

*First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 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! Today, we welcome the Commissioned Pastor Randy DuVall to our pulpit.

Prelude "Calling All Angels" Helen Kemp

Hymn #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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.

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**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.**

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.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel! You call us each by name and invite us to follow You, but we—like sheep—do not heed Your voice; we stray from Your path. Now we call upon Your name.

Save us from all that ensnares our lives!

Restore us, O God! Let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

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.

*Words in **bold print** are spoken aloud as a congregation.*

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 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

“A Tiny Little Baby”

Besig

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 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.

First Reading

Matthew 1: 18-25

Second Reading

Matthew 12: 46-50

Sermon

“Who Are My Sister and Brother?”

CP Randy DuVall

Hymn #144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Dancing Day”

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	Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
Lane Pittman	Kathy Goolsby
Robert and Peggy Norfleet	Everest Goodrich
Monica Manley	Pat Sparks
Kim McCormick	Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa
Gus and Clara Spanos	Mary Leming
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law	Alice Butler
Bobbie Stegall	Kim and Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Kathy Goodrich
Skip Parker	

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)Ma
Pat Sparks (2027)

TRUSTEES

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Goolsby	26 Sarah Arambula
12 Jay James	27 Sean Taylor
12 Viki Goolsby	28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach
18 Michael Broadhurst	28 Malakai Goodrich
20 Bill Faas	28 Riley Winkler
21 Pat Sparks	30 Kara McCormick
22 Earl Griffin	30 Ian Taylor

We have a Christmas need! The Mission committee found out from Oasis about a family in dire need. The family is a father, mother, and 5 children aged (girls) 20 months, 3, 16, and 18 and (boy) 15. The father works in roofing/construction and recently lost his job. With no job, they lost their housing, and they do not have a car. They walked to Oasis to ask for help. One of the Oasis employees, Cathy, was very moved by their plight - she deals with many folks in need, but this family really touched her heart. A generous donor is providing funds to put them up at a local hotel for the next 2 weeks. Cathy has also already arranged a job interview for the father with hopes of regaining employment for him.

Those of us on the Mission Committee are also moved by their story, especially in this holiday season. **We would like to try to make Christmas a little brighter for them, even if just in a small way.** If you would like to make a contribution, that would be most appreciated. Contributions will be used to purchase toys for the littlest ones, stockings for the older children, and gift cards that the family can use to purchase food and necessities. We will also donate toiletries and other hygiene items from FPC's mission closet.

To make a contribution, please contact Oralie Wilhite, Gail Pittman, or Sue Fay. Thank you for your consideration!