

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 20, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Give Me Jesus”

Spiritual

Raymond Rodrigues, Solo

Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may have all this world; give me Jesus.
Dark midnight was my cry; give me Jesus. You may have all this world; give me Jesus.
You may have all this world with its troubles and cares.
For all this I am sure, give me Jesus.

Call to Worship

Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water. This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it. Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it. This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

So, we come here today with our hunger and thirst, our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings, and pray that the God of life will satisfy our souls.

Let's worship God together!

Hymn 319

“Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing” (Shout to the North)

Invitation to Confession

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

God of abundance, you have promised to provide us with more than mere survival; in seeking to satisfy our deepest hungers, we shall find an even more profound sustenance than human imagination could envision.

Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely more upon our own human control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you.

Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation.

Assurance of God's Grace

Come, all you who are thirsty. If you take the first step, if you are willing to plunge into the waters and to emerge into new life, you will receive a love beyond all you can envision.

We turn our hearts to God, and by grace our hungers are satisfied, our thirsts are quenched; through Christ we are forgiven and made whole. 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

“Seek Ye the Lord”

Roberts

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy and abundantly pardon.

Prayers of the People & 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

Isaiah 55: 1-9

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Lesson 2

Luke 13: 1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

Sermon

“Tree Resurrection”

Hymn 649

“Amazing Grace”

Benediction

Postlude/Prayers for the Journey

“Jordan”

arr. Johnson

All who welcome prayer for themselves or others are invited to come forward, during the postlude, to pray with one of our pastors or an elder.



The session has made this a priority for this year’s Lenten mission giving: The situation on the Ukraine border is heartbreaking, and conditions are worsening daily. Right now, Portsmouth-based nonprofit Mercy Chefs has crews on the ground near the Ukrainian border, delivering immediate and tangible relief in the form of food and supplies for weary refugees. **Your generous support will deliver groceries, dry goods, medical supplies, and infant essentials directly to Ukrainian refugees.**

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 March 20 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Lane Pittman
- Jamie, Burma Smith's friend
- Rose Layman
- Agnes McFadden
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo
- Those who have COVID
- Schools and educators

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Edna Broadhurst
12 Burma Smith
13 Mary Fitzwater
15 Lanier Halterman
21 Mallory James Smith
22 Jennifer Patgorski
24 Nancy Frazier
26 Mike McCormick
28 Nancy Grant

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 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson

Class of 2024

Linda Audet
Mary Ann Taylor
Oralie Wilhite