

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 27, 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. **Today we welcome the Rev. Martha Mitchell to our pulpit. Thank you for blessing us with your preaching today!***

Prelude

"Hine Ma Tov"

arr. Neidhardt

*Psalm 133: 1*

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Call to Worship

God has gathered us in this place.

**We've come from many kinds of dwellings and many kinds of families;  
from the many places we work and learn.**

From near and far, we join our hearts and voices to glorify God.

**We've come from here and there, following detours between or beyond.**

God welcomes all in this place. Let us worship God!

\*Hymn 624

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

Invitation to Confession

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

**God of restoration, help us to recognize your healing work in our lives and strengthen our faith for the seasons when that work is still in progress. May we cultivate the kind of hope that teaches us your love. As a prism spills colors through light, may we share your restoring love wherever we go. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

God has and always will love and forgive us, not because God is looking for us to be perfect, but because God's love is perfect.

**My God made me, and my God makes no mistakes.**

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

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

I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing and obey the spirit of the Lord.  
 I'm gonna pray when the spirit says pray and obey the spirit of the Lord.  
 I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout and obey the spirit of the Lord.

## \*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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Time with the Children

## Hymn 693

"Though I May Speak" (The Gift of Love)

## 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

Psalm 133:1-3

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

## Second Lesson

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Third Lesson

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Sermon	“For All the Saints”	The Rev. Martha Mitchell
Hymn 326	“For All the Saints”	
Benediction		
Benediction Response	“Jesus, Be with Us”	David Gambrell

**Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray.  
Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.  
Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed.  
Jesus, be with us; make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.**

Postlude	“Toccatà in D Minor”	J. S. Bach
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Today’s liturgist is Elder Todd Taylor

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

**Martha Mitchell** is a PC(USA) 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 in Virginia Beach. She is a certified trainer with Soul Shop, a faith-based suicide prevention training for faith leaders. As an advocate for mental health care and a believer in the resurrection power of The Word, Martha feels called to help the Church shine bright as a beacon of hope, a safe place for spiritual healing and a refuge for acceptance in community. 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.

**The FPC book club** will next meet on Sunday, November 3, in the social hall immediately following post-worship fellowship. The book for this meeting is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Discussion will be led by Mary Ann Taylor. Please read this delightful novel and join us.

**Thank you, our church family!** Our baby shower was more than we could have hoped for. So much fellowship and love in one room. We are excited to be bringing more youth into the church, and for our new babies to have such an AMAZING church family. We certainly are lucky. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We love you all.

~Gabrielle and Matthew

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH**

**Prayers of the People**

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Wayne Braswell	David Stuart, Mary's brother
Connie, friend of Oralie	Paul and Alice Butler
Lane Pittman	Oralie Wilhite
Josh Bennett	Robert and Peggy Norfleet
Monica Manley	Kathy Goolsby
Jackie LaPonte	Betty Hunt, friend of Michele
Ma Rhodes	Mary, friend of Bobbi Stegall
Gus Spanos	Barbara Bond
Isaiah Burgess, friend of Matt & Gabbi	Sonia Powell
Cecilia Fry and children Alfred & Teresa	Bev Smith, Mallory's mother-in-law
Dana Arden	Mae Holoman

**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  
Michele Graupmann  
Diane Griffin  
Mary Ann Taylor  
Michael Broadhurst

**TRUSTEES**

Earl Griffin  
John Hackworth  
Pat Sparks

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Kyle McCormick  
2 Mary Ann Taylor  
3 Michele Graupmann  
3 Barbara Bond  
11 Robby Pond  
14 Merle Gootee, III  
16 Amanda McCormick  
21 Todd Taylor  
21 Gail Pittman  
24 John Fay  
30 Tom Goolsby  
31 Matthew Goodrich

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Betsy Brown  
4 Toby Pennell  
9 Graham Fitzwater  
12 John Hackworth  
15 Tanner Furman  
19 Susan Fay  
19 Corbin Taylor  
20 Paul Butler  
23 Diane Turner  
28 Connor McCormick