a feast for us.
God is here, among us and within us, bringing new life to all who trust in him.
Let's praise God together!

Hymn (on provided insert)

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (followed by a time for silent prayer)

For our foolish or careless use of the gifts of your creation, Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For our indifference to the needs of others,
our brothers and sisters for whom you died, Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace
in worship and private prayer, Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of God's Grace

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: Our sins 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

Through Grace, He Lifted Me

Gregg Sewell

In loving kindness Jesus came, my soul in mercy to reclaim, and from the depths of sin
and shame, through grace He lifted me.

His brow was pierced with many a thorn, his hands by cruel nails were torn, when from my guilt and grief, forlorn, in love He lifted me. Through grace He lifted me. Now on a higher plane I dwell, and with my soul I know 'tis well: Yet how or why, I cannot tell, He should have lifted me. Through grace He lifted me.

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 John 3: 1 - 3

See what great love the father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason that the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be, has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have hope - in him - purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Second Lesson

Romans 5: 1 - 5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Third Lesson

1 John 5: 11 - 13

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Sermon

"Hope + Trust = Faith"

Hymn

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Benediction

Postlude

A Plaintive Song

Herbert Colvin

Prayers for the Journey—All who welcome prayers for themselves, or others, are invited to come forward following the service to pray one-on-one with our pastors or an elder.

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 August 15 - Prayers of the People

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

- Kerri Westerwick
- Tom Goolsby
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- Mae Holoman

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 often needs volunteers to prepare 25 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 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. 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 Ann Taylor

Class of 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson