



# First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

## Service for the Lord's Day

*Please remember to silence your cell phone.* 

December 12, 2021

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Welcome to worship! In response to virus numbers and recent guidance, our church is requiring that all those attending worship and any other events inside the church keep masked at all times to help keep vulnerable members safe. Weather permitting, there will be a coffee hour on the plaza following the service. When weather is inclement, you are invited to remain in the sanctuary or chapel and chapel narthex for a time of greeting following worship.*

### The Gathering

**PRELUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659 Johann Sebastian Bach

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INTROIT** Savior of the Nations, Come Balthasar Resinarius  
Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here thy home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Katie Long and Timothy, Sarah, and Elizabeth Crane

We light this candle in joy, as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

*Isa. 35:1*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Amen.**



#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us pray in the darkness,

**until we see God's light emerge.**

Let us wait with hope-filled hearts,

**as Christ's image grows within us.**

Let Christ speak to us and teach us love

**until we open our hearts to be his home.**



*\* Please stand as you are able.*



\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Unison*)

Eternal God,  
you sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.  
Grant us wisdom to see your purpose,  
that we as well may prepare the way for Christ  
who is coming in glory to establish his realm of peace and justice;  
through Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever. Amen.

\*HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Let us pray that we are ready for Christ's coming.  
God of the future, you are coming in power  
to bring all nations under your rule.  
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,  
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.  
We too often exploit our neighbors, abuse the earth,  
and refuse your justice and peace.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,  
and to seek things that will endure the day of Christ's coming.

*Our prayers continue in silence.*



\*LORD, HAVE MERCY

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri - ste e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Text: Trad. liturgical text Music: Russian Orthodox chant

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**



At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,



all things on earth with one ac - cord, like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851  
Music: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.

**\*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

**BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**    **Philippians 4:4-7**    **Pew Bible, pg. 196 (NT)**  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**ANTHEM** Rejoice in the Lord Always Anonymous (16th century)  
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.  
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.  
Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication  
let your petitions be manifest unto God, with giving of thanks.  
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesu. Amen.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 3:2-18 Pew Bible, pg. 60 (NT)  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.



**SERMON** "Singing in the Dark" Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler

\***HYMN #163** Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice ABERYSWYTH

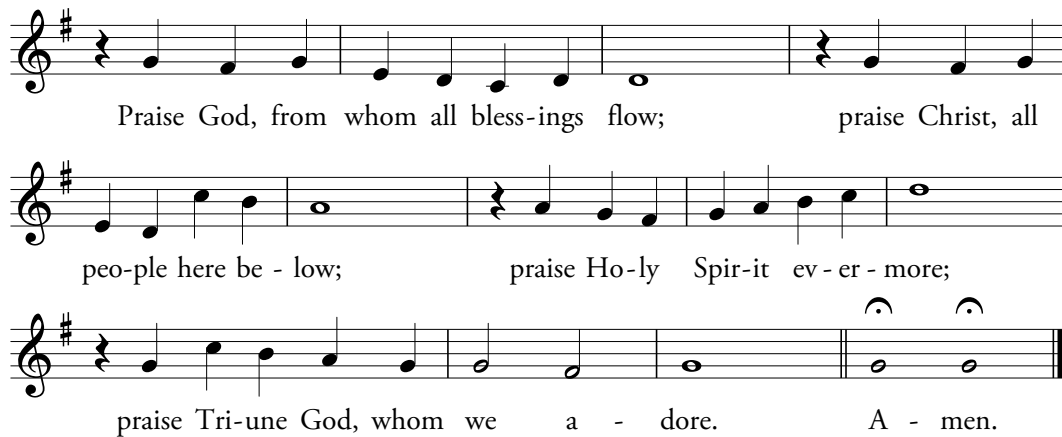
\***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)** *adapted from* the Second Helvetic Confession

Although those who preceded us in faith  
had the gospel in the writings of the prophets,  
yet the gospel's glad and joyous news  
was preached to us first by John the Baptist,  
then by Christ the Lord himself,  
and afterwards by the apostles.  
God has now performed what he promised  
from the beginning of the world,  
giving us God's only Son, and in him reconciliation,  
the remission of sins, and everlasting life.

**OFFERTORY** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence arr. Sandra Riddell Wagner  
*(Handbell Choir)*

*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](http://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**



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;                      praise Christ, all  
peo-ple here be - low;                      praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more;  
praise Tri-une God, whom we                      a - dore.                      A - men.

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg    Music: © 2008 by Hal H. Hopson

**\*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 #96**                      On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry                      WINCHESTER NEW

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661                      J.S. Bach



## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Interim Associate Pastor  
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate  
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries  
Dick McFall, Lector

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We join in holding in prayer:*  
Liz Dean, Ed & Janice Gehrig, Herb Grose, 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](mailto: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: Betty and Elmer Dohrmann, Irene and Bob Moore, by Tom and Sue Moore.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Peggy Hammond, who died on Monday.*

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore. (Psalm 121:8)*



## Stewardship 2022

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind...and love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39*

“Love God, love our Neighbors” is the focus of First Presbyterian Church’s 2022 stewardship campaign. While we have much to be thankful for, we are also facing a time of great need and our stewardship pledges allow us to plan for outreach and programs in the year ahead.

We set a 2022 pledge goal of \$750,000, and as of December 6, we are at \$674,373, or 89.9% of our goal. We thank all of you who have submitted pledges so far, and for those who have not - it’s not too late! If you have not already done so, we ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge for 2022 for FPC to strengthen the church’s work and witness for the coming year. You can mail your pledge card to the church, or pledge online by going to the church website and clicking on the “Donate” button.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of First Presbyterian Church in Portland. Questions: Please contact the FPC office by email at [office@firstpresportland.org](mailto:office@firstpresportland.org) or call 503-228-7331.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Tonight at 5:00 pm: Learn How to Bake a Yule Log**

Tonight, FPC member Linda Lewis hosts “Cooking It Up with First Pres!” Zoom in at 5:00 pm for fellowship, fun and good food! Linda is a retired baker who will demonstrate how to create the holiday cake known as a Yule Log. Bake along or just watch and enjoy spending an hour with some FPC friends. We’ll record it so you can watch again later. The invite has the Zoom link and a list of ingredients. Start here: <http://evite.me/RC3EkYTtTN>

### **“Blue Christmas” Service**

The coming weeks may not be “the most wonderful time of the year” for everyone. For those grieving a loss – of a loved one, physical or mental health, more carefree times, etc. – the joy of the season can at times seem out of reach. We will be offering a simple service of readings and music on Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00pm. It will be a time of reflection, remembrance, acceptance, and hope as we await the coming of the Light of the world. All are welcome.

### **Youth Christmas Party**

Youth 5th to 12th grade are invited to a Christmas Party at the church next Sunday, December 19, following the service until 1pm. Games, treats, and lots of fun will be had! Come in your best Christmas costume or ugly sweater and friends are always welcome at FPC!

### **Lift UP Fall Food and Fund Drive**

FPC is participating in the Lift UP Fall Food and Fund Drive! From Sunday, December 5 to December 19, we will be collecting non-perishable food items. Look for marked tubs at the entry to the Sanctuary or by the church office. Some of the most needed items are: Low sodium foods (must be under 140 mg of sodium), low/no sugar added foods, gluten-free foods, nut butters, canned tuna or meat banned, dried beans, rice, and grains, cans or cartons of soup, breakfast items. Questions? Contact [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org)

### **Fair Trade Holiday Gifts**

Order your gifts online for our first virtual (and weekly) Fair Trade Holiday Market! For top quality handmade blankets provided by formerly trafficked and vulnerable women in Bangladesh, shop [www.bashaboutique.com](http://www.bashaboutique.com). To obtain an amazing variety of unique, high quality crafts from Guatemala crafted by poor indigenous women, shop at UPAVIM and Mayan Hands: [www.upavimcrafts.org](http://www.upavimcrafts.org), and [www.mayanhands.org](http://www.mayanhands.org). Thank you for spreading the blessings and joy this holy holiday season.

### **Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future**

Every year the Christmas Joy Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) looks to both our past and our future by giving needed help to retired church workers and supporting the education of prospective church leaders currently enrolled in Presbyterian schools for students of color. Please mail your donation to the church or give online through the church website. For more information, see the insert included with the bulletin today.

### **Zoom Coffee Hour on December 19 After Worship**

Those who are worshipping with us from home are invited to a Zoom coffee hour following the service next Sunday, December 19, beginning just after worship at 11:35 am. You’ll be invited to share a favorite Christmas tradition. The Zoom link is: <https://bit.ly/FPCFellowship> Hope you can join in this time of renewing connections with the congregation!

### **FPC Giving Tree**

FPC Giving Tree has been a huge success! Thank you to all who chose a gift tag or two from our tree. If you’d still like to give, it’s not too late! We also have an online Giving Tree at: <https://bit.ly/FPCGivingTree> All online gifts will be shipped directly to either New Avenues for Youth or With Love Foster Care for Children. Christmas Blessings to all! Questions? Please contact Laurina Shively, [shivelyLLL@comcast.net](mailto:shivelyLLL@comcast.net)

### **Baked with Love at Menucha**

This is the last week to order cookies, brownies or bread baked with love at Menucha to enjoy in your own home or give as gifts. Place your order at [www.menucha.org/baked-with-love](http://www.menucha.org/baked-with-love) by Wednesday, December 15 at 5:00 pm and pick up your baked goods on Sunday, December 19 at the FPC kitchen after worship. Questions? Call the Menucha office at 503-695-2243.

### **Lay Readers Needed for the New Year!**

Willing and able to lend your voice to a Sunday reading? Lay readers are needed for all Sundays starting January 2022! Send a note to Jennifer in the office: [communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org).

### **Scripture Readings**

Next week’s scripture readings will be: Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-55. The church library has copies of a good study Bible if you’d like more background: *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. It is also available on Kindle.



“Prepare the way of the Lord...”  
“Saint John the Baptist,” Alvise Vivarini, c. 1475



LOVE GOD.  
LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

***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 [aschindler@firstpresportland.org](mailto:aschindler@firstpresportland.org)  
Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor [spencer@menucha.org](mailto:spencer@menucha.org)  
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Interim Associate Pastor [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org)  
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate [ddornack@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ddornack@firstpresportland.org)  
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org)

### Music

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries [ghomza@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ghomza@firstpresportland.org)

### Administration

Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator [cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)

First Presbyterian Church  
1200 SW Alder Street Portland, OR 97205

[www.firstpresportland.org](http://www.firstpresportland.org)



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

Church Office (503) 228-7331

Menucha (503) 695-2243