

*First Presbyterian Church  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 30, 2025*



*The Return of the Prodigal Son - Rembrandt*

**SHARE** the amazing love  
of God

**REFLECT** the light of Jesus  
Christ

**LIVE** and serve joyfully  
in the Spirit's  
power

# 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 have The Reverend Skip Baker-Smith filling our pulpit. Thank you for leading us in a worshipful service this morning.***

Prelude

"Prelude in E Minor"

J. S. Bach

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

Sing praises to God, who created the heavens and the earth!  
**Sing praises to our Creator, who makes us brother and sister.**  
Lift up your voices to God, who is worthy of praise.  
**Come join together in worshipping the God who makes us one.**  
Center your hearts on Christ, who calls us to love one another!  
**In prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, let us worship God!**

Hymn 402

"How Lovely, Lord"

Invitation to Confession

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

**O Good and Gracious God, there are many times when we forget about You. And then there are times when You call, and we wish that You would forget about us! We remember when we have demanded answers from You as if You were our answer book rather than our Lord. We know how many times each day we substitute our whims for Your Will. Merciful Creator, forgive us and guide us back to Your way of Love and Hope and Life. Because of Jesus, and through Jesus we pray, amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, believe the Good News!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Song of Praise

"Sing a New Song"

Hymn 276 – Refrain

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

"Have You Seen My Jesus?"

Douglas E. Wagner

O, have you seen my Jesus? I seek Him night and day, but no comfort I find; no rest can I take, for I heard they took Him away. And on the high hill, Calv'ry, as prophets once had said, now for my sins my Lord is slain, in drops of blood so red.

Deep was the grief He suffered, as alone His pain-racked body hung; but for me the song seems still unsung: "He died that I might live!" May waters pure and holy, that from His side do flow, make clean my guilt, wash away my sin, and help me His love to know. O, have you seen my Jesus? O, have you seen my 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.**

*Bibles can be found in the back of the pew in front of you. | Words in **bold** print are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

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 182

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

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 Corinthians 5: 16-21, page 1006

Second Lesson

Luke 15: 11-32, page 909

Sermon

"The Compassionate Father"

The Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 418

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

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

"Praeludium in A Minor"

J S Bach

**Please join us in the Courtyard lobby after worship for a snack and fellowship!**



Please join us on Thursday, April 17, at 6 PM for a Maundy Thursday service in the fellowship hall, followed by a soup dinner! We look forward to seeing you there.



**The session will be meeting on Sunday, April 6, immediately following worship.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH**

**Prayers of the People**

David Stuart, Mary's brother  
Paul and Alice Butler  
Lane Pittman  
Josh Bennett  
Monica Manley  
Jackie LaPonte  
Maria Rhodes  
Gus and Clara Spanos  
Isaiah Burgess, friend of Matt and Gabbi  
Dana Arden  
Mae Holoman  
Everest Goodrich  
Diane Griffin

Mary Leming  
Sonia Powell  
Lou Wilhite  
Robert and Peggy Norfleet  
Kathy Goolsby  
Ray Rood  
Kim McCormick  
The family of John Hackworth  
Teresa Roberts  
Jeff Baker

**Church Staff**

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor  
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

**SESSION**

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier, Moderator  
Michael Broadhurst (2025)  
Michele Graupman (2025)  
Diane Griffin (Class of 2025)  
Norma Halterman (2026)  
Cameron McCormick (2026)  
Todd Taylor (2026)  
Linda Audet (2027)  
Sue Fay (2027)  
Pat Sparks (2027)

**TRUSTEES**

Earl Griffin (2024)  
Toni Rutsch (2025)  
John Hackworth (2026)

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

1 Edna Broadhurst  
12 Burma Smith  
13 Penny Brangan  
13 Mary Fitzwater  
21 Mallory James Smith  
22 Jennifer Patgorski  
24 Nancy Frazier  
26 Mike McCormick  
28 Nancy Grant

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6 Donald Hal  
11 Norma Halterman  
14 Lane Pittman  
17 Estelle Englund  
19 Jerry Freeman  
21 Grady Kenrick  
25 Raymond Rodrigues  
29 Alice Butler