

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

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

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
12 Vickie Goolsby	27 Sean Taylor
12 Jay James	28 Elizabeth Gerlach
18 Michael Broadhurst	28 Malakai Goodrich
20 Bill Faas	28 Riley Winkler
21 Pat Sparks	30 Kara McCormick
22 Earl Griffin	30 Ian Taylor

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 10:30 AM
Fourth 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 "What Child Is This" Hackworth
 John Hackworth, Guitar

****Call to Worship**

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
 When we longed for the silence to be broken,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
 When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
 When we long for the peace that surpasses understanding,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Where the Promise Shines

Words by SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN
 Music by BOB MOORE

Congregation:

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Love – Michele Graupmann, Mike Taylor, and Todd Taylor

*Hymn 143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Invitation to Confession

****Prayer of Confession**-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer
 Great God, we join our voices with David, singing of your steadfast love and faithfulness. We join our voices with Mary, saying, "You have done great things." We offer our prayers of thanksgiving to you, God of wisdom. Strengthen us with the good news that in Jesus Christ you have been with us from the beginning and will be with us until the end, that we may give you glory and honor forever and forever.
Amen.

****Assurance of God's Grace**

The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us, has come to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He binds up the broken-hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin. While it is true that we have sinned, it is greater truth that we are forgiven. Arise, shine, for his light has come!
****Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**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 "Soft the Evening Shadows Fall" Held

*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**

Time with Children

*Hymn 146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

First Lesson Psalm 89: 1-4, 18-26

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations' "

Indeed, our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel. Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said: "I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people. I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries. My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted. I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'"

Second Lesson Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Sermon "Mild Mary's Militancy" Dr. Steven Frazier

Hymn 136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

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.

Postlude "Noël X" Daquin

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

