





### \*LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory,  
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:

**Renew our lives by your presence.**

O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time  
for the liberation of all creation:

**Release all into your promised freedom.**

O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,  
born in a stable at Bethlehem:

**May your church be a sign of hope and joy.**

O Christ, truly God and truly human,  
born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:

**Fulfill our desires in you.**

O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor,  
mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:

**May the whole world live in peace and justice.**

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our World  
has brightened weary hearts with peace.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*HYMN #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful (*Verses 1,3,4*)

ADESTE FIDELES

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God of grace and truth,

in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light,

or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,

expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,

so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,

and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.



### \*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**

Because God came to be with us; our Emmanuel.  
Grace upon Grace has been made know to all.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God.

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

GLORIA

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**\*PASSING 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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 98

Pew Bible, p. 551 (OT)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM**

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels;  
no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.  
Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;  
no place but a stable. My Lord has come.  
His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.  
Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;  
no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

*(Alex Trull, tenor)*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** John 1:1-14

Pew Bible, pg. 91 (NT)

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

**MEDITATION** "The Word Made Flesh and Dwelled with Us" Rev. Brenna Dykman

**\*HYMN #132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBLIO





## 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 #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Mary Beth Bennett

*Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.*

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Brenna Dykman, Interim Associate Pastor  
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries  
Leah Papay and Alex Trull, Vocalists

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We join in holding in prayer:*

Kathy Callas, Ed Gehrig, Fran Hermanson, 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.

### IN MEMORIAM

*Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Janice Gehrig, who passed away peacefully on December 16, and of Jack Schmidt, who passed away peacefully on December 18.*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thanks to all who have helped to make the Christmas services special this year, the Chancel Guild, the Choir and Director of Music Ministries, Greg Homza, the A/V volunteers, the ushers and greeters, the lay readers and the candlelighters—we're grateful for helping us celebrate the joy of Christ's coming!*

### **New Gallery Exhibition- Larry Gross: Visualizing Ideas**

Join us in the Gallery following worship this morning to view Artist Larry Gross' Exhibition, Visualizing Ideas. Larry Gross taught art at Concordia University for 30 years. Teaching and making stained glass has influenced his drawing and painting compositions. Larry is intrigued by the way ideas from different sources interface when they are brought together in the same picture plane. The idea grows with new thoughts or triggers that enter in.

### **...Love one another and have a compassionate heart.**

Recently, we celebrated the dedication of our 2023 pledges at First Presbyterian. As you probably know, our 2023 goal is \$800,000. This money will be used to commit ourselves to our church's health, its mission, and our expression of God's love within the congregation and the world around us. We thank all of you who have submitted pledges so far. If you haven't done so yet, we ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge for 2023. You can mail your pledge to the church or make your pledge online by going to the church website and clicking on the "2023 Stewardship Pledge" button. Thank you so much for your ongoing support of First Presbyterian Church in Portland as we look ahead to a great year ahead!

### **Open Circle 2023**

Open Circle's first meeting of 2023 will be 10:15 am, Thursday, Jan. 5, in the Whitman Room (on the second floor of the Parish House). This season we will be using the Presbyterian Women's Horizons Bible Study "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight" by Carol M. Bechtel. Books cost \$10 and will be available for purchase at our meetings or online at: <https://www.pcusastore.com/AdvancedSearch/DefaultWFilter.aspx?SearchTerm=Celebrating+Sabbath>. An audio edition of the book is available for \$15.00 at this site.

### **Back by Popular Demand: Soft Goods Collection**

Do you have old clothing, shoes, bags, luggage, bedding that you have been meaning to toss or rehome? Bring it to church! The youth are once again collecting soft goods to raise money for the 2023 Mission trip to the Philippines. Bring washed soft goods (in any condition) to be re-sold or re-cycled. Items can be dropped off in Geneva Hall under the "Soft Goods" sign.

### **Walk with those who serve the church**

The annual Christmas Joy Offering assists Presbyterian Church (USA) workers and their families in times of need and supports the development of future leaders. One half of our gifts provide critical financial assistance to church workers in emergency situations or whose service predates adequate pension coverage. Please help those who have dedicated their lives to the service of Jesus Christ. You may place your donation in the collection plate or give online through the church website.



"Holy Family" 1973  
Margret Hofheinz-Döring



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	<a href="mailto:aschindler@firstpresportland.org">aschindler@firstpresportland.org</a>
Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:spencer@menucha.org">spencer@menucha.org</a>
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Interim Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org">bdykman@firstpresportland.org</a>
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate	<a href="mailto:ddornack@firstpresportland.org">ddornack@firstpresportland.org</a>
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate	<a href="mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org">cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org</a>

### Music

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries	<a href="mailto:ghomza@firstpresportland.org">ghomza@firstpresportland.org</a>
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### Administration

Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator	<a href="mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org">cba@firstpresportland.org</a>
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*Sunday Services online at <https://www.firstpresportland.org/church-life/worship-services/>*

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