



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Service for
the Lord's Day**

September 26, 2021

*Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost*

Please remember to silence your cell phone. 

Welcome to worship! In response to rising virus numbers and recent guidance, our church is again requiring that all those attending worship and any other events inside the church keep masked at all times to keep vulnerable members safe. There will be a chance to gather outside on the plaza following worship to greet one another.

The Gathering

PRELUDE His Eye Is on the Sparrow arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Saranam, saranam Punjabi melody (arr. Geoff Weaver)
 Jesus, Savior, Lord, now to you I come. *Saranam, saranam, saranam.*
 You're my rock, my refuge, my heavenly home. *Saranam, saranam, saranam.*
 In your heart give me a hiding place, and beneath your wings let me find sheltering grace;
 O let me see the sunshine of your face. *Saranam, saranam, saranam.*
 — D. T. (Daniel Thambyrajah) Niles, 1963

Saranam means "I take refuge" or "surrender."

* CALL TO WORSHIP

If it had not been for God, who was on our side,
 we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.
Blessed be the Lord, our protector!
 God has broken the snare that took away our freedom.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Blessed be God's holy name!



** Please stand as you are able.*



***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Unison*)

Teach us, O Lord, not to be anxious about earthly concerns,
but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among
transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN #35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

***INVITATION TO CONFESSION**



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Our prayers continue in silence.



***LORD, HAVE MERCY**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

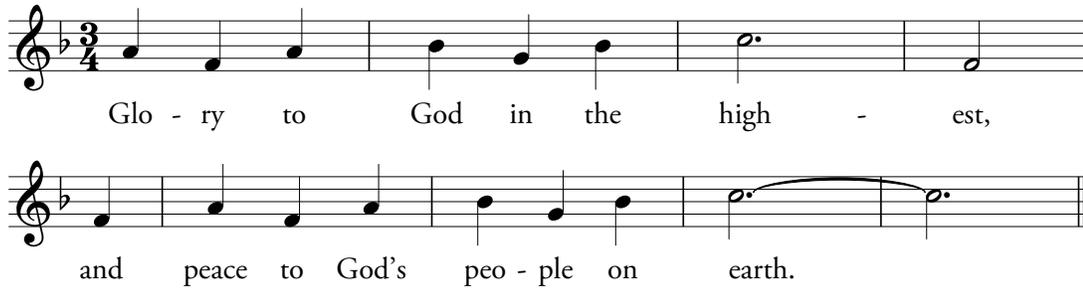
John Merbecke, 1550 (arr. Healey Willan, 1930)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

– Please join in singing the refrain –



© 1995 by Hal H. Hopson

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we are also to forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to be thankful for God's peace.

The Word

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 124:1-8 Pew Bible, pg. 572 (OT)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



ANTHEM**Our Help Is in the Name of God**

Genevan Psalter

Our help is in the name of God the Lord,
 the One who made the heavens with a word,
 creator of the world, each living thing.
 Come, bless the Lord, lift up your hearts and sing:
 "Our help is in the name of God the Lord."

When evil seems to have the upper hand,
 call on God's name: the Lord, the great "I AM."
 When troubles rise and all around gives way,
 remember God stays with us night and day.
 Our help is in the name of God the Lord.

Praise God the Lord who hears the captives' prayer.
 Like birds escaping from the fowler's snare
 we are set free; our praises now ascend:
 "Blessed be the Lord: Creator, Savior, Friend.
 Our help is in the name of God the Lord."

— *Martin Tel, 2011***SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Pew Bible, pg. 448 (OT)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**SERMON**

"When God Isn't Visible"

Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks

***HYMN**

Perhaps You Have Been Chosen

AURELIA

"Perhaps you have been chosen for such a time as this!"
 So Mordecai told Esther to serve as she'd been blessed.
 Their people were in danger and needed someone brave —
 a queen who knew her calling to risk and act and save.

She stood up for her people and dared approach the king
 although he might have killed her for doing such a thing.
 Inviting him to dinner — a feast to satisfy —
 she asked of him a favor: "Don't let my people die!"

The king gave what she wanted and let her people live,
 and all because Queen Esther used what she had to give.
 She faced her fear with courage, she changed the things she could,
 She chose to make a difference — to use her life for good.

O God, we look around us and see a world in need.
 There's violence and injustice, there's prejudice and greed.
 Remind us of our calling to bravely use our gifts.
 Perhaps we have been chosen for such a time as this.

Text: © 2015 by Carolyn
 Winfrey Gillette. Used by
 permission.

Tune: AURELIA, 7.6.7.6.D;
 Samuel Sebastian Wesley,
 1864

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

from Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Stand, O Stand Firm

Trad. Cameroon

Stand, O stand firm and see what our God can do.

Thank you for your faithful support of the church and Christ's ongoing ministry. You may give through the church website at this link: firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving or mail your check to the church office: 1200 SW Alder St., Portland, OR 97205. Those attending worship are invited to leave gifts in the offering plates as they leave the sanctuary.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM; Genevan Psalter, 1551



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Sending



*HYMN #275	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	EIN' FESTE BURG
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	Prelude on <i>Ein' Feste Burg</i>	Helmut Walcha

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Associate Pastor
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. John Evans, Lector

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We join in holding in prayer:
Liz Dean, Ed & Janice Gehrig, Herb Grose, Carl Hammond, Bob Hastings, Fran Hermanson, Myra Rounsavell, Tom Showalter, Pete Taylor, and others facing illness and loss.
If you would like your name added to the prayer section of the weekly bulletin, or confidential prayers, please contact the church office at office@firstpresportland.org or by phone at (503) 228-7331.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in loving memory of our parents, Ansel and Etta Grose, and Ed and Phyllis Nash, by Herb and Louise Grose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blues Guitar Concert Today at 2:00pm

Celebration Works is back for another season of concerts! We're excited to welcome Mary Flower, internationally-known musician and teacher, to present 20th Century Blues and Ragtime Guitar: a concert and history lesson, today at 2:00pm. Join us in person or stream the concert live on our webpage as Mary Flower plays and sings you through the music that paved the way to jazz, and later, rock and roll. Mary Flower is the artistic director of Menucha's Blues in the Gorge program, which is our community spotlight for the concert! Find more information and the streaming link: firstpresportland.org/arts-music/celebration-works/

Columbarium Dedication Today

Please join us for the dedication of the recently completed Memorial Garden and Columbarium today after worship at noon. The dedication service celebrates the culmination of a three-year project spearheaded by Columbarium Committee Chair, Joyce Evans, and Committee Members Laurina Shively, Ann van Bever and Jon Bates. The installation of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium is a timeless and welcome addition to the church's Plaza and provides a peaceful place for quiet meditation and remembrance.

Presbyterian Women (PWM) Virtual Bake Sale

An updated list is available in the Glass Office in the PWM box, as well as on the FPC website under "News and Events." The list changes weekly, and continues until Thanksgiving, so please check for updated information! All proceeds benefit PWM operating and mission projects.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Passion Play

"Where God's Story Meets Our Story" is the theme of an international study pilgrimage of the Holy Land and the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, led by Brian Heron, Cascades Presbyter for Vision and Mission, and pastors Steve Knox and Tim Cayton, next May 14-25, 2022 that explores how Jesus' story informs our story. For a brochure or more information contact Brian Heron at brian@potc.life or at 541-465-9173.

Lectors Needed for October/November/December

Willing and able to lend your voice to a Sunday reading? Lectors are needed for various Sundays through December. Send a note to Jennifer in the office: communications@firstpresportland.org.

Peace & Global Witness Offering Dedicated Oct. 3

Through the annual Peace & Global Witness Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we work to share Christ's peace with one another, beyond our doors, beyond our community and across boundaries. One-quarter of the amount received remains with our congregation for ministries in our community.

Gifts to the Offering can be made online through the church website or mail your donation to the church. Please give generously to support those working to share the dream of peace and reconciliation, as proclaimed by the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Artwork in the Chapel

In the Chapel Gallery is a new Exhibition entitled "Hope in Every Step: the Immigrant Experience." Fifteen artists born outside the United States have their work on display, as well as the compelling personal stories of their journeys to a new home. We are all invited to join in welcoming them at an Artist's Reception scheduled for Sunday, October 3, following worship.

Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, October 9, at 10:00 am, Pastor Brenna will lead a Blessing of the Animals service on the plaza. Pets that are comfortable traveling are welcome to attend on leashes or in carriers. If your pet is afraid of car rides, or their behavior is unpredictable around other animals, you can bring a photograph. You can also bring photographs of animal companions who are no longer physically with us, and we will give thanks for their lives during the service.

Sunday Morning Doors

If you are without a passkey and intend to arrive to the church early on Sunday mornings, please use the Geneva Hall entrance from the parking garage. Doors will be open at 8:30 am.

Scripture Readings:

Next week's scripture readings will come from the Lectionary readings: Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12. You can find more information on the lectionary here: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu> The church library has copies of a good study Bible if you're looking for more background: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha: New Revised Standard Version*.



"Esther before King Ahasuerus with Haman being sent to the Gallows beyond,"
(studio of) Claessens, Anthuenis, 1577



Mission Statement:

Glorifying God,
Proclaiming Christ,
Serving Others

Vision Statement:

At First Presbyterian Church, we commit to building faithfully on our legacy as a Christ-centered community, serving the spiritual needs of a multi-generational congregation, welcoming and accepting all, honoring all voices. Through engaging worship, thoughtful education, warm fellowship and caring outreach, we will develop and sustain disciples for Christ, serving our neighbors near and far.

PRINCIPAL CHURCH STAFF

Pastoral

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenna Dykman, Interim Associate Pastor

Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate

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Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

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Sunday Services online at <https://www.firstpresportland.org/church-life/worship-services/>

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Menucha (503) 695-2243