

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 19, 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**)

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

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

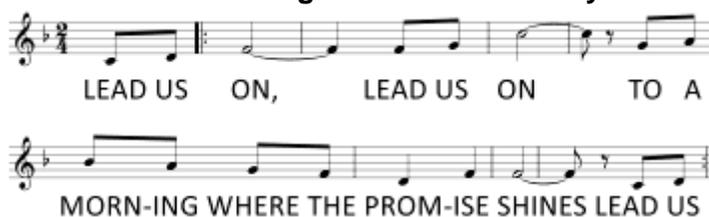
When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Refrain:



Hymn (on provided insert)

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Invitation to Confession

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

We confess that we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God.

The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.

The ones you knock off their pedestals,

We admire and emulate.

We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.

Please forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us.

Assurance of God's Grace

Even now-yes, even in this very moment,

God comes to us, bringing hope, forgiveness, and grace as freely offered gifts to us.

May we open our hearts to the God who is with us and receive the gifts which have been offered to us.

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

“Keep Your Lamps”

Andre Thomas

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

Micah 5:2-5

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Lesson 2

Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.” Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Sermon

“The Mary Fight Song”

Hymn (on provided insert)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Benediction

Postlude

“Sing We Now of Christmas!”
Nancy Frazier, piano; Edna Broadhurst, organ

Matthew McConnell

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 26, will be our lessons and carols service. Please join us.

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

On Friday evening, December 10th through Saturday, December 11th, a devastating cluster of tornadoes tore through Kentucky leaving a path of destruction and death. **Our session will be receiving a free will offering each Sunday through January 30th for our sister church, First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky.** More information will be forthcoming. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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!

Please tune in to our 7:00 Christmas Eve broadcast. It will be on our Facebook page! Grab a candle, and settle on in to enjoy our new and improved streaming! We hope to see you there!

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 19 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Family of Vanessa Green
- Estelle Umphlette
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Agnes McFadden
- Linda Thompson
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo
- Lindsey Parr and Family
- Kathy Revell

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