

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 14, 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

"Adagio"

Mozart

Call to Worship

Your church gathers, Lord,

In Virginia and Texas, in Ethiopia and to the ends of the earth.

Your church gathers, Lord,

In city and country, in suburbs and slums,

In sanctuaries and buildings,

Under trees and by streams of water.

Your people gather to praise you, Lord,

In English and in Portuguese,

With Organ and guitar and drum,

With voices both young and old,

With song and with silence,

With dance and with prayer.

Your people praise you, Lord,

For hope in the midst of despair,

For strength in times of weakness,

For justice in times of oppression,

For courage in the face of fear,

For life in the midst of death.

We are the people who call you Lord.

Let everything that breathes, praise you Lord!

Hymn (on provided insert)

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

O God, forgive us when we try to make you in our image:

Forgive us when we turn to earthly rulers for the wisdom and strength you have already shown us.

Lord Jesus, please fulfill your purpose in us, so that we may be your people, your temples upon this earth, your brothers and sisters in love and mercy.

In trust and hope, we pray.

Assurance of God's Grace

Even the most high God regards the lowly with love and compassion. Even the perfect Christ welcomes the sinful and lost with open arms. Come, we are the brothers and sisters of Christ. All are forgiven by Grace.

We are the family of God. Thanks be to God for forgiveness in Christ's love.

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

John Rutter

Lesson 1

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Lesson 2

1 Samuel 8:1-22

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

Then Samuel said to the Israelites, "Everyone go back to your own town."

Lesson 3

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Sermon

"Listening for God"

Hymn (on provided insert)

"Standing on the Promises"

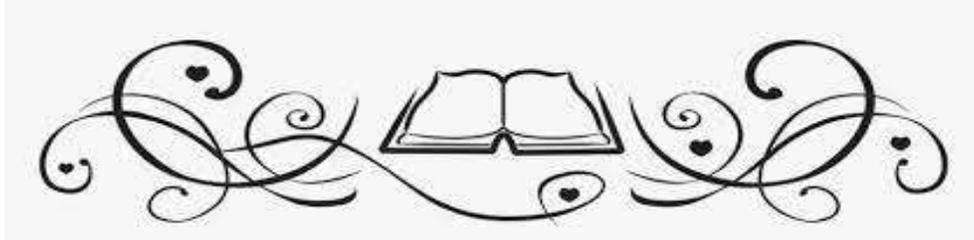
Benediction

Postlude

“Melodia Da Chiesa”

Haydn

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.



Next Sunday, November 21, Pastor Steve will be reading from Chapter 11 of The Story, which includes Psalm (18:1-3), 1 Samuel (16:1, 4-13; 17:33-35, 39-44) The key theme will be how to look beyond outward appearances, and recognizing how our God does the same with us! Please join us.

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.

Week of November 14 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Tom Goolsby
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Evelyn Monds
- Mary Ann Taylor
- Agnes McFadden
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo

November Birthdays

1	Betsy Brown	19	Susan Fay
4	Toby Pennell	19	Corbin Taylor
9	Graham Fitzwater	20	Paul Butler
12	John Hackworth	23	Diane Turner
15	Tanner Furman	28	Connor 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

Pittman

Mary Ann Taylor

Class of 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick

Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail

Dan Swanson