

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 23, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

|
"Give Thanks"
Nancy Frazier, Piano

Call to Worship

When we long for the special events we think life should offer:

It is enough for us, that God comes in a soft summer shower.

When our hearts are cracked by the drought of doubt:

It is enough for us, that God opens the fountains of faith for us.

When our senses are deadened by the sales pitches of our culture:

It is enough for us, that God wraps us in the silence of grace.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

Too often, Lord God, we are hesitant in our proclamation; seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.

Too often, Lord God, we are half-hearted in our service; reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.

Too often, Lord God, we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources, relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.

Too often, Lord God, we look to the clouds for our inspiration, in the vain hope of finding you there.

Assurance of God's Grace

Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith.

In the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary, we are forgiven!

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

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"
Todd Taylor, solo

Today's Lesson

Kings 19:1-18

Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them"

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

Sermon

"What Are You Doing Here?"

Benediction

Postlude

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Nancy Frazier, Piano



On next Sunday, January 30, Pastor Steve will be focused on Chapter 16 of The Story.

Offering Envelopes - The 2022 offering envelopes have been delayed and will arrive in a few weeks. Until then, please use any other envelope, or if you have remaining 2021 envelopes, please use them. Thanks for your help.

Nancy Grant and John Hackworth

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 January 23 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Family of Estelle Umphlette
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Agnes McFadden
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo
- Family of Dick Lovingood
- Sean, friend of Oralie and Raymond whose mother, Brenda, passed away last week
- Iris Vann, Matt Goodrich's Grandmother
- Cathy Revell
- Those who have COVID
- Schools and educators

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7	David Turner
17	Carl Rhodes, Jr.
18	Brantley Aliff
26	Sylvie Joyner
27	Kay Kidd
27	Kerry Westerwick
31	Kelsey Smith
31	Abbey 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 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.

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