

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Friday, December 24, 2021 – 7:00 PM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

Christmas Eve Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Risen Christ, welcome to this evening's Christmas Eve service of worship. We pray that we'll be together next year. Nonetheless, we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to remember he embodies the Angel's promise: "Peace on earth, goodwill towards all."

Sacred music to prepare our hearts to worship God

String Quartet

Prelude

"Where the Promise Shines"

Dunstan/Moore

(Please join choir on **refrain** and **Call To Worship** printed on insert)

Call to Worship and 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.



Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Invitation to Confession

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

Holy God, when we allow darkness to overcome the light, **forgive us.**
When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, **have mercy on us.**
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,
let your grace consume us.
When the wars around us are of no concern,
forgive us and move us to compassion for those who suffer.
When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to seek peace and justice for our brothers and sisters.
We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.
Please remove all barriers that divide us and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another.

Assurance of God's Grace

Hear the Good News. Tonight, God reveals to us the wonders of divine love. For it was on this night, many years ago, that a child was born; unto us a Son was given. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. In Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Doxology

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room, Let heaven and nature sing,
Let heaven and nature sing, Let heaven and heaven and nature sing!

Special Music

“Before the Marvel of this Night”

Carl Schalk

The Christmas Eve - 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.

Lesson1

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Lesson 2

Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Special Music

“Nativity Carol”

John Rutter

Sermon

“Forgot Again”

Hymn (on provided insert)

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Benediction

Postlude

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

John Hackworth, guitar



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

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!

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