



**What Matters in  
a Life of Faith?**

**Mark 7:1-8, 4-5, 21-23  
James 1:17-27**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

**September 1, 2024**  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**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*

Pastor Ron Johnson

## *WELCOME*

## *THE COMMUNITY GATHERS*

## *PRELUDE*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

## *\*CALL TO WORSHIP*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

L. Holy God, you call us to worship.

**P. In your presence, we seek truth and forgiveness.**

L. Holy God, you call us to worship you.

**P. In your presence, we seek the grace to forgive one another.**

L. Holy God, you call us to worship you, heart, body, mind and soul.

**ALL: So we gather to offer you our prayer and praise with joyful thanks.**

## *PRAYER FOR THE DAY*

Dr. Roberts

*\*HYMN OF PRAISE #451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" GTG*

## *CALL TO CONFESSION*

Dr. Roberts

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

*Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we silently pass by those who are not like us on the other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen. (Invitation to silent confession and reflection)*

## *ASSURANCE 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 7:1-8, 4-15, 21-23 NLT

*Jesus Teaches about Inner Purity*

**7** One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. **2** They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. **3** (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. **4** Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to—such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.)

**5** So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony."

**6** Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**7** Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'

**8** For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."

**14** Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "All of you listen," he said, "and try to understand. **15** It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart **21** For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, **22** adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. **23** All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

James 1:17-27 NLT

Dr. Roberts

<sup>17</sup> Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

### *Listening and Doing*

<sup>19</sup> Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. <sup>20</sup> Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. <sup>21</sup> So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

<sup>26</sup> If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

L: The Word of the Lord

*P: Praise be to God!*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Ms. Michele Imes

## **THE MESSAGE**

Rev. Johnson

### ***AFFIRMATION of FAITH (from the Barmen Declaration)***

***As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to God's Creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong***

*to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification or sanctification through him.*

***CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER and THE LORD’S PRAYER***

...It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here. Amen

L. The Lord be with you.

*P: And also with you.*

L. Lift up your hearts.

*P: We lift them up to the Lord.*

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

***HYMN DURING COMMUNION***

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

***THE LORD’S PRAYER***

*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

***\*THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (spoken in unison)***

Great is your faithfulness, O God, and so we offer to you a portion of what we have received through your unfailing goodness. Bless these gifts and our lives, so that your love is proclaimed to the world through all we accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour. 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.**

**CALL TO MISSION**

<i>*CLOSING HYMN</i>	#693 " <i>Though I May Speak</i> "	<b>GTG</b>
<i>*CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE</i>		Rev. Johnson
<i>*THE BLESSING</i>		Rev. Johnson
<i>ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL</i>		Miss Abby & Family
<i>*SENDING SONG</i>	#541 " <i>God Be with You Till We Meet Again</i> "	<b>GTG</b>
<i>POSTLUDE</i>	<i>(Please be seated for the postlude)</i>	Dr. Roberts

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



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

First Presbyterian Church offers members and visitors limited access to the internet during worship services. You can bring your iPad, smartphone, android device, or Chrome Book and read your favorite translation of the Bible, look up parallel passages, take notes for an in-depth study, or Google the message points. We only ask that you not text friends and family during worship and to use our Wi-Fi ethically.

Look for: "First Presbyterian1- Guest in your WiFi settings  
Enter the password: "neweverymorning!221" and accept the conditions.

## **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 and Community Calendar for September**

- Sept. 1: FPC celebrates the Lord's Supper, 11A.
- Sept. 4: Armbrust Student Loan Cmte. (ASLC) meets, 5:30P.
- Sept. 5: Pastor meets with PSV Mediation Team for practice, 2P.
- Sept. 11: The Board of Session meets, Conf. Rm. 1P.
- Sept. 22: The Board of Deacons meets following Worship.
- Sept. 23-30: Pastor away.
- Sept. 24: Rev. Ron Johnson's Birthday. "Happy Birthday!"
- Sept. 29: FPC welcomes Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions, Presbytery of Scioto Valley to the pulpit, 11A.

**Food Pantry Open's 12P-2P Every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. Monthly**

### **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)

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**<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