

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 12, 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

"Where the Promise Shines"

Dunstan/Moore

(Please join choir on **refrain** and **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.

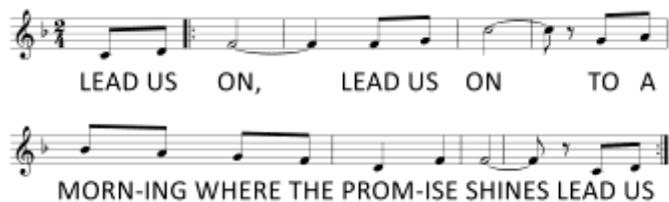
We wait in hope for the Lord.

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.

We wait in hope for the Lord



Hymn (on provided insert) "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" (118)

Invitation to Confession

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

Whenever we live without the faith-optimism of those who have received grace upon grace; Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Whenever we only laugh sarcastically, mocking human faults instead of participating in the joy of the redeemed; Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God, our Savior, by the grace of Christ Jesus, please bring us to repentance and forgive our sins, and by the infusion of your Spirit, help us to recover the joy for which we are created.

Assurance of God's Grace

With joy, waters are drawn from the well of salvation! Forgiveness is real! Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven.

Jesus said: "There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents."

Truly, God is our salvation. We are forgiven. We shall trust and not be afraid.

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

“Dear Little Stranger”
Edna Broadhurst, John Hackworth

Wilburn

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

Zephaniah: 3:14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time, I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time, I will gather you; at that time, I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

Lesson 2

Philippians: 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sermon

“Reason to Party”

Hymn (on provided insert)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Benediction

Postlude

“The Shepherds”

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.



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!

The Women of the Circle (WOC) Luncheon will be held at Alice Simpson's home on Saturday, December 18, 2021. The address is #1 Crawford Parkway, Unit 307 (757-822-9459). Please park in the lot across the street.

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 12 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Bobbi Stegall and Family
- Family of Vanessa Green
- 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

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 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 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.

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