

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH**

**Prayers of the People**

Alice Lerp  
Nancy Ward  
Cathi Mullins, Norma's sister  
Connie, Friend of Oralie  
Bev Smith, Mallory's mother-in-law  
Josh Bennett  
Monica Manley  
Jackie LaPonte  
Mae and Chreston Holoman  
Chianne Hackley, friend of Tanner and Alyssa  
Wayne Braswell

Jean Byers  
Beth Crosland, friend of Gabbi and Matt  
Judy Hedgepeth  
Paul and Alice Butler  
Lane Pittman  
Robert Norfleet  
Kathy Goolsby  
Tammy Gillman

**Church Staff**

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

**SESSION**

Steve Frazier – Moderator of Session  
Cameron McCormick  
Norma Halterman  
Todd Taylor  
Oralie Wilhite  
Linda Audet  
Michelle Graupmann  
Diane Griffin  
Mary Ann Taylor  
Michael Broadhurst

**TRUSTEES**

Earl Griffin  
John Hackworth  
Pat Sparks

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

1 Edna Broadhurst  
12 Burma Smith  
13 Penny Brangan  
13 Mary Fitzwater  
21 Mallory James Smith  
22 Jennifer Patgorski  
24 Nancy Frazier  
26 Mike McCormick  
28 Nancy Grant

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 3, 2024 – 10:30 AM

## Third Sunday of Lent

### 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 "Oh Sacred Head" arr. Lloyd Larson  
FPC Bell Choir

Choral Call to Worship

**\*\*Call to Worship**

We are here with a vision of what can be as God calls us to worship.

**We have journeyed this far, and we pause in gratitude.**

Our endurance builds a spirit of understanding and, even in our weariness, joyful praise.

**Hear our thanks as our hearts dance and our voices sing.**

\*Hymn 26 "Earth and All Stars!"

Invitation to Confession

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

**You have revealed to us the sacrifices of the Lenten journey as we go. Here in the middle, as we sojourn, we look back at how far we have come and forward towards what is to come. Beloved God, you call us to stop and to be, finding joy where we are. You show us the beauty of the sky above, the firmness of the earth below. We breathe in the air of a new day, remember the rain along the way, and cling to the dreams of our nights. We stop and give thanks because we are alive, and you are our God! Amen.**

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

Our Lord Jesus said:

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul; and with all your mind.**

**This is the first and greatest commandment.**

**And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

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 Hallelujah!**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem "In the Quiet Consecration" Robert Hobby

In the quiet consecration of this glad communion hour, here we rest in You, Lord Jesus, taste your love and touch your power. Christ our loving bread from heaven, Lord, whose blood is drink indeed: Here by faith and with thanksgiving in this feast on you we feed. By Your death for sin atoning, by Your resurrection life, hold us fast in blessed union; gird us, nerve us for the strife. While afar in solemn radiance shies the feat that is to come after conflict, toil, and testing Your great feast of love and home.

*\*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 – Nancy Grant

\*Hymn 525 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

First Lesson Exodus 20: 1-17  
And God spoke all these words:  
"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.  
"You shall have no other gods before me.  
"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.  
"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.  
"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.  
"You shall not murder.  
"You shall not commit adultery.  
"You shall not steal.  
"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25  
For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Sermon "Foolishness" The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

Hymn 523 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

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" Hymn 626  
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 "Praeludium in A-Moll" J. S. Bach

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

March Liturgist – Pat Sparks