



Mark 12:38-44 – The Scribes and the Widow

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

November 10, 2024  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

***We are glad you came...***



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

## TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE

### GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

#### *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Pastor Ron Johnson

#### *WELCOME*

#### *THE COMMUNITY GATHERS*

#### *PRELUDE*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

#### *\*CALL TO WORSHIP*

Ms. Michele Imes

L. I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**P. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.**

L. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**P. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

L. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

#### *PRAYER FOR THE DAY*

Ms. Imes

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE #36 "For the Fruit of All Creation" GTG*

#### *CALL TO CONFESSION*

Ms. Imes

#### *PRAYER OF CONFESSION (spoken in unison)*

Ms. Imes

*Merciful God, forgive our systemic sins, the way we build and support and collaborate with oppression. Open our eyes to the injustice of wealth inequality. Open our hearts to righting our societal wrongs. Forgive our excuses, our apathy, our votes cast only for our benefit, or that of our nation's. Help us follow Christ in*

*prioritizing the poor and vulnerable. Help us build your beloved community where all belong, and all may flourish. Amen.*

*(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Johnson

*\*THE GLORIA PATRI (sung in unison)*

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**

Mark 12:38-44 NIV

Rev. Johnson

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

L: This is the Word of the Lord

*P: Praise be to God!*

*SPECIAL MUSIC*

Dr. Roberts

*THE MESSAGE*

The Scribes and the Widow

Rev. Johnson

*AFFIRMATION of FAITH (from the Belhar Confession)*

Rev. Johnson

*1. We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.*

*2. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.*

*3. We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.*

*PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE*

Rev. Johnson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #316 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" **GTG***

**GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD**

*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING*

Ms. Imes

*OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL*

Dr. Roberts

**ACT OF COMMITMENT** *(acting on our commitment)*

Rev. Johnson

*Generous God,  
we give back to you in thankfulness,  
the first fruits of what you have given us.  
We acknowledge that the world and its resources  
are not ours, but yours,  
and that you have put us in charge  
as your trustees.  
Help us to exercise responsibly  
the authority you give us in your world.  
May Jesus your Son, be the pattern  
for all our dealings with one another,  
and with the rest of creation,  
and confirm our resolve  
to use our money as an  
extension of our lives in your service.  
Thank you for your promise that you will join us  
in one great family.  
We believe you,  
we share your joy in this hope for the future,  
and we give ourselves  
in friendship to everyone we meet,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

*\*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, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"**

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall raise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son: All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne. Treasure too you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred; ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands, in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

*Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1961© 1961, 1989 by the Hymn Society; admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.*

**CALL TO MISSION**

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

#697 "Take My Life" **GTG**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE**

Rev. Johnson

**\* THE BLESSING**

Rev. Johnson

**ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL**

Miss Abby & Family

**\* SENDING SONG** #541 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" **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**

Please pray for your ability to be faithful disciples, family, and friends; our church, pastor, the session, deacons, committees, lay leadership, our ministry, outreach, and stewardship, the Boney Fiddle community and its churches, public schools, city of Portsmouth and its leadership, state and national leadership, and those incarcerated.

## **Our Church Calendar for November**

The FPC Food Pantry will be open Thursday Nov. 26 and closed on Thanksgiving

Nov. 10: Pastor at 2PC, 9:30A

Nov. 10-12: Presbytery of Scioto Valley Church Professionals Retreat,  
Hocking Hills St. Park, pastor leads worship, Nov. 11

Nov. 13: Board of Session meets, Conf. Rm., 1P

Nov. 18: SCM meets

Nov. 19: Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) meets, Hybrid, 3:30P

Nov. 20: Officer Training, FPC (**TBA**)

Nov. 21: Budget Cmte. meets, 11A (make-up date)

Nov. 21: SCM in Conf. Room, 3P

Nov. 25: Workday for Pastor with Cmte. On Ministry, PSV

Nov. 28: Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed.





Do you want to view the website?  
Aim your camera at the UPC code  
and press “ENTER.”

## **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](mailto:rjohnson.fpc@gmail.com) or [rev.ron.johnson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vstinnett.fpcport@gmail.com)

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

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

**EMAIL: [firstpresbyterian.portsmouth@gmail.com](mailto: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

# Joy Filled



# Generosity!

## TAKE ONE STEP UP...FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love, the joy of generosity, and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His Church, I plan to STEP UP in my giving.

STEP UP BEYOND TITHING

*My desire is to do more than God's minimum.*

STEP UP TO TITHING

*I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.*

STEP UP TOWARD TITHING

I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.

MY COMMITMENT IS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week.

This represents an increase over last year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

# THANK YOU!



**A BIG THANK YOU TO BETTY KENNEDY AND ALL THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND WORKERS THAT MADE THE ANNUAL MARZETTI DINNER OUTREACH-MISSION A SUCCESS.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO A WORTHY CAUSE.**

*"<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17 NIV)*