

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 26, 2021 – 10:30 AM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Sing We Now of Christmas!” Arr. Matthew McConnell
Nancy Frazier, piano, Edna Broadhurst, organ

Call to Worship

The impossible happened in a stable. The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined!

This is the time when creation stood still and held its breath, for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.

This was the time when God embraced humanity from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Invitation to Confession

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

Assurance of God’s Grace

Hear the good news:

If I say, surely the darkness will overwhelm me and the light around me will be night.

Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.

The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ,

Who binds up all the brokenhearted,

Heals all our infirmities,

And relieves our burden of sin.

So arise, shine; for your light has come.

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.

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.

A Service Lessons and Carols

Lesson 1, Isaiah IX

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His Hand

Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Lesson 2, Isaiah XI

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O Come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lesson 3, Luke I

**“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”
(Gabrielle Goodrich and The Adult Choir)**

Lesson 4, Luke II

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Lesson 5, Luke II

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Lesson 6, Luke II

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lesson 7, Luke II

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”
(Michael Broadhurst)**

Lesson 8, Matthew II

“The First Nowell”

The First Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, born in the king of Israel.
The star drew nigh to the north-west; over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

Lesson 9, Matthew II

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a-far,
Field and Fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!
Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Lesson 10, John I

“Joy To the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is Come! Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing!
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love!

Benediction

Postlude

“Noel”

D’Aquin

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 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 26 - 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
- Cathy Revell

December Birthdays

2 Kathy Goolsby
6 Joyce Kallaher
12 Jay James
12 Vickie Goolsby
18 Michael Broadhurst
20 Bill Faas

21 Pat Sparks
22 Earl Griffin
26 Sarah Arambula
27 Sean Taylor
28 Elizabeth [Pond] G
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