



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

Celebrating Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025
4th Sunday in Epiphany
11 o'clock Worship Service

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

We are glad you came...



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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**

Elder Elizabeth Kennedy

L. There is one true God

**P. whom to know is life eternal,
whom to serve is joy and peace.**

L. God creates all that is.

**P. The whole universe displays
the majesty and power of its Maker.**

L. We worship God as the source of all life.

All: With thanks we acknowledge

God's wisdom, power, faithfulness, and love.

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

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Elder Kennedy

***HYMN OF PRAISE** #529 "Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether" **GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Kennedy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (spoken in unison)

Elder Kennedy

God of grace and harmony, we confess we can be divisive when you call us to unity, quarrelsome when you call us to seek peace, and critical rather than caring. We have grown used to our own ways

and cannot imagine you would ask us to change even for the sake of the Gospel. Forgive us when we mistake our familiar traditions for your truth. Show us how we can witness to your love through working and worshipping together. Amen. *(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 NRSVUE

¹ all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 4:14-21 NRSVUE Elder Kennedy

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dr. Phillip Roberts

THE MESSAGE

"Living with Joy, Blessed for Good"

Rev. Johnson

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith (spoken in unison)

Rev. Johnson

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: Jesus was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. This is the story of our faith, and it fills us with hope. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Johnson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

HYMN #523 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" **GTG**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Elder Kennedy

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 Kennedy

God of life and love, we are grateful for all you have given us in Christ and in creation, in community, and in the Church that bears Jesus' name. We offer our gifts to you in love, trusting you will bless them and us. May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at work in the world, for Christ's sake. Amen.

CALL TO MISSION

**** CLOSING HYMN*** #39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" **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, January – February 2025

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

Feb. 2: Communion Sunday, 11A

Feb. 2: Funeral Home Viewing, Mr. Roy Noel, Melcher-Hammer Funl., 4-7 PM

Feb. 5: Mission and Congregational Life (MCL), 4P

Feb. 6: Pastor serves on PSV Mediation Team, 2P

Feb. 8: Officers Training Event, FP Chillichote, 9A – 11:30A

(Please Register-PSV)

Feb. 12: Session Meets, Conf. Rm. 1P

Feb. 14: Valentine's 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, Grove City PC, 3:30P

(Please Register-PSV)

Feb. 22: Faith and Finance Seminar, Broad St. PC, 10A

(Please Register-PSV)

Feb. 22: Presby. Women Gathering by Zoom, (TBA)

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

Feb. 25-Mar. 4: Pastor away

Feb. 28, Faith and Futures Seminar, Broad St. PC, Columbus, 10A-3P

(Please Register-PSV)

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