

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*First Sunday in Advent*  
*November 30, 2025*



**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 to Worship! We pray that during this hour you may open your heart, your mind, and your soul to the Holy One in Praise and in Prayer, with humility— and with the Name of Jesus ever-present. To God be all Honor and all Glory! We would be pleased to add you to our email list. We are glad you are here! Today we extend a special welcome to Clair Morgan. Thank you for lending your musical talents to our service. We also would like to thank the Rev Don McLean for filling our pulpit.*

Prelude

“A Lovely Rose Is Blooming”

Brahms

Advent Lighting

“Christ, Be Our Light!”

Farrell/Raney

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.**

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.

\*Hymn 336

“We Gather Together”

Prayer of Confession—followed by a time for silent personal 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.**

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.**

*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.*

Passing of the Peace – Let us greet one another with the “Peace of Christ.”

Song of Praise	“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”	Hymn 453
Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God’s word.		
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood; God has come to you.		
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah! <i>(repeat)</i>		

Time with the Children – Gail Pittman

Hymn 364	“Lift Up the Gates Eternal”
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Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

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

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.**

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.**

Old Testament Text	Isaiah 52: 7-15
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Sermon	“Getting Ready”	The Rev. Don McLean
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Hymn 123	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
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Benediction

Postlude	“Pour Advent”	Benoit
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**Please join us in the Courtyard lobby after worship for a snack and fellowship!**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH**

### **Prayers of the People**

David Stuart, Mary's brother  
Lane Pittman  
Robert and Peggy Norfleet  
Monica Manley  
Kim McCormick  
Gus and Clara Spanos  
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law  
Bobbie Stegall  
Rose Layman

Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday  
Kathy Goolsby  
Everest Goodrich  
Pat Sparks  
Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa  
Mary Leming  
Alice Butler  
Jim and Joan Plaatsman  
Kathy Goodrich

### **Church Staff**

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

### **SESSION**

Michael Broadhurst (2025)  
Michele Graupmann (2025)  
Diane Griffin (2025)  
Norma Halterman (2026)  
Cameron McCormick (2026)  
Todd Taylor (2026)  
Linda Audet (2027)  
Sue Fay (2027)  
Pat Sparks (2027)

### **TRUSTEES**

Toni Rutsch (2025)  
Kim McCormick (2026)  
Gail Pittman (2027)

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Betsy Brown  
4 Toby Pennell  
9 Graham Fitzwater  
15 Tanner Furman  
19 Susan Fay  
19 Corbin Taylor  
21 Ember and Everest Goodrich  
23 Diane Turner  
28 Connor McCormick

### **Sunday, November 23:**

Total Offering \$ ----  
Total Worship Attendance --

### **A New Tree and Chrismons!**

Chrismons are symbols or monograms of our Lord and our God. We first had a Chrismon tree in 1972 when Burma Smith was president of the Women of the Church. One of our members came back from Massanetta with a Chrismon she had made in a workshop there. Our women decided to make Chrismons for a tree in our sanctuary. Burma's daughter Teresa Roberts agreed to host workshops in her home. The first Chrismons were made of Styrofoam and glitter and decorated a fresh cedar tree cut from Burma's yard. Since the Styrofoam ornaments proved not to be very durable, the women decided to make the beautiful felt, beading, and pearl ornaments that have decorated our Chrismon tree for many years. Of the group that worked on these museum quality ornaments, only three are still with us—Burma, Teresa, and Barbara Bond.

When Mike Taylor passed away last year, the family donated a 12-foot Balsam Hill tree to the church. It is taller than the tree we have used for years; clearly more ornaments were needed. Jerry Freeman has led the Cheerful Chrismon Crafters in making new ornaments for the larger tree. We have met every other Sunday since June and worked together crafting new ornaments. The group includes Jerry Freeman, Linda Audet, Alice Butler, Norma Halterman, Mary Leming, Carrie Norfleet, and Pat Sparks.

The colors of the Chrismons are white, symbolizing the purity and perfection of our Lord; gold, symbolizing our Lord's majesty; and a touch of red, to remind us of the blood of Christ, by which we are saved. May these symbols remind us of this holy season of God's greatest gift to all, Jesus Christ.