

*First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024*



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| SHARE the amazing love of God | REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ | LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power |
| 757-397-3622 515 Court St. Portsmouth, VA 23704 www.fpcPorts.org | | |

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.

Our advent lighters this Sunday are Cameron and Corey McCormick.

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| Choral Prelude | "Pifa" | G F Handel |
| 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first two staves are for the first line of lyrics, and the last two are for the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst;

**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. Amen.**

Hymn #119

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Advent God, You enter our weary world to lift the lowly and fill the hungry, to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that You can right the world. We see suffering and sorrow and sin and wonder if creation is beyond repair, but you hold out healing, wholeness, and hope. You promise to drive out despair and free us from debilitating fear. Broaden our imaginations, that we might conceive of communities where all people thrive and embody Your vision of shalom. Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy You bring. Make us prophets of the world You are bringing to birth, that we might prepare a way before You and welcome You with gladness!

Every valley is lifted; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Words in bold print are spoken aloud as a congregation

Song of Praise

“Gloria In Excelsis Deo”

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Choral Musical Offering

“Fling Wide the Door”

Yarrington

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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

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

Time with the Children

Hymn #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

First Reading

Philippians 1: 3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Second Reading

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:
“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

Sermon

"No Mr. Nice Guy"

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

Hymn # 134

“Joy to the World”

Charge and Benediction

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

There will be a session meeting immediately following worship.

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 and Clara 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
12 Jay James
12 Viki Goolsby
18 Michael Broadhurst
20 Bill Faas
21 Pat Sparks
22 Earl Griffin
27 Sean Taylor
28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach
28 Malakai Goodrich
30 Kara McCormick
30 Ian Taylor