



**First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio**

**April 27, 2025
11 o'clock Worship Service**

Rev. Dudley Bolser, Honorably Retired, Missionary
Ms. Michele Imes, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Choir Director
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist

We are glad you came...



Welcome to Worship

Second Sunday of Easter Worship



Welcome and Announcements

Ms. Imes

GATHERING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST GREETES ONE ANOTHER Ms. Imes

Hear God's response to us today in these words of greeting: "You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."—Isaiah 41:9–10, (NRSV)

L. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ms. Imes

L. In life, in death, and in life beyond death,

P. The Risen Christ is Lord.

L. In success and discouragement, in fear and in hope,

P. The Risen Christ is Lord.

L. Of the poor and broken, of the sinner and the sinned against,

P. The Risen Christ is Lord.

L. In church and community, in our hearts and our homes,

All: The Risen Christ is Lord, and so we gather to worship in his name.

***PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Ms. Imes

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

#246 "Christ Is Alive!" GTG

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ms. Imes

...God is forgiving and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Ms. Imes

***O God of might and mercy,
in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power
to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives.
In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us everywhere and
always.***

***Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your
promises. We doubt the promise of resurrection for our own lives.
Upheaval and anxiety eat away at our peace. Forgive us when we
struggle to trust your goodness and your steadfast love for us.***

(Silence for personal confession and meditation)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Ms. Michele Imes

****GLORIA PATRI*** *(all sing)*

Ms. Michele Imes

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Rev. Bolser

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 12:14 NLT

Rev. Bolser

¹⁴ Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

L. The Word of the Lord.

P. Praise be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dr. Roberts

THE WORD PROCLAIMED *God's Greatest Desire for His Children*

Rev. Dudley Bolser

***OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Ms. Imes

***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.

HYMN #248 "Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna!" **GTG**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Bolser

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven. Hallow 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Ms. Imes

We are called to give in the church, not just because it needs money — although it does. Not just because it needs prayers and hopes and people willing to share all God has given them abundantly. But mostly because we need our practices to speak back to us and show that we are obedient to God in life together. We believe in the gospel's hope and structures of mercy. Therefore, our practices must remind us that our hope is not in financial security but Christ.

We are called to give as we invite God to rise into our lives. We believe in the preaching of the good news and the binding up of the brokenhearted. Giving reminds us that God calls us beyond ourselves; this is good news. So we come to share our life and love in giving – whether you give an offering of prayer or praise, money, or time – We come to give back to God.

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

Dr. Roberts

****The 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.**

***THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** (*spoken in unison*) Ms. Imes
***God of abundance, take these gifts, which were already yours,
and use them to knit us closer to each other and closer to the
world you so love. Amen.***

CALL TO MISSION

*** CLOSING HYMN** #240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" **GTG**

***CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE** Rev. Bolser

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

***SENDING SONG** #541 "The Lord Be with You Till We Meet Again" **GTG**

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bolser

POSTLUDE

Dr. Roberts

***The asterisk indicates when we rise to our feet in spirit,
as we are able in body.**

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**In the event of worship being postponed due to inclement weather conditions
an announcement will be sent to your email and the FPC's Facebook page**



Will you lend a hand? There is an urgent need for hygiene products for the disadvantaged and unhoused individuals in Portsmouth. The church is working to collect as many bottles of 3-in-1 shampoo, conditioner, and body wash liquid soap as possible,* which can be found at great prices in any town. You can contribute to this initiative by dropping off your donation at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) or by making a special contribution to the deacons for purchasing supplies. First Presbyterian Church operates a Food Pantry that relies entirely on the generosity of its members and friends and serves as a hub for emergency assistance and weekly food distributions. Together, we can make a meaningful impact! **We recommend shopping at the Dollar Store.*



**AN UPDATED PRAYER LIST IS LOCATED ON
THE EDUCATION ANNEX BULLETIN BOARD**

Our Church and Community Calendar April-May 2025

The Food Pantry is closed every first Thurs. of the month. Open Thurs. 12-2P

Apr. 27: We welcome Retired Missionary to Indonesia, Rev. Dudley Bolser

Apr. 29-May 5: Pastor away at PCUSA CREDO

May 4: Worship in Music, 11A

May 6-12: Pastor Away on Vacation (returns May 13)

May 7: Mission and Congregation Life meets, 4P

May 11: We welcome Dr. Marsha Smith, guest speaker, Mother's Day, 11A

May 14: Board of Session Meets, 1P (Guest: Jodi High)

May 15: Community meets in Conf. Rm., 5P

May 20: PSV meets, 3:30P (Loc. TBA)

May 25: Pastor preaches at Hillview Manor, 3P

May 26: Memorial Day – Office Closed

May 27: Church Secretary out morning hours

Church Contact Information

Pastor & Church Secretary's Office Hours for the Week

Sunday: Worship and office hours. Mondays:

Home office (worship planning, prep, and meetings)

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 A - 4 P Fridays: Off

Email: rjohnson.fpc@gmail.com or rev.ron.johnson@gmail.com

Pas. Study: (740)529-7117 M: (434)770-1052

Virginia M. Stinnett, Admin. Aid/Church Secretary,

vstinnett.fpcport@gmail.com

Church Office: (740)353-4259 or (740)529-7117

Office Hrs. Sun., Tues -Thurs: 9A-3:35P

EMAIL: firstpresbyterian.portsmouth@gmail.com

<https://www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806>

<https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>

SERMON NOTES

SERMON TITLE _____

SCRIPTURE VERSE(S) _____

WHAT DID I HEAR THAT RAISED QUESTIONS? _____

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE? _____

WHAT WOULD I LIKE TO STUDY FURTHER? _____

MY HEART-FELT PRAYER TO GOD FOR THOSE IN MY LIFE AND MYSELF