

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 1, 2024 – 10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

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

"A Lovely Rose Is Blooming"

Brahms

Advent Lighting

"Christ Be Our Light!"

Farrell/Raney

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

Call to Worship

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.

How long, O Lord, how long?

For those waiting for answered prayer:

Grant your steadfast patience.

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

*Hymn 336

"We Gather Together"

Invitation to Confession

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

Great God, no one knows the hour of your return, yet we await your arrival, trusting that it will come. There is a sense of urgency in our waiting. We await the birth of Jesus, but we watch for so much more, anticipating all that your incarnation means in a hurting world. Teach us to keep alert, that we may not become complacent or convinced that we have time. Show us how to hurry up and wait, to enact our expectation by sharing love, offering forgiveness, and living according to the movement of the holy spirit. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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

Assurance of God's Grace

Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

We are all your forgiven people.

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

"Gloria"

Stanton

Offer unto the Lord finest fruits from your vineyards and wheat from your fields, and sing gloria, gloria, sing to His name. Offer unto the Lord fairest songs of elation and poems of peace, and sing gloria, gloria, sing to His name. For His kingdom on earth and His kingdom above are one world without end. Offer unto the Lord hymns of joyous thanksgiving and sonnets of grace, and sing gloria, gloria, sing to His name. Open your hearts to a moment of peace. Open your mouths to an hour of praise. Open your eyes to a day of delight and sing Gloria in excelsis deo. Sing gloria, gloria, sing to His name. Gloria.

*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 347

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called; The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Second Lesson

Luke 21: 25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

“Time Out”

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
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

Hymn 123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Benediction

Postlude

“O Come Emmanuel”

arr. Held

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

The First Presbyterian Book Club will meet in the social hall immediately following post worship fellowship today. Bobbie Stegall will lead discussion of the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kinsolver.

Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Christmas gathering on Saturday, December 7 beginning at noon at the home of Pat Sparks, 400 Westmoreland Ave. in Portsmouth. Lunch will be served, followed by a short program and Chinese Pollyanna. All women in the congregation are invited, even if you do not participate in Circle. Please call Pat at 393-0895 to make a reservation so that we will know how many places to set at the tables. Bring an inexpensive wrapped gift to participate in the Pollyanna game.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Wayne Braswell	David Stuart, Mary's brother
Paul and Alice Butler	Lou Wilhite
Lane Pittman	Mae Holoman
Josh Bennett	Robert and Peggy Norfleet
Monica Manley	Kathy Goolsby
Jackie LaPonte	Betty Hunt, friend of Michele
Maria Rhodes	Mary, friend of Bobbi Stegall
Gus Spanos	Barbara Bond
Isaiah Burgess, friend of Matt and Gabbi	Sonia Powell
Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa	Bev Smith, Mallory's mother-in-law
Dana Arden	Nancy Grant
Carol Conklin-Collins, Mary Ann's sister	Family and friends of Erik Savereide
Mike Fitzwater	

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Goolsby
6 Joyce Kallaher
12 Jay James
12 Vickie Goolsby
18 Michael Broadhurst
20 Bill Faas
21 Pat Sparks
22 Earl Griffin
26 Sarah Arambula
27 Sean Taylor
28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach
28 Malakai Allen Goodrich
28 Riley Winkler
30 Kara McCormick,
30 Ian Taylor