

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Please welcome Brian Bean, Jackie Logan, and Brian Logan (on brass); and Carol Downing (choir) to our service today.

Prelude

“Gavotte”

Henry Purcell

Choral Call to Worship

“Christ Is Arisen, Let Us Sing”

Volckmar Leising

Call to Worship

We are not eye-witnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples; we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation; we have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day, or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power during twenty centuries of change and conflict. We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold; cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe.

What we are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world.

Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God.

It is Easter morning again; and we will celebrate!

Hymn 232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Invitation to Confession

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

Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and earth,
we confess that we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation,
the promise of eternal life.

We live in ways that make the here and now more important than the future.

We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success first
over the needs of others and the long-term needs of the world.

**Forgive us for our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ,
who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross,
so that death might be no more and that all can share in the joy of salvation
and eternal life, through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Friends, we are forgiven. Amen and **Amen!**

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

“Easter Rejoicing”

Jonathan Wilcocks

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.

Hymn Insert

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

First Lesson

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Second Lesson

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

"Same Story - New Ending"

Hymn 245

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

Benediction

Postlude/Prayers for the Journey

"March Tromphale"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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.

Announcements from the Session:

- Wearing a face covering will be optional for those attending worship at the church - starting on Easter Sunday. While this remains a personal choice, the church continues to wish to promote a safe and healthy environment for all those attending worship. The decision to make face coverings optional was reached due to increased vaccinations, a lower number of COVID cases and CDC recommendations. Therefore, face coverings will be optional this Sunday and in the future!
- The Nursery will re-open starting this Sunday (Easter). The Nursery will be staffed by a background checked staff member and a background checked volunteer.

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 April 17 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Lane Pittman
- Rose Layman
- Agnes McFadden
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo
- Lettema
- Norma Haltermans
- Nancy Grant's daughter
- Norma Halterman
- Trevor, Megan, and new baby (born on 3/27/22)
- Those who have COVID
- Schools and educator

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

11	Norma Halterman	21	Benjamin Dawson Kenrick (Ben)
14	Lane Pittman	24	Bill Westbrook
17	Estelle Englund	25	Raymond Rodrigues
18	A.T. Mayo	28	Sharon Conklin
19	Jerry Freeman	29	Alice Butler

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