

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 5, 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/Call to Worship

"Where the Promise Shines"

Dunstan/Moore

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

**Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Where there is division, we long for unity.

**Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

**Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

**Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts**

**Refrain:** (Please join the choir in singing the refrain after the reading/candle lighting.)

LEAD US ON, LEAD US ON TO A  
MORN-ING WHERE THE PROM-ISE SHINES LEAD US

**Hymn** (on provided insert)

"Prepare the Way, O Zion" (106)

### Invitation to Confession

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

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;

**we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings.**

Please smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.

**Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again.**

Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.

### Assurance of God's Grace

### 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**

“Tiny Little Baby”

Price

**Today’s Lesson**

Luke 3: 1 - 6 (from *The Message*)

In the fifteenth year of the rule of Caesar Tiberius—it was while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, ruler of Galilee; his brother Philip, ruler of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias, ruler of Abilene; during the Chief-Priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—John, Zachariah’s son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Thunder in the desert!  
“Prepare God’s arrival!  
Make the road smooth and straight!  
Every ditch will be filled in,  
Every bump smoothed out,  
The detours straightened out,  
All the ruts paved over.  
Everyone will be there to see  
The parade of God’s salvation.”

Sermon

“Jesus Shows the Way”

**The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Hymn (on provided insert)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (121)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“What Child is This?”  
Bell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

**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.



**On next Sunday, December 12**, Pastor Steve will be focused on the text from Philippians 4: 4 - 7 and Zephaniah 3: 14 - 20 as he preaches a sermon titled “Reason for a Party.” 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 December 5 - Prayers of the People**

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Bobbie Stegall and Family
- Estelle Umphlette
- 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
- Family of Vanessa Green (Community PC)

### **December Birthdays**

2 Kathy Goolsby  
6 Joyce Kallaher  
12 Jay James  
12 Viki Goolsby  
18 Michael Broadhurst  
20 Bill Faas  
21 Pat Sparks

22 Earl Griffin  
26 Sarah Arambula  
27 Sean Taylor  
28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach  
28 Malakai Goodrich  
28 Riley Winkler  
30 Kara McCormick  
30 Ian Taylor

## **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 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](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