



A Clear Path Forward!

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

**Celebrating Epiphany**

January 19, 2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany  
11 o'clock Worship Service

**Pastor Kelvin Perry, Grace Presbyterian Church, Martinsville, VA**  
**Guest Minister**

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

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



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Third Sunday after Epiphany

## GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Ron Johnson

### **WELCOME**

### **THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

...Blessed be God, who knows us and calls us by name.

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**

Elder Carolyn

McKinnon

L. How precious is God's steadfast love!

**P. We will find refuge in the shelter of God's wings.**

L. Come and feast on God's abundance.

**P. We will drink from the river of God's delights.**

L. For with God is the fountain of life;

**P. And in God's light, we will see light.**

L. Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

**P. We will bring God our prayers and our praise with hearts full of love.**

**ALL. Let us worship God in the splendor of holiness.**

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Elder McKinnon

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** #318 "In Christ, There Is No East or West" **GTG**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Elder McKinnon

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

Elder McKinnon

**God of all life and our lives,**

**we gather in worship week by week, seeking your refreshing presence. But we confess that sometimes we are discouraged by things happening around us. We don't expect your presence to make a difference for us. Forgive us when we give up on you and end up feeling unfulfilled. By your grace, refresh us when we are weary or worried and renew our trust in you.**

*(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Johnson

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Pastor Perry

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Ephesians 1:3-14 NRSVE

Pastor Perry

<sup>3</sup>All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. <sup>4</sup>Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup>God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

<sup>6</sup>So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. <sup>7</sup>He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup>He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

<sup>9</sup>God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan.

<sup>10</sup>And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>11</sup>Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

<sup>12</sup> God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. <sup>13</sup> And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Ms. Michele Imes

**THE MESSAGE**

A Clear Path Forward!

Pastor Perry

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A Brief Statement of Faith (spoken in unison)* Rev. Johnson

***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** #321 "The Church's One Foundation" **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**

Elder McKinnon

**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)* Elder McKinnon

***God, you made each of us in our uniqueness, and together, you made all of us to bear your image in the world. Accept our gifts, unique as they are, and bless them for the sake of your Son, Jesus. May they bear his grace and mercy into the world you love so your purposes will be fulfilled.***

## **CALL TO MISSION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #339 *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"* **GTG**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE**

Pastor Perry

**\*THE BLESSING**

Pastor Perry

**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, January 2025**

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

- Jan. 19: Pastor Kelvin Perry is our guest speaker at worship, 11A  
Jan. 20: Rev. M.L. King Jr. Day Celebrated  
Jan. 21: Called Meeting of Session, 12N  
Jan. 30: Community Board Meeting, FPC Conf. Rm, 5P  
Feb. 2: Communion Sunday, 11A  
Feb. 5: Mission and Congregational Life (MCL), 4P  
Feb. 6: Pastor serves on PSV Mediation Team, 2P  
Feb. 12: Session Meets, Conf. Rm. 1P  
Feb. 14: Valentines Day Celebrated  
Feb. 17: Federal Holiday (President's Day) Celebrated  
Feb. 17: Pastor serves with Committee on Ministry (COM), 12:30P  
Feb. 18: PSV meets, Hybrid, 3:30P (Loc. TBA)  
Feb. 22: Faith and Finance Seminar, PSV 10A  
Feb. 25-Mar. 4: Pastor away

**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](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. Sun., 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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  
COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_