

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Third Sunday in Advent*  
*December 14, 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](http://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! Today, we welcome the Reverend Leigh Gillis to our pulpit.*

Prelude "Pifa" G. F. Handel

Advent Lighting "Christ, Be Our Light!"  
(See Insert for music to sing along) Farrell/Raney

## 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 # 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

## Corporate Prayer of Confession

We have all sinned; not one of us is clean, but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Holy One, Christ is coming; Your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We have neglected to plead the case of the poor and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress and turned a blind eye toward injustice. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care. Baptize us with Your Spirit, and claim us again for Your holy work, until You come in glory.**

## Assurance of God's Grace

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.**

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! God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

Time with the Children

Hymn 87

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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.**

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.**

First Reading

Psalm 146: 5-10

page 545

Second Reading

Luke 1: 39-56

page 888

Sermon

"Imagining Mary's Song"

The Rev. Leigh Gillis

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 #147

"The First Nowell"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Nowell"

D'Aquin

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

## **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)

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2 Kathy Goolsby  
12 Jay James  
12 Viki 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 Goodrich  
28 Riley Winkler  
30 Kara McCormick  
30 Ian Taylor

### **Sunday, December 7:**

Total Worship Attendance 53