First Presbyterian Church
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026



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

Announcements

A Period of Silent Preparation for Worship

Prelude "Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls" Brahms

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

Give ear, O my people, and listen to the words of my mouth.
We will tell the next generations of the Lord's glorious deeds, and the wonders God has done.
We set our hope in God and will not forget the works of God.
As we wait, we will tell the story and keep the commandments.

Hymn 4 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession—first in a time of silent confession and then together

O Gracious God,
we're not sure we're ready for your awesome power to blow through our lives.
We've grown comfortable with our familiar habits and our bland routines,
afraid of the unknown that change brings.
When the winds of change have blown,
we have often dug in our heels instead of raising our sails.
Forgive us Lord, for the times when we have preferred complacency over courage,
and tradition over transformation.
Teach us to harness these winds of change, not for our own desires, but for your purposes.
Walk with us, O God, and give us the courage and the audacity to ride the winds of Your Holy Spirit.
We ask our prayer with the powerful name of Jesus.

Assurance of God's Grace

The Holy One shows us a vision of a new heaven and a new earth
where everyone will live in peace and blessing.
Trusting in God's promise to wipe away all our tears,
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
And also with you.

*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.*

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 – Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "My God How Wonderful Thou Art" arr. P. Young

My God, how wonderful Thou Art, Thy countenance how bright;
How beautiful thy mercy seat, in depths of burning light!
How wonderful, how glorious the sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power and awesome majesty!
Yet I may love Thee, too, O Lord, almighty as Thou art.
For Thou has stooped to ask of me the love, the love of my poor heart.
No earthly father loves like Thee; no mother e'er so mild,
bears and forebears as Thou hast done with me, Thy sinful child.
How wonderful, how glorious the sight of Thee must be,
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power and awesome majesty!

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.

The Dedication of our Pledges for 2027

Affirmation of Faith

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 25: 31-46

Sermon "The Final Judgement" The Rev. Dr. Skip Baker-Smith
The Sheep and the Goats

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 384 Soon and Very Soon"

Benediction

Postlude "Ashokan Farewell" Ungar

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
Peggy Norfleet
Monica Manley
Joseph Cain, Ann's uncle
Gus and Clara Spanos
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law
Bobbie Stegall
Rose Layman
Karen Hoy, Ann's mother
Evie Goodrich, Matt's uncle
Nancy Grant
Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
Kathy Goodrich
Everest Goodrich
Pat Sparks
Theresa Fry Bistel and Alfred Fry
Mary Ann Taylor
Skip and Betsey Baker-Smith
Joan Plaatsman
Matthew Goodrich
Skip Parker
Kristin Finnerman
Carrie Norfleet and family

Church Staff

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

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

TRUSTEES

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

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

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! We pray that this hour provides the space, the forms and the means for your heart to be touched by the miracle of God's Love for you.

Spend some time in prayer today asking God for clarity about the role we might play in our local communities now that the national election is over. Let us continue to explore God's call for faithfulness in each of our lives.

Following worship today--- FEAST with others at our Game Day to top off our Stewardship Dedication Sunday. ENJOY both FOOD and intellectual challenges and friendly competition as we sit together at various board games. Our thanks to the Fellowship Committee for proposing this event.

Later in the Afternoon--- we are hosting Peace, Love and a Bag of Chips for folks in the courtyard.

NEXT WEEK - The Session has called for a short congregational meeting to receive the report of the Church Nominating Committee & to Elect Elders and a Trustee for 2029

The Women's circle will be decorating the Chrismon tree on , November 22, after post worship fellowship. We will also be decorating the sanctuary. We would appreciate any helping hands. Thank you.

Finally--- As a follow-up to today's sermon, Skip recommends the book *Good Goats--Healing our Image of God* by Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn. Paulist Press, c1994. --- It's a keeper!