

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Family of Agnes Mobley Fuller Wynne
Nancy Ward	John Hackworth
Cathi Mullins, Norma's Sister	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	Kathy Goolsby
Jackie LaPonte	Tammy Gillman
Mae & Chreston Holoman	Kathy Goodrich

Church Staff

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

SESSION

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

TRUSTEES

Earl Griffin
John Hackworth
Pat Sparks

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Bond
3 Lauren Graupmann
10 Logan Smith
20 Diane Griffin
20 Steve Frazier
24 Judy Powell
27 Betty Bartlett
27 Bunky Joyner
28 Grace Bryant

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 4, 2024 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

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 "Meditation" Peeters

****Call to Worship**

God gathers us together in this place.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

God heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

God lifts the downtrodden and casts out wickedness.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

We sing to God with Thanksgiving.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

Invitation to Confession

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

God among us, forgive us when we assume you are far from us and when we fail to recognize our part in your ongoing ministry. We lament that so many feel forsaken. We grieve for all the wounds not healed, actions not taken, and calls not answered. Teach us to participate in your mission in the world, to remember our baptism, hear the call on our lives, and help those who are sent our way. Transform us, so that we may be more like Christ. Amen.

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

God is among us!

We have been baptized into Christ,

who is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

In Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen!**

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 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" F. Bland Tucker

Precious Lord, take my hand, bring me home through the night, through the dark, through the storm to Thy light. I have been to the mount, I have seen the Promised Land: Precious Lord, take my hand. Precious Lord, take my hand. Bring Thy child home at last, where the strife and the pain all are past; I have dreamed a great dream that Thy love shall rule our land; Precious Lord, take my hand. Precious Lord, take my hand; take Thy child unto Thee with my dream of a world that is free. For that day when all flesh joins the glory Thou hast planned, precious Lord, take my hand.

**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.**

Apostles' Creed

****I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

Time with Children – Gail Pittman

*Hymn 722

“Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak”

First Lesson

Isaiah 40: 21-32

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, then he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Sermon

“Commissioned to Bless”

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

Hymn 298

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

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

Benediction

*Benediction Response

“As the Deer”

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.

You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace of Christ be with you.

****And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Postlude

“March”

Handel

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

February Liturgist – Elder Sue Fay