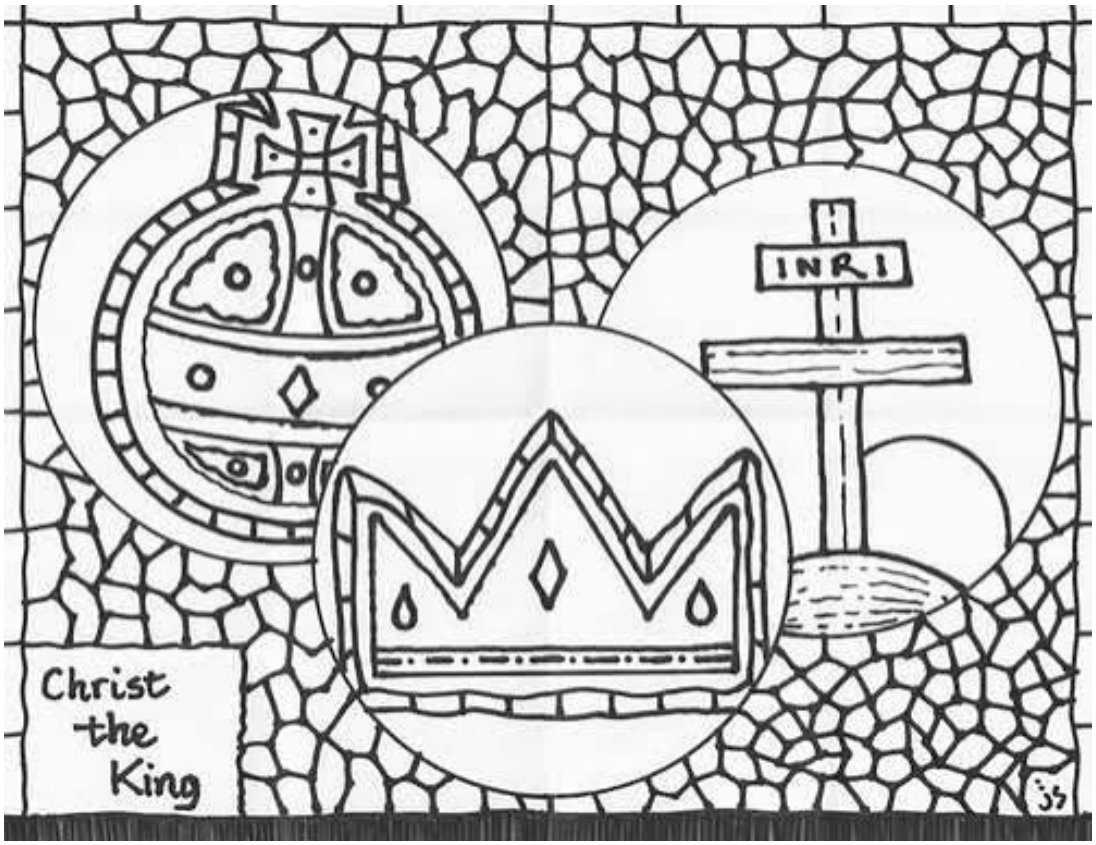
First Presbyterian Church
Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026



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

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 Rev. Jeffrey Bell to our pulpit. Thank you!

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

The gates of the Lord are open to all;
Come before God with thanks!
The courtyard of the Lord welcomes all the earth;
Bless God's holy name.
The pastures of the Lord are places for all to dwell!
Shout with praise, all the earth,
Because God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.
God's faithfulness lasts from generation to generation.

Hymn 367 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Invitation to Confession

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

God of all people, You welcome us.
In the faces of one another, we see Your face.
Help us to look each other in the eye.
Lead us from our comfortable corners
toward those who live different lives
and those we have forgotten or overlooked.
Bring us face-to-face with service and humility,
and call us into reconciliation with You,
with creation and with one another. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Through the crucified body and blood of Christ the King, we have been given a pardon from God.

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1: 13-14).

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, proclaiming Jesus as Lord of all.

Passing of the Peace

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

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!

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

Time with the Children

Hymn 692 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "My God, I Thank Thee" John Dixon

My God, I thank Thee, who hast made the earth so bright, so full of splendor and of joy, beauty and light;
so many glorious things are here, noble and right.
I thank Thee, too, that Thou hast made joy to abound; so many gentle thoughts and deeds, circling us round,
that in the darkest spot of earth some love is found.
And then I thank Thee for the love of kin, the ties that bind through thick and thin, that keep us, shield us from sin.
I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast kept the best in store; we have enough, yet not too much to long for more;
a yearning for peace, a deeper peace not known before.

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.

Affirmation of Faith

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world— which some seek to control, but which others view with despair— we declare with joy and trust:

Our world belongs to God! From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to him! God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah! The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord! We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.

The Gospel Lesson Ephesians 1: 15-23

Sermon "Christ the King" The Rev. Jeffrey Bell

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,
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 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Benediction

Postlude "Christ the King" Benoit

<u>Please join us in the Courtyard lobby after worship for a snack and fellowship!</u>

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
Teresa Fry Bistel and Alfred A. 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

A short congregational meeting will follow worship today to receive the report of the Officer Nominating Committee and to elect session Class of 2029 elders and a 2029 trustee.