

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 29, 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

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart"

arr. Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

We gather to worship in the presence of God,

As if we stood on God's holy hill.

We gather to worship as children of God,

As if we were standing in the waters of grace.

We gather to worship the living God,

For God is here among us.

Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

You tell us, O Lord, who may abide in your presence, who may dwell on your holy hill: those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and who speak the truth from their heart. And yet, O Lord, we do not walk blamelessly. So often we stumble on the path of faith. The truth makes us nervous, and we pretend not to know what is right. Have mercy, O God. Convict us by your wisdom, cleanse us by your grace, challenge us by your presence, and, by your forgiveness, free us to try again.

Assurance of God's Grace

Christ, in his extravagant compassion, has already secured our forgiveness and calls us to live as those who are renewed and thankful. Our sins are forgiven! Receive this grace, and share it with others.

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

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

Ippolitof-Ivanof

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**Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NIV)**

Listen! My Beloved! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. My beloved spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."

Second Lesson**Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23 (NIV)**

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles. So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

Sermon

"Our Inner Pharisee"

Hymn

"Standing on the Promises"

Benediction**Postlude**

"Moderato"

Gabriel Voigtlander

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

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Bless the Lord, O my soul, blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits. Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. He is gracious and plenteous in mercy. He crowneth thee with loving kindness. He will not always chide, nor keep His wrath forever. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

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 29 - Prayers of the People

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

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7	Makayla Winkler	22	Emily Fay
10	Mike Taylor	23	Ryan Grady Kenrick (Grady)
11	Margaret Smith	23	Richard Griffin
12	Nancy Mayo	26	Margie Arambula
17	Carrie Griffin	26	Kim McCormick
19	Grady Fitzwater	28	Linda Hackworth
19	Linda Rodrigues	29	Alice Simpson
20	Art Kennis	29	Logan Aliff
21	Sylvia Stephenson	31	Benjamin McCormick

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Our 200th 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