



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

February 23, 2025
7th Sunday after Epiphany
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician

We are glad you came...



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ron Johnson

WELCOME

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

L. The Lord is with you.

P. And also with you.

L. Lift up your hearts.

P. We lift them to the Lord.

ALL. We come to worship the Living God.

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

**** CALL TO WORSHIP***

L. Praise the Lord.

**P. I will extol the Lord with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

L. Great are the works of the Lord;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**P. Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.**

L. He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

**P. He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.**

L. The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**P. They are established forever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.**

L. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his
Covenant forever—Holy and awesome is his name.

**ALL: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise.**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Dr. Roberts

***HYMN OF PRAISE** #267 "Come, Christians, Join To Sing" **GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Roberts

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*spoken in unison*)

Dr. Roberts

***Gracious God, you test the mind and search the heart
so you know the thoughts and intentions we keep hidden.
Trusting in your wisdom and mercy, we confess the ways we have
failed to love one another, the times we looked the other way when
someone needed help, and the ways our actions betrayed your
goodness. Forgive us for missing opportunities to share your love
and for carrying grudges that keep us from offering the forgiveness
we hope for. Renew us with your mercy to become more merciful to
others we meet, in the example of Christ our Lord. Amen.***

(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

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

**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. Johnson

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 2:1-13 NLT

Rev. Johnson

A Warning against Prejudice

2 ¹My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

²For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting^[b] dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³If you give special attention and a good seat to

the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, ⁴ doesn't this discrimination show that evil motives guide your judgments?

⁵ Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? ⁷ Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

⁸ Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

¹⁰ For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. ¹¹ For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.

¹² So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. ¹³ There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:6-8 NRSVEU

Dr. Roberts

What God Requires

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ms. Michele Imes

THE MESSAGE

"A Healthy Witness"

Rev. Johnson

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***

Rev. Johnson

God has reconciled us to God's own self and to one another, and has made us one community of love. We celebrate God's gift of unity and claim it as our calling. Separation, enmity, and hatred are sins that Christ has already conquered; they have no place here among the beloved of God. God has given us many ways to enjoy our unity. We commit ourselves to bless one another. We will keep the one faith and fulfill our one calling. We will be of one soul and mind. We will share one baptism, eat one bread, and drink one cup. We will confess one Name and share one hope. We will bear one another's burdens and build each other up. We will suffer together for the sake of God's righteousness. We will pray together and serve God together. We celebrate God's gift of unity and claim it as our calling.

—Paul Janssen, Pascack Reformed Church, Park Ridge, New Jersey, RCA Belhar Confession: Singing, Praying and Preaching. © 2012 Reformed Church Press

HYMN

#450 "Be Thou My Vision" **GTG**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Johnson

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken in unison)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Dr. Roberts

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)*

Dr. Roberts

***God of generous love, we bring our gifts with grateful hearts,
for we have received so much through your kindness. Bless our
gifts, and use them to touch lives in situations we cannot even
imagine with your love. Make us a blessing in our community for
the sake of Christ, our Friend and Savior. Amen.***

CALL TO MISSION

**** CLOSING HYMN***

#300 "We Are One in the Spirit" **GTG**

****CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE AND BLESSING***

Rev. Johnson

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

****SENDING SONG***

#540 "Shalom, chaverim" **GTG**

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated for the postlude)

Dr. Roberts

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



THE PRAYER LIST IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EDUCATION ANNEX

Our Church and Community Calendar, February - March 2025

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

Feb. 23: Deacons meet, 12:30P

Feb. 24: Pastor serves on COM, 1-3P

Feb. 25-Mar. 4: Pastor away

Mar. 1: PSV P.I.E. and Faith & Futures Seminar, Columbus, 9A
(Please Register-PSV)

Mar. 1: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (see PSV Website for dates)

Mar. 2: FPC welcomes Rev. Allison Bauer to the pulpit, 11A

Mar. 2: Communion Sunday, 11A

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday Service, Pleasant Green Baptist Ch., 5:30P
(FPC + 2PC + Pleasant Green Baptist)

Mar. 6: PSV Mediation Group meets, 2P

Mar. 9: Daylight Savings Time Begins *(Don't forget to adjust your clocks)*

Mar. 12: Board of Session Meets, 1P

Mar. 12: Lenten Bible Study begins, w/ light dinner, 5:30P

**In the event of inclement weather, up-to-date announcements will be
sent to your email and FPC Facebook page**

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