

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 28, 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

"Prelude"

Daniel McCormick

Choral Call to Worship

\*\*Call to Worship

We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

**We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.**

May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

\*Hymn 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Invitation to Confession

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

**Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation, but a joy. We abide in you by striving to live in love. May we be the bounty of the fruit of the vine to feed your people with righteousness and justice. May we bring to the world the grace afforded unto us.**

\*\*Assurance of God's Grace

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**May the God of mercy, who forgives you all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.**

**This is the Good News of the Gospel, therefore let us sing to the glory of God.**

Response

"Sing A New Song"

Hymn 276

**\*\*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

"Celtic Prayer"

Cabaniss/Purifoy

\*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.**

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

## 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.**

## 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 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

First Lesson

1 John 4: 7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Second Lesson

John 15: 1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask

whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Sermon

"Claiming Our Identity as Beloved"

The Rev. Martha Mitchell

Hymn 300

"We Are One in the Spirit"

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

"With Joy"

Benoit

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

April Liturgist – Elder Todd Taylor

*Today, we welcome Martha Mitchell to our pulpit. Martha is an ordained minister who has served small churches for 20 years. Most recently she was the pastor of Simonsdale Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth for 14 years. She recently graduated with a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Old Dominion University and now is a full time Resident in Counseling at Insight Therapists of Virginia Beach. Martha is married to Clint Mitchell, pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, where they live with their three children: William, Grace, and Clara. Welcome, Martha!*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH**

**Prayers of the People**

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Nancy Ward	Wayne Braswell
Cathi Mullins, Norma's sister	Judy Hedgepeth
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	Barbara Owens
Mae and Chreston Holoman	Maria Rhodes
Chianne Hackley, friend of Tanner and Alyssa	Gus Spanos
Angela Calicchio, Sofia's mother	Mike Mike Taylor
Terry Baker, Norna Halterman's sister	

**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

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6 Donald Hal  
11 Norma Halterman  
14 Lane Pittman  
17 Estelle England  
19 Jerry Freeman  
21 Grady Kenrick  
25 Raymond Rodrigues  
28 Sharon Conklin  
29 Alice Butler  
30 Diana Harvey

**May Birthdays**

01 Jean Byers  
04 Mae Holoman  
08 David Culpepper  
12 Yolanda Faas  
12 Charlie McCormick  
18 Elizabeth Turner  
20 Corey McCormick  
21 Bob Graupmann  
26 Diana Taylor  
30 Scott Taylor  
31 Monica Manley