



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day
August 17, 2025
10:30 AM
Tenth 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

Summerland (1936)
(Darlene Cusick, piano)

William Grant Still

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.

(continued on next page)

**[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.**

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 James Cone,
who shaped theology and thought through the Black, women, and queer lens.
May we learn from him.
May his discipleship in the name of Jesus inform our own.

Amen.

***HYMN #301** Let Us Build a House (*Verses 1, 2, 4*)

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

**Holy and gracious God, forgive our arrogance
and give us Christ-like humility.
You call us to lives of humility and listening,
that we might learn and grow from the lives and perspectives of others.
Too often we assume that we can see everything clearly
and understand exhaustively on our own.
These assumptions dampen so many beautiful voices,
cheapening and narrowing our experience of human diversity.
Forgive us, and let us listen.
Let us learn, and foster.
Let us value, celebrate, and champion the rich lives and experiences of others.
Let us enjoy the collective flourishing you desire.**

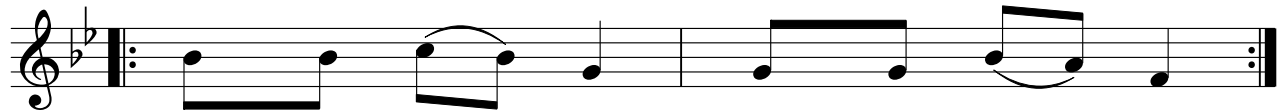
Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

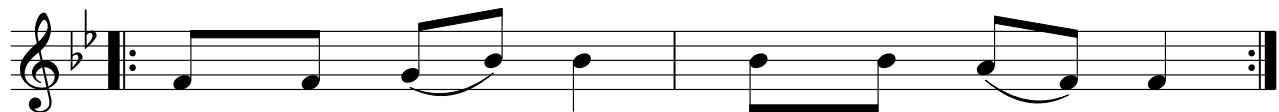
Cantor first, then ALL



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 sacred care of creation disrupts, restores, and cultivates.

God meets oppression with liberation,
transforms narrowness into broad inclusion,
and answers exclusion with embrace.

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 an ongoing parade 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

Steve Chown

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:22-24

Pew Bible, NT p. 119

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Alleluia Canon

David Hurd

Alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Pew Bible, NT p. 176

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Fruitful Humility”

Rev. Aaron Morris

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #372**

O for a World

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Confession of 1967*)

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life:

**social and cultural, economic and political,
scientific and technological, individual and corporate.**

It includes the natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin.

It is the will of God that the divine purpose for human life

shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ

and all evil be banished from creation.

With an urgency born of this hope,

the church applies itself to present tasks

and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,

nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement

to the final triumph of God.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP - JULIA WEST HOUSE

Marilyn Howe

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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.

OFFERTORY

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle 'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever in God's gracious arms.

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small.
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed before.
Let the dream of Christ be in us; open every door.

***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 #317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

***CLOSING PRAYER**

God of freedom and justice,
we thank you for the voices that make us uncomfortable in our privilege and power,
for the voices that call us to the heart of our Christian faith,
which is the suffering of Jesus on the cross.
In that instrument of humiliation and brutality,
we see God’s solidarity with the oppressed of all kinds.
May we walk the true road of discipleship in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Baroque Variations on *We Shall Overcome*

Gaël Liardon

*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.*



IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers are with the family of Chase Hunter, who passed away recently.

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 in loving memory of Tom Withycombe by Kathy Withycombe and families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warm Spring Worship & Fellowship

When: Sun, Aug 24, 10:00 am

Where: Warm Springs PC (1141 Warm Springs St, Warm Springs OR)

You're invited to join in worship at Warm Springs Presbyterian Church **next Sunday**. Pastor Jeff Sievert, joined by his wife and FPC member Lori, will provide pulpit supply. This is a meaningful opportunity to strengthen FPC's connection with our sisters and brothers on the reservation and celebrate 150 years of Warm Springs PC ministry! You're also welcome to bring a treat to share for fellowship! For more info, contact Jeff at jscott5717@gmail.com or 503-523-8305.

Mission Study Team Survey Sharing Sessions

When: Sun, Aug 24, 11:30 am

Where: Heritage Room

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. We hope you'll join us for the second survey results sharing session **next Sunday following worship**.

Children's Ministry Internship for Youth

Application Deadline: Fri, Aug 22

Calling all high school students! Do you want to play a meaningful role in the life of a child at FPC? Do you want to grow as a leader and have some fun on Sunday mornings? Please consider applying to serve as one of our Children's Ministry Interns. You can apply for one semester or for the entire year. Compensation is provided! **To learn more about this faith-enriching opportunity or to apply, please contact Kara Morris (karawmorris@gmail.com) by August 22.**

Registration Closes Soon: Labor Day Retreat!

When: Fri, Aug 29 - Sun, Aug 31, all day

Where: Menucha

Menucha Retreat & Conference Center is hosting its very first Labor Retreat at the end of the summer! This retreat has long been cherished by our members at FPC and we're thrilled to have the opportunity to share it with the greater community. Join us for a weekend of fun and relaxation! Enjoy a relaxed, family-focused weekend of fun, rest, and connection in the Gorge. Swim, play, explore, picnic, and make one last summer memory together before the busy fall arrives. **Registration closes this Friday, August 22** - visit menucha.org/hurrah for more info and registration.

Practical Theology Fall Start Date

When: Sun, Sep 4, 10:00 am

Where: John Knox (Rm 308)

Please join the Practical Theology book group as we begin to discuss the most influential book of one of the most important Old Testament scholars of the past century — *The Prophetic Imagination* by Walter Brueggemann. The group resumes its weekly meetings in just a few weeks and we'd love to have you join us!

Kick-Off Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks

When: Sun, Sep 7, 10:30 am

Where: Sanctuary

All learners—young and old—are invited to bring their backpacks (new or old!) for a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship on Kick-Off Sunday! Join us in celebrating the start of a new school year and bless the learning ahead at FPC this fall!

(continued on back)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Picnic on the Plaza

When: Sun, Sep 7, 11:30 pm

Where: Plaza

Celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new season at our Picnic on the Plaza! Enjoy grilled hot dogs (vegan options available), all the fixings, and ice cream bars. Visit shorturl.at/F9c2V to donate food. Wear your picnic clothes and join us for fun and fellowship!

Menucha Fall Fundraiser - "75 Years of Transforming Lives"

When: Sun, Sep 7, 4:30 pm

Where: Menucha, Wright Hall

Menucha invites you to their annual fundraising dinner celebrating 75 years as a retreat center! The keynote speaker will be Mark Yaconelli, author, storyteller, and founder of The Hearth. For more information and to buy tickets, visit menucha.org/fall-fundraising-dinner. **Ticket sales end August 22.**

Women's Book Club Fall Start Date

When: Sun, Sep 9, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Heritage Room

Join us for the new season of the Women's Book Club next month! Please note that the September meeting will be on the **second Tuesday**. We will be voting on a list of books we've read over the summer. We hope to see you in person or on Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/81233316517

Adult Ed: Biblical Theology of a Climate Changed World

When: Sun, Sep 14 & Sep 28, 12:00 pm

Where: Chapel

Join us next month for two offerings of class discussing theology and climate change! Dr. Rob Kugler, professor of Religious Studies & Classics at Lewis & Clark, will join us to teach this thought-provoking class!

DoveLewis Service of Remembrance

When: Sun, Sep 14, 4:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

Join DoveLewis for a special memorial service and ceremony to honor the memory of your beloved animal companions. The undeniable impact that animals have on our lives is everlasting, and the Service of Remembrance pays tribute to that deep connection. **We welcome you to bring a photo of your beloved companion to place at the altar before our service begins.** Registration is not required but appreciated: dovelewis.org/serviceofremembrance

Big Ideas Book Group

When: Tue, Sep 16, 6:00 pm

Where: Chapel Art Gallery

The Big Ideas Book Group will be starting back up in just a few weeks! Join us to discuss *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis. The book argues that Christian nationalism, particularly the version that promotes white supremacy, is a distortion of Christianity and a threat to both democracy and the integrity of white churches. Contact Marilyn Howe at harrietwho92@gmail.com for more information and to join the group's email list.

PWM Fundraiser Request: Canned Goods

Are you canning and preserving summer's bounty? Please consider setting some of those items aside to donate for the Presbyterian Women's Ministries bake sale in November. PWM's mission is to nurture faith, support mission, work for justice & peace, and build an inclusive caring community. The bake sale is our fundraising for these efforts. Jams, jellies, chutneys, pickles etc. would be much appreciated. O taste and see that the Lord is good!

(continued on back)

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

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