

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Diane Griffin and Family
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 10, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Second 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 “Shepherd Count Your Sheep”
Reagan Smith, Piano

****Call to Worship**

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

Let the peace of the Lord rule our hearts.

Where there is division, we long for unity.

Let the peace of the Lord rule our hearts.

Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

Let the peace of the Lord rule our hearts.

Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

Let the peace of the Lord rule our hearts.

Where the Promise Shines

Words by SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN
Music by BOB MOORE

Congregation:

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace – Betty Bartlett and Mary Fitzwater

*Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Invitation to Confession

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

Great God, in these times between your birth and your coming, we hear the words of John the Baptist for us today. In baptizing and receiving confessions, John pointed beyond himself to Christ. Help us to embody the good news that John proclaimed in our words and our work, that our lives might also foretell the coming of peace. Teach us to share good news with those who yearn for transformation and to listen for your gospel when we need a change of heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

****Assurance of God’s Grace**

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

****Thanks be to God.**

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

Response "Sing A New Song"
****Sing a new song unto the Lord. Let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing Halleluiah!**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Keep Your Lamps" arr. Thomas
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don't get weary, 'till your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

*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
****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**

December Birthday Blessing – All with December Birthdays are invited forward to receive a birthday blessing.

Time with Children – Gail Pittman

*Hymn 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

First Lesson Isaiah 40: 1-11
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Second Lesson Mark 1: 1-8
The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" – "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon "John Wasn't a Presbyterian" Dr. Steven Frazier

Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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!**

Postlude "O Come Emmanuel" arr. Held

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 – Corey McCormick, Cameron McCormick

