

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 28, 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

"Where the Promise Shines"

Dunstan/Moore

### Call to Worship

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every hurt to be healed.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every tear to be dried.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every injustice to be made right.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

### Hymn (on provided insert)

"We Gather Together"

### Invitation to Confession

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

Almighty God, you warn us to read the signs for the coming of your glory:  
in the sun, the moon, the stars, the roaring of the seas and the waves,  
the distress among the nations.

**We have seen it all before. Nothing seems to change.**

Help us live with courage in this age of ambiguity where wars are fought for peace  
and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty.

**Forgive our lapse of focus, our sense that nothing ever really changes.**

Teach us to wait with patience, that we may be ready as our redeemer draws near.

### Assurance of God's Grace

Christ came to us not to reign as a king over us, but to serve us, and show us the way of God is the way of love.

**Jesus said the first would be last, and the last would be first.**

Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another, and that the most important commandment was to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**This is the way of our Sovereign God.**

Go, knowing you are forgiven, and love and serve one another, especially our neighbors in need, as Christ serves us.

**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.

**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.**

**Lesson 1****1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

**Lesson 2****Luke 21:25-36**

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Sermon**

“Watch Out!”

**Hymn** (on provided insert)

“Lift Up the Gates Eternal”

**Benediction****Postlude**

“Pour Advent”

Benoit

**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, December 5,** Pastor Billy Ricketts will be reading from Luke 3: 1-6! 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 28 - 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