



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

March 16, 2025
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Pastor, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Deacon Robert Mohl, 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

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Deacon Robert Mohl

L: Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

**P. Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
who seek God with their whole heart.**

L. Make us understand the way of your precepts, O God,
and we will meditate on your wondrous works.

**All: Put false ways far from us, O God,
and graciously teach us your law.**

***PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Deacon Mohl

***HYMN OF PRAISE** #353 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" **GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Deacon Mohl

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Holy God, we confess we have failed to live as your holy people. We have cared for ourselves at others' expense. We have not answered your calls for justice and peace. We have harmed the creation you entrusted to our care, and have ignored your image in our neighbors. In your mercy, forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to live as loyal subjects of your realm, and as more faithful followers of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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

Matthew 5:1-16 (NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV) Deacon Mohl

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dr. Phillip Roberts

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Ron Johnson

The Message of Jesus: *The World's Most Important Sermon*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

***We believe Jesus Christ brought God's Kingdom near,
calling all people to repent and believe the good news.
We believe his death on the cross.
exposes both the reality of human sin
and the depths of God's selfless, sacrificial love.
We believe his resurrection
is God's ultimate victory over sin, hate, evil, and death.
We believe that through the Holy Spirit,
Jesus still calls us and all to repent and believe the gospel,***

*yielding our hearts to God alone,
embodying in our lives
the justice, mercy, and love of God's rule.*

HYMN #172 "Blest Are They" **GTG**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...Hear us for his sake, in whose name we pray saying:

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken in unison)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on the 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

Deacon Mohl

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)* Deacon Mohl

Living God, we offer our gifts today in hopeful gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to increase the goodness enjoyed by those in need. Bless our lives that, through our relationships, others will be touched by the hope we know in Christ Jesus and find their lives blessed by his love and mercy. Amen.

CALL TO MISSION

*** CLOSING HYMN** #175 "Seek Ye First" **GTG**

*** CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Rev. Johnson

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

***SENDING SONG** #543 "O Christ, Surround Me" vs. 1 only **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.**



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

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

Mar. 19: Lenten Bible Study w/ dinner, 5:30P

Mar. 20: SCM meets at FPC, TBA

Mar. 24: Pastor meets with COM via Zoom, 1P

Mar. 25: Advocacy Day, Columbus State House (Hunger and Housing)

Mar. 26: Lenten Bible Study w/ dinner, 5:30P

Mar. 26: PCUSA Advocacy Hour, PCUSA, Immigration and Migration 12P

Mar. 27: Church Secty./Admin. Aid away.

Mar. 30: Deacons Meet, 12:30P

Apr. 2: MCL meets, 4P

Apr. 2: Lenten Bible Study and dinner, 5:30 P

Apr. 6: Communion Sunday, 11A

Apr. 9: Board of Session Meets, 1P

Apr. 9: Lenten Bible Study and dinner ends, 5:30P

Apr. 10: Pastor gathers with PSV Mediation Team, 2P

Apr. 13: Palm Sunday (First Day of Passover), 11A

Apr. 17: FPC hosts Maundy Thursday worship w/2PC, 5:30P

Apr 18: Good Friday

Apr. 20 Easter Sunday Worship, 11A

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