



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

August 24, 2025

10:30 AM

Eleventh 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

Quando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones) arr. Ronald A. Nelson
Prelude on Repton Charles Callahan

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 Bishop Oscar Romero,
 who gave his life speaking against the death squads of El Salvador.
 May we learn from him. May his discipleship in the name of Jesus inform our own.
Amen.

***HYMN #610** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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

**Lord God, we confess that in times of trials and tribulations
 we failed to do the courageous work of standing up to injustice and evil.
 Yet you have sent us prophets and teachers in many forms
 to show us how to live as your disciples.
 Forgive us when we fail to follow.**

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.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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

Psalm 23

Pew Bible, OT p. 501

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Mark Schweizer
(after J.S. Bach's Prelude in C Major)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:23-26

Pew Bible, NT p. 106

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Embodying Hope”

Rev. Brenna Dykman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #346**

For the Healing of the Nations

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Belhar Confession*)

We believe

**that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ;**

**that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

When the Poor Ones

arr. David Cherwien

When the poor ones who have nothing still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us:
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;
when the nations work to change war into peace;
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

— José Antonio Olivari, 1971; trans. Martin A. Seltz, 1998

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Study Team Survey Sharing Sessions

When: Today, 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 **today following worship**.

Reminder: Labor Day Retreat!

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

Where: Menucha

Reminder that the Menucha Labor Day Retreat is this upcoming weekend! 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.

October Spire Articles Deadline

When: Fri, Sep 5

We'd love to include articles and photos from recent church events in the October edition of The Spire! You can submit articles and photos to Alexis at communications@firstpresportland.org. Thank you for helping us highlight the wonderful activities and events happening in our church community.

Church Directory Photo Days

When: Sun, Sep 7, Sep 21, Oct 12, 11:30 am

Where: Chapel Narthex

The Deacons are putting together a new photo directory! We'll be taking member photos in September and October - more details will follow soon. For questions, contact Shelby Walker, Dustin Coles, or Cindy Finch.

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!

Picnic on the Plaza

When: Sun, Sep 7, 11:30 am

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. We are also seeking a BBQ grill to be used day-of (contact Paula Carpenter, paulacarpenter26@gmail.com). Wear your picnic clothes and join us for fun and fellowship!

Biblical Theology of a Climate Changed World

When: Sun, Sep 14, Sep 21, & Sep 28, 12:00 pm

Where: Chapel

Next month Dr. Rob Kugler, professor of Religious Studies & Classics at Lewis & Clark will present an adult ed class at FPC on theology and climate change. We hope you'll join us for 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 on the chancel before our service begins.** Registration is not required but appreciated: dovelewis.org/serviceofremembrance

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!

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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