



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

October 26, 2025

10:30 AM

Reformation Sunday
Twentieth 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

Highland Cathedral

arr. 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!"

INTROIT

We Are the Light of the World

Jean Anthony Greif

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit; bless us, O Lord, our God.

We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all,
that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.

Blessed are those who show others mercy, they will know mercy, too.
Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for mercy; bless us, O Lord, our God.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

**We humble ourselves before our God,
ready to hear and receive God's truth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God,
to rule and direct us according to your will,
to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions,
to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth;
that we, being steadfast in the faith,
may increase in love and in all good works,
and in the end obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN #624**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling.
We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word,
turn up the volume on lesser noises,
and lean into the comfort of our own certainty
rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge.
You send us messengers, and we sidestep them;
you challenge us, and we defend ourselves.
Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear.
And yet you keep calling.
Have mercy on us.
Interrupt our evasions.
Soften what pride has hardened in us.
Let us hear and receive your truth.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -". The second staff continues the melody: "- on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The second staff includes a 6/4 time signature change and a fermata over the final note.

© Healey Willan, 1928

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the Good News!
Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ,
and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (verse 1)**

**Great God of ev'ry blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

– David Gambrell, 2011

***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

Anna Wells

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Joel 2:23-32

Pew Bible, OT p. 848

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Kothbiro

Ayub Ogada (arr. David York)

The rains will come.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-14

Pew Bible, NT p. 81

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“The Other People”

Rev. Wilson Kennedy

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #341**

O God, Show Mercy to Us

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Philippians 2:6-11*)

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form ,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Anna Wells

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

Chaconne

Kenneth Danchik

(Handbell Choir; Paul Butler, director)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #717**

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

— Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987

***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 #275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Ein' Feste Burg*

Helmut Walcha

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

The first arrangement is given in loving memory of Jerry Hoder from the Hoder family, Maurine, Kevin, Patty, John, & Ian.

The second arrangement is given by Tim & Linda Killen in loving memory of their parents Jack & Jo Schmidt, and John & Mae Killen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Stewardship Campaign

“Let Your Light Shine Before Others”

As our congregation moves through this time of transition, our Stewardship pledges continue to be essential to our mission work. Matthew 5:16 reminds us to “Let Your Light Shine Before Others.” As we shine our light on the coming year we find much to do, much to be grateful for, and new challenges to meet. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to FPC. Your continued financial support as well as your commitment of time and talent will enable us to effectively respond to the needs of the communities we serve. Our pledges will be dedicated on Sunday, November 9. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Meeting & All-Church Potluck

When: Sun, Nov 9, 11:30 am

Where: Sanctuary & Geneva

Join us for our Annual Meeting in two weeks immediately following worship. We’ll discuss important information, followed by our All-Church Potluck. Please bring a dish that shares the first letter of your first or last name: A-J side dish or salad, K-O dessert or appetizer, P-Z main dish or casserole. Please bring your labelled dish in ready-to-serve containers to the kitchen prior to the Nov 9 service. We look forward to this day with you all!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

PWM Bake Sale Presales

When: Today, Sun, Oct 26, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

Today is the final day for PWM's bake sale presales! Come enjoy delicious baked and canned items and support our fundraiser!

The Heresy of Christian Nationalism

When: Today, Sun, Oct 26, 11:45 am

Where: Heritage Room

Join us today for the second half of this timely course! This two-part class with Dr. Chauncey Handy of Reed College explores Christian nationalism as a modern expression of the classical heresy of Arianism. The course will highlight problematic trends, especially how this movement reflects itself in distorted practices of biblical interpretation.

Peace Pole Dedication

When: Today, Sun, Oct 26, 4:00 pm

Where: Menucha

All are invited this afternoon to celebration the dedication of the Peace Pole our congregation gave to Menucha in honor of Spencer Parks' twenty years as executive director. Weather permitting, we'll hike to the Columbia River overlook where the pole is planted; otherwise we'll gather in The Barn. A short time of fellowship over Menucha cookies will follow in The Barn.

Women's Book Club November Meeting

When: Tue, Nov 4, 11:15 am

Where: Heritage & Zoom (shorturl.at/bXyBb)

Join us for our November meeting and book discussion! Allyn Kirkham will lead with the book *Where the Light Enters: Building a Family, Discovering Myself* by Dr. Jill Biden, a fellow Presbyterian and former First Lady. Her autobiography details her life growing up, her romance with Senator Joe, meeting the families, and becoming First Lady.

Parking Garage Updates & Modernization

We are pleased to announce the management and technology transition of the FPC parking garage as of October 15, 2025. PMC (Parking Management Company) is now operating the garage. For Sunday worship, parking remains the same—you may drive in and out freely. Once the new License Plate Recognition (LPR) system is fully operational, members' vehicles will be enrolled for touchless entry and free parking anytime. Until then, a hybrid of free access and digital validation will be used. For questions, please contact the church office. Updates will follow as installation continues.

Applications for Pastor Nominating Committee

Are you being called to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)? The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is now considering names to serve on the 7-member PNC. This group will write the profile for the head pastor position, conduct interviews and select the final candidate. It is a time-intensive commitment usually lasting 10-12 months but also an incredibly rewarding way to serve the church. Contact Cathy Chang-Lowe (cchanglowe@gmail.com), chair of the CNC, for more information or if you have any questions.

Volunteer Opportunity: FPC Nursery

We are in need of more volunteers to work in the nursery during Sundays. Can you volunteer for one Sunday a month, once a quarter, or even once a year? We need caring adults to help look after the younger members of our church. If you can help please reach out to Paula at paulacarpenter26@gmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunity: Soup for the Showers

We need some super soupers! Beginning in November, each Wednesday we will deliver 10 quarts of soup to 1st Unitarian Church as part of its Wednesday and Thursday Shower Project. We can cook and freeze the soup at church or at home. For more info, speak with Pastor Brenna, Bill Resley, or Greg Aldrich. Sign up here: shorturl.at/jyha8

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. 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, Events & Wedding Coordinator
Eric Park, Maintenance Technician

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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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