



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

# Service for the Lord's Day

**May 4, 2025  
10:30 AM  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday**

*Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

\*Please stand as you are able.

Regular text is read by minister.  
**Bold text is read by congregation.**

## THE GATHERING

*The prelude is a time of music for quiet reflection  
to prepare our hearts for worship.*

**PRELUDE**                      Prelude on *Suo Gân*                      Edwin T. Childs

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Those attending worship are invited to fill out a blue card in the pew to register your attendance or express interest in the church's programs. You may place the cards in the offering plates as you depart at the end of the service. Those worshipping online are invited to click the blue tab on the worship page, "Visiting FPC? Let's Connect!"*

**INTROIT**                      Introit for Easter                      Iain Quinn

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed;  
come let us adore him. Alleluia.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever, amen.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

This is the good news we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

Jesus came that we might come to believe  
and proclaim this good news to the world.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

We prepare for our time together. As we focus on our breathing, we can cultivate a posture of relaxed alertness that will help us balance our autonomic nervous system. Focusing on our breath can activate the parasympathetic branch in our nervous system which can lower blood pressure and cortisol levels and increase our creativity and executive function among many other benefits.

Music is in every known mapped part of the brain. Singing together can reduce chronic pain, increase attitudes of generosity and levels of oxytocin in the brain.

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

**Almighty God,  
through your only Son you overcame death  
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.  
Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may,  
through the renewing power of your Spirit,  
arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN #248** Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

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

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.  
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We overlook the poor and the hungry  
and pass by those who mourn;  
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,  
and indifferent to calls for peace;  
we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.  
Forgive us, God of mercy.  
Help us to trust your power to change our lives  
and make us new,  
that we may know the joy of life abundant  
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY #551**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Text: Trad. liturgical text Tune: LAND OF REST, 8.7.8.7;  
American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news of God's promise:  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #245 (verse 4)**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Tune: LLANFAIR, 7.7.7.7 with alleluias; Robert Williams, 1817

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you!**

*Please take a moment to greet those around you with God's peace.*

**THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Shelby Walker

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 30

Pew Bible, OT p. 505

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Smiles and the good feelings associated with them are neurologically contagious.

**ANTHEM**

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
 in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
 In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
 there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
 From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity.  
 In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
 In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
 unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
 Unrevealed until its season, something yet unknown, which God alone can see.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Acts 9:1-20 Pew Bible, NT p. 127  
 The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Changed by Christ"

Rev. Heidi Bolt

<b>RESPONSE TO THE WORD</b>
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**\*HYMN #231** Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from The Confession of 1967, gendered language modified)*

**The reconciling work of Jesus  
 was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.  
 His cross and resurrection become personal crisis  
 and present hope for people  
 when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.  
 In this experience  
 the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to people,  
 moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,  
 and initiates the new life in Christ.**

*Thank you for your faithful support. To contribute to the life and ministry  
 of this congregation, please refer to page 6 of the worship bulletin.*

**OFFERTORY**

Alleluia

Bryan Sharpe

Meditation can increase  
 compassionate responses  
 to suffering.

Singing together releases  
 endorphins and improves  
 feelings of loneliness.

**\*DOXOLOGY #609**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Brian Wren, 1989    Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, LM with alleluias;  
*Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623

**COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**PRAYERS OF GREAT THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy – #552**

You are holy, O God of majesty...

that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen – #553**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit

...with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

**Amen – #554**

**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.**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

People who pray together accelerate the rate at which fellow worshippers activate neuropathways of a prayerful state. Structured prayers like the Lord's Prayer reduce our respiration rate.

**COMMUNION MUSIC** Sarabande *from* Suite for Organ Gerald Near

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## THE SENDING

Singing has been shown to synchronize the heartbeats of those singing together and create a sense of community and social inclusion.

**\*HYMN #246**

Christ Is Alive!

When we stimulate a neural circuit, we strengthen it. Taking in the good helps us to strengthen our ability to savor the positive in our lives.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Christ ist erstanden\*, BWV 627

J.S. Bach

*\*Christ is risen*

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

## CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

*Contributions may be made by:*

- *Leaving your gifts in the offering plates as you depart.*
- *Mailing a check to the church office.*
- *Scanning the QR code on the right.*
- *Visiting [www.firstpresportland.org](http://www.firstpresportland.org).*



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We join in holding in prayer: Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Russ Mendenhall, Gordon Priedeman, Phyllis Whittington, and others facing illness and loss.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*Our prayers are with the family of Ira Allen, who passed on April 22, 2025, the family of John Crowell, who passed on April 22, 2025, and the family of David Hawkins, who passed on April 29, 2025.*

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given by Jeane Iles & Robert D. Bulkley in loving memory of their parents, Loretta C. Bulkley & Robert D. Bulkley, Sr.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Mission Study Team Update**

The Mission Study Team has created a congregational survey to gather feedback. Please be on the lookout next week for a link to the survey. You can take the survey online or on paper. It should take about 15 minutes to complete. We are hoping all members and friends of the congregation will fill out the survey. There will also be opportunities in May for small group listening sessions. Every voice is important as FPC prayerfully discerns its future. Please be sure to participate!

### **May Birthday Celebration Today!**

**When: Today, May 4, 11:45 am**

**Where: Geneva Hall**

Happy birthday to all those born in May! We want to celebrate you after the worship service today with cupcakes and a song. Please come to Geneva for a brief celebration followed by the Deacons' Spring Food Festival and the Celebration Works concert.

### **Spring Food Festival Today!**

**When: Today, May 4, 11:45 am**

**Where: Geneva Hall**

The FPC Deacons invite you to celebrate the start of spring with a festive time of fellowship and delectable treats! Many of our members have brought a favorite sweet or savory food item that has meaning to them. Join us after the worship service today to discover new treats and learn more about the heritage and stories of the people who brought them!

### **Jaeckel 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Today!**

**When: Today, May 4, 2:00 pm**

**Where: Sanctuary**

Please plan to attend the next *Celebration Works* concert this afternoon, featuring **Dr. Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler** from Scottsdale, AZ, playing FPC's Jaeckel pipe organ. You can grab a bite to eat at the Deacons' Spring Food Festival go for a walk, and then attend the recital. It will be a long but glorious day!

### **Women's Book Club May Meeting**

**When: Tue, May 6, 11:00 am**

**Where: Heritage Room**

Join us for a brown bag lunch and social conversation followed by our book club meeting moderated by Kara Morris! We will be discussing the book *Mink River* by Bryan Doyle, a story of love and life in a small town on the Oregon coast. We hope to see you in-person or on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233316517>).

### **Menucha Spring Volunteer Work Party**

**When: Sat, May 10, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Where: Menucha**

Save the date for Menucha's spring work party! We'll welcome spring with community bonding while improving the property. Lunch will be provided. **Please sign up by May 5** emailing [hello@menucha.org](mailto:hello@menucha.org) or calling at 503-695-2243.

### **Worship at Warm Springs Presbyterian Church**

**When: Sun, May 11, 10:00 am**

**Where: Warm Springs Presbyterian Church (1141 Warm Springs St, Warm Springs OR 97761)**

Pastor Jeff Sievert will be providing pulpit supply at Warm Springs PC along with Lori, a member at FPC. It's an opportunity to connect with our sisters and brothers on the reservation and demonstrate our support. Warm Springs celebrated 100 years of ministry last summer and is in the process of renewal in partnership with the presbytery. Those interested can drive or carpool to meet at the church for worship. If you are interested, please contact Jeff ([jscott5717@gmail.com](mailto:jscott5717@gmail.com), text/call 503-523-8305).

### **Menucha Spring Flower Walk**

**When: Sat, May 17, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Where: Menucha**

Save the date for Menucha's Spring Flower Walk! Rain or shine, come wander the grounds and soak in the vibrant colors that bloom across Menucha in the spring. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with nature and experience the beauty of the season in a peaceful, breathtaking setting.

Love God.  
Love Our Neighbors.

## Vision Statement

We commit to be a church that is:

**Engaged:** A forward-thinking and involved congregation committed to each other and to the wider community.

**Inclusive:** A faith community that affirms and welcomes all people.

**Compassionate:** A congregation that follows in Christ's way, advancing the well-being and dignity of all people, working for a just and equitable society, and caring for all creation.

**Faithful:** Living our faith authentically with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love while expanding the circle where God's love is known.

## CHURCH STAFF

### Principal Church Staff:

Rev. Heidi Bolt, Interim Pastor

Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor

Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Associate Pastor

Rev. Aaron Morris, Parish Associate

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries

Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

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### Support Staff:

Alexis Crawford, Communications Coordinator

Deb Davis, Bookkeeper

Bill Edwards, Sexton & Wedding Coordinator

John Kelly, Facility Manager

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### Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

## First Presbyterian Church

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