



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

July 13, 2025

10:30 AM

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot Spiritual (arr. Wilbur Held)
Improvisation on *Good Trouble*

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!"

*OPENING LITANY

We begin our worship in the name of the One who creates,
the One who liberates, and the One who inspires us to be who we were made to be.

**[sung] Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make good trouble, to make good trouble.**

**Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make this world a better place.**

In every generation around the world,
there arise powers that seek to destroy, to dominate and oppress for their own gain.
In every generation the faithful are called to rise up and name this oppression.
Whether these destructive powers come from unjust laws and policies,
or from beliefs and cultural practices that harm the soul,
whether they come from government, society, or from the church itself,
we are called to make good trouble.

**[sung] Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make good trouble, to make good trouble.**

**Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make this world a better place.**

(continued on next page)

To be a Holy Disruptor is to take up your cross and follow Jesus.
To be a disciple is to see Christ in the face of the oppressed and suffering.
We are called to be sacred interrupters,
refusing to participate in the Domination Way,
but instead learning to walk the Good Way.
One of courage, collaboration, compassion, and integrity.
Faithfully, we divest our hearts, minds, and actions from the way that harms
and invest our hearts, minds, and actions
in the Way that brings life, healing, and wholeness to all living things.

**[sung] Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make good trouble, to make good trouble.**

**Our faith has challenged us to make good trouble,
to make this world a better place.**

Today we walk alongside Harriet Tubman,
who courageously shepherded her enslaved brethren into freedom and life.
May we learn from her.

May her discipleship in the name of Jesus inform our own.

Amen.

***HYMN #49**

The God of Abraham Praise

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

**Holy God, the state of our world can overwhelm us,
and our responses are often lacking;
hear our confession and meet us with your grace.
The world is not yet right, and we can respond with fear or inaction.
At times we retreat to the imagined safety of denial or toxic positivity,
and at others we respond with unfruitful outrage or rants,
all the while failing to speak out and act in loving and productive ways.
Forgive us, and move us to holy determination
that we would listen, acknowledge, offer care,
and act in ways that foster sacred wholeness.**

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

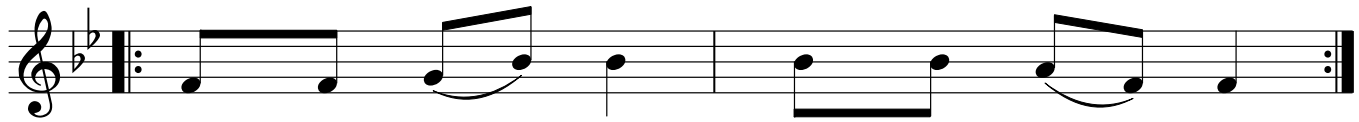
Cantor first, then ALL



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

© 1996 by Christopher Walker

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's holy disruption meets our cries and the needs of the world
with compassion, liberation, and redemption.

God sent Christ into the world –
not to shout, shun, or condemn.

Instead, Christ entered the world to embrace, heal, and restore.

The Holy Spirit has come to be our holy companion
assuring of us God's love

and leading us to join the grand procession of liberation.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**



O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
for we can on-ly won-der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up-on your Word,
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might-y Lord.

Text: Michael Perry © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: THAXTED, 13.13.13.13.13.13; Gustav Holst, 1918

***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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Joyce Evans

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:7-8

Pew Bible, OT p. 50

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Go Down, Moses Spiritual (arr. Michael Burkhardt)

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh: let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, to lead the Hebrew children through...
They journeyed on at God's command, and came at last to Canaan's land...
Lord, help us all from bondage flee, and let us all in Christ be free...

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:10-17

Pew Bible, NT p. 76

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Underground Glory”

Rev. Aaron Morris

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #795**

Healer of Our Every Ill

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Confession of 1967; 9.32-33 [language updated]*)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His life as man involves the church in the common life of all people.
His service to humanity commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of humanity so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on people's inhumanity to others and the awful consequences of humanity's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Thank you for your faithful support. To contribute to the life and ministry of this congregation, please refer to page 7 of today's worship bulletin.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

Spiritual

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me, singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound...

When I was in trouble...

***DOXOLOGY**

**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**

PRAYER 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 #463**

How Firm a Foundation

***CLOSING PRAYER**

O God, whose Spirit guides us into all truth and makes us free:
Strengthen and sustain us as you did your servant Harriet Tubman.
Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice
and all that works against the glorious liberty to which you call all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Wilbur Held

*This service is based on
Holy Disruptors – How Christian Saints, Prophets, and Mystics Led in Times of Difficulty
by Pastor Siri Strommen*

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.*



**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.

**SANCTUARY
FLOWERS**

Today's sanctuary flowers are given by Kathy Callas in loving memory of her father, Dr. Stan Callas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcoming Friendly House to FPC

When: Today, Sun, Jul 13, all day

Where: Sanctuary & Geneva Hall

We're thrilled to welcome Sarah Chiu, Volunteer Coordinator at Friendly House, to offer today's Moment for Stewardship. Sarah will also be available during Coffee Hour—stop by her table to learn about current activities, volunteer opportunities, and how to join the Portland Pride Parade next week! FPC will be walking with Friendly House in this joyful event. Our connection with Friendly House runs deep, including service on their board of directors. Please join us in warmly welcoming Sarah and celebrating our ongoing partnership with Friendly House!

FPC Joins Portland Pride Parade

When: Sun, Jul 20, 11:40 am

Where: 12th & Alder FPC Entrance

Join us in celebrating love, inclusion, and community by walking with the Friendly House delegation at the Portland Pride Parade next Sunday! All are welcome to share in this joyful day. Stop by our sign-up table during Coffee Hour to learn more and get involved—we'd love to have you with us!

Walk the Wildwood In-Person Registration

When: Today, Sun, Jul 13, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

Register today in Geneva Hall immediately after service for Walk the Wildwood 2025! Volunteers are on hand to assist with signing up for this scenic guided walk through Forest Park *Saturday, August 9*. You will learn more about the student dormitories being planned for Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Uganda, students awaiting sponsors, and drop off your used sneakers that can be turned into cash for the school or recycled! *Registration closes August 1.*

Learn more at firstpresportland.org/news-events/walk-the-wildwood/.

Kathy Withycombe 90th Birthday Celebration!

When: Today, Sun, Jul 13, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

Kathy Withycombe and family would love for you to join them today after the worship service for a tea party reception celebrating Kathy's upcoming 90th birthday! The family has requested no gifts, please - your presence is the best present. We hope you'll join us to celebrate Kathy's 90th birthday and enjoy fellowship together.

Save the Date: Mission Study Team Survey Sharing Sessions

When: Wed, Jul 23, 7:00 pm & Sun, Aug 24, 11:30 am

Where: Zoom (Jul) & Heritage (Aug)

The Mission Study Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for participating in the survey and the multiple listening sessions held in May. The team received over a 100 survey responses and held about 8 listening sessions. The Mission Study Team is now analyzing the results and plans to hold two sessions later in the summer to share the results and their interpretations of the information shared. We hope to see you in July or August!

Save the Date: Open Circle Fall Book Orders & Start Date

Book Payment Deadline: Fri, Aug 1

Open Circle Fall Start Date: Thu, Sep 4, 10:00 am

Open Circle invites all women in the FPC community to join us in weekly study and prayer. From September through November, we'll be using *Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heros* by Jennifer Cowart to guide our discussion. Contact Deb Resley at resleydd@gmail.com if you would like to order a book through the church; a payment of \$16 for the book will be due on August 1. We hope to see you there this fall!

DISRUPTORS H L Y

*How Christian Saints, Prophets, and Mystics
Led in Times of Difficulty*

Summer 2025 Sermon Series

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 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. Aaron Morris, Parish Associate

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries

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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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