



*ADVENT*  
THE GIFT OF  
CHRISTMAS

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

December 7, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Lisa Eye, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Pastor  
Elder Betty Kennedy, Liturgist  
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music  
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician

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



## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

#### ***WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY***

Elder Betty Kennedy

#### ***ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS***

#### ***PRELUDE TO BEGIN WORSHIP***

Dr. Phillip Roberts

#### ***\*CALL TO WORSHIP***

Ms. Betty Kennedy

**L.** A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**P.** Prepare the way of the Lord!

**L.** The God of hope and peace has invited us here.

**P.** We gather to praise God, who brings justice and righteousness to all.

**L.** Let us prepare our hearts and our lives for Christ to be born in us once again.

**ALL.** Blessed be the Lord, who has done marvelous things!

—adapted from Matthew 3:3 and Romans 5:15:4-13

#### ***PRAYER FOR THE DAY***

Elder Betty Kennedy

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** #82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” GTG **\*ADVENT**

#### ***LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT***

Elder Betty Kennedy

**L:** We watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

**P:** We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

**L:** In hope, the prophets spoke of God’s promised day and the coming of a Messiah.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

Hear God’s promise for peace from Isaiah 11:1-10:

*P: Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding. May the desire to sow peace be kindled in us like a light in the darkness through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*ALL: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.*

<b>RESPONSE</b>	#88 “O Come, O Come, <i>Emanuel</i> ” verse 7 only	<b>GTG</b>
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**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** Elder Betty Kennedy

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

*God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.*

*(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)*

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS*** Rev. Lisa Eye

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

***PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING*** Rev. Lisa Eye

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Romans 15:4-13 Rev. Lisa Eye

L: This is the Word of the Lord

***P: Praise be to God!***

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 3:1-12 Rev. Lisa Eye

L: This is the Word of the Lord

***P: Praise be to God!***

***THE MESSAGE***                      ***“Repentance & Peace”***                      Rev. Lisa Eye

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE* Rev. Eye

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

Elder Betty Kennedy

As we have been given so many gifts,  
let us return a portion of those gifts to God.

**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 Betty Kennedy

*We thank you, God of Peace, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation. As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our faith, our commitments, our treasure, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain. Amen.*

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE****HYMN OF PREPARATION** #92 “While We Are Waiting, Come”**GTG****GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L. The Lord be with you.

**P. And also with you.**

L. Lift up your hearts.

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

L. Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**P. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L. God of Advent Hope.... As we wait for your child to be born, hear us as we sing your majesty:

**P. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

L. Christ of Advent Hope.... We gather this day, God of all majesty and power, to lift up your holy name and proclaim the mystery of faith:

**P. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

L. Spirit of Advent Hope.... Hear us now as we pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying, **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup  
Communion of the People  
Prayer after Communion**

### **CALL TO MISSION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      # 96 "*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*"      **GTG**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE & BENEDICTION**      Rev. Eye

### **ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL**

**\*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**



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## **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, December 2025**

The FPC Food Pantry will be closed until further notice due to Sanctuary Restoration.

Worship is held in the Church Lounge at 11A till further notice

Dec. Armbrust meeting TBA

Dec. 10: Session meets in Conference Rm./Zoom 1P

Dec. 16: Lessons and Carol's at Second Presbyterian, 7:30P

Christmas Eve Service with Second Presbyterian, Time TBA

### **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

Pastors Email: [leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com)

Pas. Study: (740)529-7117

Virginia M. Stinnett, Admin. Aid/Church Secretary,

[vstinnett.fpcport@gmail.com](mailto:vstinnett.fpcport@gmail.com)

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**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