

*First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 15, 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 back to our pulpit.

Prelude

“Meditation”

Dubois

Spoken Call to Worship

We are children of light,

Rejoicing in everything good and right and true.

We worship the Lord who heals, liberates, and raises us from the dead.

In the dream of the beloved community of God, we are awake, and we stand in the light of Christ.

Hymn 192

“Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining”

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

Holy God, with You the impossible is possible. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With You the impossible is possible. But we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that You are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of that change. We pray these things because Jesus showed us Your Way. He showed us Your Love. We pray because of Him and through Him. Amen.

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! (repeat)

Minute for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

Time with the Children

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.

Hymn 458

“Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“Come unto Me and Wait”

Mark Hayes

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

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.**

Statement of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Gospel Lesson

John 9

Sermon

“How Many Excuses Can We Find?”

The Rev Dr. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 722

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

Benediction

Postlude

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

There will be a session meeting today, following the service, at 11:45.

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	Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Kathy Goodrich
Karen Hoy, Ann's mother	Joseph Cain, Ann's uncle
Evie Goodrich, Matt's uncle	

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

Sunday, March 8:

Total Offering \$

Total In-Person Worship Attendance 34