

*First Presbyterian Church
Epiphany Sunday
January 05, 2025*



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.

Prelude

"The Three Kings"

arr. Held

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

Come one; come all. The Lord of Creation blesses this sacred space. Here is sanctuary for you.

We come from different places. Some gather with a song on their lips; others are heavy laden with sorrow.

Take heart. Whatever you carry in your being, here you will find respite on your journey, a breathing space along the way.

We give thanks to the God who knows us inside and out.

In this place, with these people, you will encounter a wellspring of grace.

We will find rest in the loving embrace of our God.

Hymn 151

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Invitation to Confession

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

Gracious God, we are a sinful people. Often our hearts are cold and our faith is thin. In the midst of our broken world, our souls shrivel, and our bitterness expands. Refresh our hearts and renew our hopes. Kindle in us the delight and joy You gave us at our birth.

Assurance of God's Grace

Hear the good news. We are forgiven and called to new life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Our sins are forgiven in the name of God, maker of love, giver of life, redeemer of all.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Praise

"Gloria In Excelsis Deo"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

"Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love"

*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.

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

Time with the Children

Installation of New Session Elders

Hymn 159

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

First Lesson

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Second Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon

“Following the Star”

The Rev. 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 256

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

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.

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

“March of the Wise Men”

Gaul

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

Women’s Prayer will meet at 10 am followed by Circle Meeting at 11 am on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

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
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	Mary Leming
Mae Holoman	Nancy J, friend of Oralie and Raymond
Donna, friend of Oralie	

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 David Turner
15 Beth Lutz
17 Carl Rhodes, Jr.
18 Brantley Aliff
26 Sylvie Joyner
27 Kay Kidd
31 Kelsey Smith
31 Abby Taylor