

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 11, 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

"Elevation"

Dubois

Choral Call to Worship

**Call to Worship

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.

Hear our voices!

We wait for you;

In your word we hope.

O magnify our God with me.

Let us lift God's name together

For we sought the Holy One, and they answered us.

God delivered us from all fear.

Look to God, beloved, and be radiant.

*Hymn 409

"God Is Here"

Invitation to Confession

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

O fragrant offering, you call us beloved children, and you teach us to imitate you, carrying an aroma of love. We know what love is because you showed us; when we were brought low, you invited us to eat and to rest. Lead us to the table, where we can taste and see God's goodness that saves our poor souls from trouble. As you take care of us in our distress, may we take care of others. This we pray through the living bread, who gave his flesh for the life of the world. 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!**

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

****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

"You Are the Light"

Fettke

You are the Light we see. You are the Truth we know. You are the Life we live. You are the Hope, You are the Joy, You are the Song we sing. Living God, loving God, we glorify Your name. high and Holy One come down, we lift our heart in praise. Prince of Peace, Immanuel, Jesus, Lord of Love. Within our hearts Your light. Within our minds Your truth. Within our lives your love; living Your hope, spreading Your joy, singing Your beautiful song; Singing Your beautiful song. Your Song.

*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

August Birthday Blessing – All with August birthdays are invited to come forward to receive a special blessing.

Hymn 688

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

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.**

First Lesson

2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33

The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." And all the troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders.

David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim. There Israel's troops were routed by David's men, and the casualties that day were great—twenty thousand men. The battle spread out over the whole countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the

sword. Now Absalom happened to meet David’s men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom’s hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going.

And ten of Joab’s armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him and killed him.

Then the Cushite arrived and said, “My lord the king, hear the good news! The Lord has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you.”

The king asked the Cushite, “Is the young man Absalom safe?”

The Cushite replied, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man.”

The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!”

Second Lesson

Psalm 34: 1-8

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Sermon

“The Worst Grief”

The Rev. Steve Frazier

Hymn 169

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

Benediction

**Benediction Response

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Hymn 69 (refrain)

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

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!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Nancy Ward	Wayne Braswell
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	The family of Barbara Owens
Maria Rhodes	Mary, friend of Bobbi Stegall
Gus Spanos	Barbara Bond
Angela Calicchio, Sofia's mother	Mike Mike Taylor
Cecilia Fry & children Alfred and Teresa Fry	Betty Hunt, friend of Michele
Dana Arden	Oralie Wilhite
Peggy Norfleet	David Stuart, Mary's brother
Nancy Grant	The family of Frances Hasty

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

10 Mike Mike Taylor	23 Benjamin Kenrick
12 Nancy Mayo	23 Richard Griffin
16 Wayne Rutsch	26 Margie Arambula
17 Carrie Griffin	26 Kim McCormick
19 Grady Fitzwater	28 Linda Hackworth
19 Linda Rodrigues	29 Alice Simpson
20 Art Kennis	29 Logan Aliff
22 Emily Fay	31 Benjamin McCormick