



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

## Service for the Lord's Day

November 30, 2025

10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

*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 *Llangloffan*  
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme\*, BWV 645  
*\*Sleepers, awake, the voice is calling us*

Robert Chamberlin  
J.S. Bach

#### 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

Let Us Prepare

Ana Hernández

Let us prepare for the coming of God.

*A shruti box is a hand-pumped reed instrument from India that produces a continuous drone. This two-octave model is a recent gift to the church from members of the choir.*

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Cam and Midge Birnie

We light this candle in hope, as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*[The first candle is lit.]*

God's promises stand unshaken through all generations.

**May we be renewed in hope;**

**may we be awake and alert as we await the glorious return of Jesus Christ,  
who will bring light and peace to all the world.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Peace to you and welcome,  
from the God who makes newness from nothing,  
the Savior who brought warmth to tomb,  
the Spirit who innovates from the ashes.

**Let us worship our God, three in one, worthy of our praise.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.  
Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert  
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #82**


Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**


**God, we have acted helpless, even when you called us to action.  
We have resisted your truth, even when our lies were exhausting.  
We have behaved as though we were alone, even when you were beside us.  
God, we have believed we were dying, even when you helped us grow.**

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**



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



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



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

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God knows we can never undo the sins of this world.  
The stories of a painful past still echo here today.  
Yet before our first mistakes, God perfected the plan for salvation.  
God forgives your sins, all of them.  
Even when signs of our old lives remain, God's forgiveness is still at work.  
God sets us free to chart a new path.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Lord, Have Mercy and Response of Praise © 1995 by Hal H. Hopson

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

As forgiven people, we are set free to live at peace with God and with one another,  
and so I say to you: the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Andrea Bonsignori

Kandace Day

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rev. John Evans

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 13:11-14

Pew Bible, NT p. 162

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson  
(arr. Richard Erickson)

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ, I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible, NT p. 27

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“Living in Holy Tension”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN #357

The Days Are Surely Coming

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Book of Common Worship*)

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

*Thank you for your faithful support of the church.  
For various ways to contribute to the life and ministry of the church,  
please refer to page 6 of the worship bulletin.*

**OFFERTORY #90**

Wait for the Lord

*– Please join in singing –*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg    Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, LM with refrain; Plainsong

**\*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 #384**                      Soon and Very Soon

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      Soon and Very Soon                      arr. Mark Hayes  
*(Darlene Cusick, piano)*

*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: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Russ Mendenhall, Joan Palmer, Gordon Priedeman, Phyllis Whittington, and others facing illness and loss.*

*You can request prayer by calling 503-228-7331 x 2 or emailing [prayer@firstpresportland.org](mailto:prayer@firstpresportland.org). Please let us know whether you would like someone to follow up with you and whether your request should be shared publicly or kept confidential.*

**SANCTUARY  
FLOWERS**

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given in honor of the FPC family and in celebration of the 2025 holiday season.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2026 Stewardship Campaign

### **“Let Your Light Shine Before Others”**

As our stewardship season draws to a close, we give thanks for the ways God’s light continues to shine through this congregation. Over the past few weeks, we’ve heard heartfelt stories—beautiful reminders of how generosity, faith, and community reflect the love of Christ in powerful ways. To date, we have received 78 pledges for a total of \$477,713. This puts the campaign at 73.5% the goal of \$650,000. Thank you for your commitment to the life and mission of our congregation. Your generosity ensures that our ministries continue to grow and that the light of Christ shines brightly in our community.

## Poinsettia Online Order Form Now Open

Every year, poinsettias adorn our sanctuary and are given to homebound or ill members of FPC to brighten their holidays. You can help offset the cost by donating in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The online order form is available now at [shorturl.at/Hh6Ws](http://shorturl.at/Hh6Ws). Paper order forms are also available. Deadline for orders is Mon, December 15. Donations for this year’s poinsettias are \$18 for each person remembered or honored. Thank you for supporting this ongoing FPC tradition!

## Women’s Book Club

**When: Tue, Dec 2, 11:15 am**

**Where: Heritage & Zoom ([shorturl.at/x6t9R](http://shorturl.at/x6t9R))**

Join us for our December meeting and discussion on *Lovely One* by Ketanji Brown Jackson. Marilyn Weber will lead us in the discussion of this book by the brilliant Justice Jackson, a fellow Christian and the first Black woman appointed to the Supreme Court in 2022 by President Joe Biden. We hope you’ll join us for this exciting and timely conversation!

## New Opportunity: Cookie Ministry!

**When: Sat, Dec 6, 9:00 am & Sun, Dec 14, 12:00 pm**

**Where: Kitchen & Geneva Hall**

Join us for two fun days of cookie making to share with fellow church members and our neighbors! Bring your recipe and ingredients to mix and bake cookies in the church kitchen or come decorate pre-made cookies. Not able to join the baking and decorating? You can also drop off pretzels, nuts, or other snacks or cookies to be added to goody bags for delivery on December 14. Sign up this week during coffee hour to participate!

## Advent Open House

**When: Sat, Dec 6, 4:00-7:00 pm**

**Where: Sanctuary & Chapel Narthex**

Step into the beauty of the season with our Advent Open House! Enjoy live music in the sanctuary and view our Christmas season decorations, wander through our historic building to experience our High Victorian Gothic architecture and beautiful stained glass windows. stop by the chapel art gallery where you can view the latest exhibit featuring the work of JoAnne Kollman, a local painter known for her luminous still lifes, expressive portraits, and evocative regional landscapes. This is a free event and is open to the public. Bring your loved ones and join us for an opportunity to slow down, listen, and take in the peaceful atmosphere.

## December Birthday Celebration Next Week

After worship next week, we’ll wish a happy birthday to all those born in December! We want to celebrate you after the worship service with cupcakes and a song. Please come to Geneva for a celebration at coffee hour!

## Advent Devotional Available Now

The Advent season is upon us and we are excited to share our advent theme this year - *Out of the Blue*. Out of the Blue gathers our shared imagination around moments of surprise, occasions of awe, and instances of inspiration when we discover the astonishment of God’s work and God’s purposes. If you would like to spend some dwelling with God to prepare yourself for the celebration on “Emmanuel; God With Us”, [shorturl.at/HizaG](http://shorturl.at/HizaG). There are also hard copies available in the chapel narthex.

## Pastoral Nominating Committee Vote

**When: Sun, Dec 7, after worship**

**Where: Sanctuary**

Next week, immediately following worship, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to elect the new Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). We hope you’ll join us for this important meeting. You can see the bios for the PNC nominees at this link: [shorturl.at/VUtm0](http://shorturl.at/VUtm0)

## Parking Garage Updates Member Vehicle Info

The new License Plate Recognition (LPR) system will be installed this week in our parking garage. It’s crucial we get your license plate info now to ensure easy access with this new system! If you haven’t already, please submit your vehicle information on the paper copies of the submission form at the name tag table in the Chapel Narthex or online at this link: [shorturl.at/yQSqw](http://shorturl.at/yQSqw)

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

[hbolt@firstpresportland.org](mailto:hbolt@firstpresportland.org)  
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[cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)

### Support Staff:

Alexis Crawford, Communications Coordinator  
Deb Davis, Bookkeeper  
Bill Edwards, Sexton, Events & Wedding Coordinator  
Eric Park, Maintenance Technician

[communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org)  
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[@FirstPresPortland](https://www.instagram.com/FirstPresPortland)

### Office Hours

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

## First Presbyterian Church

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