

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 21, 2021 – 10:30 AM

515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704

[www.fpcports.org](http://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

"Arioso"

J.S. Bach

### Call to Worship

We are gathered here not because we have seen fit to choose Christ,  
**But because he has looked upon us, and called us to be his own.**  
God has searched us and known us,  
**And reads our every thought from afar,**  
There is not a word on our tongue that God does not know.  
The joy of those who hear the call of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### Hymn (on provided insert)

"He is King of Kings"

### Invitation to Confession

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

God of love and power, we listen to the stories of miracles and doubt that these things can happen today.

**We look at the waves of misfortune, distrust, and anger and wonder how we can fix those things on our own.**

We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives, threatening to drown us and wonder where you are.

**Forgive us for the littleness of our faith. Forgive us for our doubts. Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus.**

Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us.

### Assurance of God's Grace

Fear not! God is with us, stilling the storms and raging fears in our lives. When we place our trust in God, we 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

"Gloria"

Stanton

### 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 18:1-3**

I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies.

**Second Lesson**

**1 Samuel 17:33-50**

Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

**Sermon**

"Underestimated"

**Hymn (on provided insert)**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

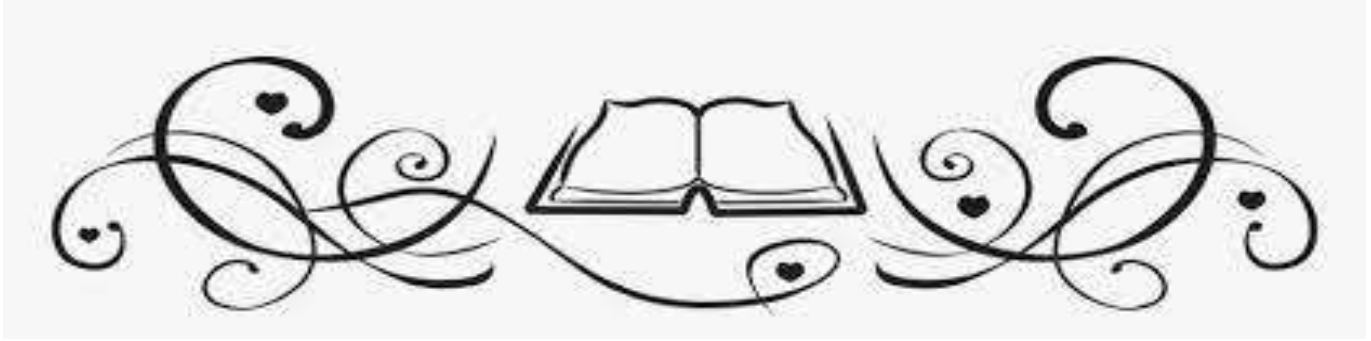
**Benediction**

**Postlude**

"My Faith Looks up to Thee"

Held

**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 28, begins our advent season. Our first theme is the returning of our Lord. We must prepare the way for his arrival! Please join us.

**If you would like to place flowers one Sunday, please fill out the flower request form in the Courtyard Lobby**

**Brrrrr, winter is on its way!** We will be collecting socks and gloves to distribute to our PLBC guests and others in need. Both women's and men's items are needed, especially large gloves for men. There will be a collection box in the courtyard foyer for the next several weeks. Thank you for caring for our community!

#### **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 21 - 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 200<sup>th</sup> 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 bagged meals, distribute the meals at 4 pm on second and fifth Sundays, or to host (open/close the church) for our partner churches on first, third, or fourth Sundays. 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](http://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

Readings from New International Version

**Psalm 18: 1-3**

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**1 Samuel 17: 33-50**