

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Sylvia Simpson  
Connie, Friend of Oralie  
Bev Smith, Mallory’s Mother-In-Law  
Josh Bennett  
Skip Parker  
Nancy Ward  
David Stuart  
Paul and Alice Butler  
Lane Pittman  
Robert Norfleet  
Monica Manley

EdMarc has long held a special place in the hearts of the FPC family. Their ministry (Hospice) to ill children and their families has been a part of our community since 1978.

In past years the FPC congregation has provided Christmas dinner to one of the larger families. This year the gift will be a monetary one. **Special envelopes will be available Dec 3 and 10.** Give the blessing of a delicious Christmas dinner for a special family.

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor  
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

Steve Frazier – Moderator of Session  
Mary Lemming  
Gail Pittman  
Dan Swanson  
Oralie Wilhite  
Linda Audet  
Michelle Graupmann  
Diane Griffin  
Mary Ann Taylor  
Michael Broadhurst

TRUSTEES

Earl Griffin  
John Hackworth  
Pat Sparks

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Goolsby	26 Sarah Arambula
6 Joyce Kallaher	27 Sean Taylor
12 Viki Goolsby	28 Elizabeth Gerlach
12 Jay James	28 Malakai Goodrich
18 Michael Broadhurst	28 Riley Winkler
20 Bill Faas	30 Kara McCormick
21 Pat Sparks	30 Ian Taylor
22 Earl Griffin	

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 3, 2023 – 10:30 AM

## First Sunday of Advent

*Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning’s worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor’s form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list. Welcome!*

Prelude “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Nancy Frazier

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every hurt to be healed.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every tear to be dried.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We long for every injustice to be made right.

**We wait in hope for the Lord.**

We celebrate God’s promises and long for those yet to unfold.

On this First Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope

\*Hymn 82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer - from Isaiah 64: 1-9

**\*\*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire cause water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of God’s Grace

Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

**\*\*We are all your forgiven people.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*\*Please rise in body or Spirit. | \*\*Words in bold print are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

\*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.**

Time with Children – Steve Frazier

First Lesson

Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Sermon

"What Angels Know"

Dr. Steven Frazier

Special Music

"Breath of Heaven"

Amanda McCormick, flute

*I have traveled many moonless nights, Cold and weary with a babe inside, And I wonder what I've done.  
Holy Father you have come and chosen me now to carry your son.  
I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear. In a world as cold as stone,  
Must I walk this path alone? Be with me now. Be with me now.  
Breath of heaven, hold me together, Be forever near me, Breath of heaven. Breath of heaven, lighten my  
darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy. Breath of heaven.  
Do you wonder as you watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place, But I offer all I am For the  
mercy of your plan. Help me be strong. Help me be. Help me.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

**\*\*And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**\*\*We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**\*\*It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**\*\*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**\*\*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**\*\*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.**

Distribution of the Elements and Communion of the People

Hymn 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Benediction

\*Benediction Response

"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! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace of Christ be with you.

**\*\*And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for snacks after worship!**

This Morning's Liturgist – Steve Frazier

