

*First Presbyterian Church  
Second Sunday of Lent  
March 1, 2026*



**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 hold these moments together as sacred ones as we struggle to hear, to feel, and to speak of the Glory of God. Bring your life now to the cross before you and find your 'shadow' and God's shalom. Today, we welcome The Reverend Doctor Skip Baker-Smith to our pulpit and Amanda McCormick and Michael Broadhurst as flautists. Thank you all for lending your talents to our service today*

Prelude

“Gymnopedie”

Eric Satie

Amanda McCormick and Michael Broadhurst, flute

Spoken Call to Worship

We have gathered here again **to seek Your steadfast love in our lives.**

We have been called in **to go out again as disciples of Christ Jesus.**

Let us renew our commitment through this worship and our re-dedication to share the love of the Lord.

**Let us make an offering of ourselves through God’s strength and God’s promise.**

Hymn 183

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

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

**O God, when trials beset us, it is natural to fear. Called to be brave, we find our faith lacking. When asked to risk, we confess complacency. We ignore injustice and hope it will go away. You have shown us, Lord, how we may trust You: You have kept faithful to us through the ages. Forgive our reluctance to believe in Your guidance and grant us the wisdom to seek refuge in Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through Him. Amen.**

Minute for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Affirmation of Faith (text from Hymn 481 (Glory to God Hymnal))

**I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord, Maker of the earth and heavens,  
whom we worship and adore; And in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, Sovereign one,  
By the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.**

**Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to His final breath. He was crucified and buried  
and descended into death. From the grave He did arise; He ascended through the skies;**

**Now enthroned with God in heaven, He will judge the dead and living.**

**I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place, saints in glorious communion,  
all forgiven, full of grace; flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.**

**Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise Your name forever.**

*Words in **bold print** are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“Passacaglia of Praise”

Craig Courtney

Gospel Lesson

John 3: 1-20

Sermon

“Hanging onto the Shadows (A Theology of Being Born Again)”  
The Rev Dr. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 451

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

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

Prayer after Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**let everything within me bless God’s holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**let me never forget all that God has done.**

Hymn 546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Benediction

Postlude

**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	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	Sotoko's Father
Bobbie Stegall	Jim and Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Kathy Goodrich

**Church Staff**

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

**SESSION**

Norma Halterman (2026)  
Cameron McCormick (2026)  
Todd Taylor (2026)  
Linda Audet (2027)  
Sue Fay (2027)  
Pat Sparks (2027)  
Michael Broadhurst (2028)  
Diane Griffin (2028)  
Dan Swanson (2028)

**TRUSTEES**

Kim McCormick (2026)  
Gail Pittman (2027)  
Earl Griffin (2028)

**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