

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 26, 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

"Meditation"

Benoit

Call to Worship

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:
Here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

Here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

Here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!'
in every situation.

Hymn

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

followed by a time of silent confession

God, we confess that we do not always understand Your ways.

We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns
and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing.

**We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult
and quick to question Your presence and Your power.**

Forgive us. Grant us patience to wait for Your good timing.

**Open our eyes to recognize Your leading in our lives,
to listen for Your gentle whisper when we least expect it.**

And then give us courage to step out in faith and obedience,
trusting in Your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

Assurance of God's Grace

Our God prepared a way for us to be connected to the earth and to the living presence of God. So, it is with all of us: In Christ's life, ministry, death, and resurrection, we are made able to persist, upright and strong, for our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology

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 Joyful in God"

arr. Alice Parker

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

Genesis 39:20-23, 50:15-21 NIV

Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where all the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the god of your father.” When the message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Second Lesson

Psalms 18:7-14 NIV

The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—the dark rain clouds of the sky. Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, and hailstones and bolts of lightning. The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them.

Sermon

“Dream a Little Dream”

Hymn

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Benediction

Postlude

“Andante”

Peeters

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.

“Be Joyful in God “

Be joyful in God all ye lands of the earth, oh serve him with gladness and fear: exult in his presence with music and mirth, with love and devotion draw near. Jehovah is God and Jehovah alone, who reigns with his Son above all, and we are his people his scepter we own, his sheep and we follow his call. Oh enter his gates with thanksgiving and song, your vow in his temple proclaim. His praise with melodious accordance prolong, and bless his adorable name. For good is the Lord inexpressibly good, and we are the works of his hand, his mercy and truth from eternity stood, and shall to eternity stand, eternity stand.

Next Sunday, October 3, The Story continues as Pastor Steve preaches on Exodus 3:1-15 and Mark 10:13-16. He will explore the holy places, "Burning Bushes", where God is calling in our lives. His sermon is "Holiness in abundance". Edna and our wonderful choir will be leading us with a beautiful song, "The Narrow Way" by K. Lee Scott. Please join us!

The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary are given in **memory of David Stuart**. Thank you to Mary Lemming for giving these beautiful flowers to our sanctuary. If you would like to place flowers one Sunday, please fill out the flower request form in the Courtyard Lobby.

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 September 26 - Prayers of the People

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

- Sonia Powell
- Kerry Westerwick
- Brian Patgorski
- Tom Goolsby
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo

September Birthdays

3	Lyra Furman	23	Patrice Winkler
8	Sonia Powell	24	C. C. Smith
10	Bentley Breeden	25	Oralie Wilhite
10	Collin Taylor	28	Agnes McFadden
18	Rebecca Tanner	28	Dee Dee Straus
18	Frankie Austin	28	Billy Ricketts
20	Karen Diggs	29	Bobbi Stegall
23	Alfred Fry	30	Toni Rutsch

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