



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

December 21, 2025

10:30 AM

Fourth 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 *Veni Emmanuel*
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Ferguson
arr. Larry Shackley &
Arnold B. Sherman

(Handbell Choir; Paul Butler, director)

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 #91

Come, Come Emmanuel

– Please join in singing –

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

For the Lord of creation will come...
O the son of Mary will come...
See God's marvelous deeds and come...
For God chose us, and so we will come...
For the angel proclaims he will come...
As the servants of God we come...

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Rev. John & Joyce Evans and family

We light this candle with love, as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

[The fourth candle is lit.]

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us." (Isa. 7:14)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Peace to you and welcome,

from the God who has always known you,

the Savior who is already born,

the Spirit who already knows what you'll ask.

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will.**

Prepare our hearts for his coming again;

keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service,

that we may receive the coming of his kingdom,

for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN #83**

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.

***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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Estelle Brunner

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Pew Bible, OT p. 636

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

What 'Cha Gonna Call the Pretty Little Baby

Spiritual

(arr. Ronald L. Stevens, Sr.)

What 'cha gonna call the pretty little baby born in Bethlehem?

Pretty little baby lying in the manger... Shepherds and wise men worship the baby...

Humble and holy Son of God... Come to save the world from sin...

What 'cha gonna call him? Call him King Jesus.

Call him Immanuel. Call him the King of kings.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible, NT p. 1

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"God With Us"

Rev. Heidi Bolt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #110**

Love Has Come

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

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Plainsong

[the text can be found at #108 in the Glory to God hymnal]

*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.*

***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 #88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*verses 1, 6, 7*)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel* Adolphus Hailstork

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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: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Russ Mendenhall, Joan Palmer, and others facing illness and loss.

You can request prayer by calling 503-228-7331 x 2 or emailing 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FPC Office Closures

When: Thu, Dec 25 & Thu, Jan 1, all day

The FPC offices will be closed this week in observance of Christmas Day! We will also be closed the next Thursday in observance of New Years Day. If you do need to contact us, please feel free to leave a voicemail or send an email and we'll connect with you asap. We hope you enjoy a safe and meaningful holiday season with loved ones!

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. Recently, 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 88 pledges for a total of \$530,793. This puts the campaign at nearly 82% 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.

Is Blue the Color of Your Christmas?

The Christmas season is a joyous time with family and friends for most people. But it can be a difficult reminder of loss and grief for some of us. Would you like to share your feelings one-to-one with a trained, caring, non-judgmental and confidential listener? FPC Stephen Ministers are ready to hear your story. Contact any of our pastors for more information.

Christmas Joy Special Offering

When: today, Sun, Dec 21, during worship

Where: Sanctuary & online

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The Christmas Joy Special Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We'll dedicate this year's Christmas Joy offering during the worship service. You can get more information and make your offering using the inserts in this week's bulletin or online, notating “Christmas Joy Offering” in the notes section.

Christmas Eve Services Times and Updates

When: Wed, Dec 24, 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

We're excited to celebrate the joy of the season and the birth of Christ with you during our annual Christmas Eve services. The 5:00 pm Family Service will feature our tradition of a pop-up pageant open to all kids in attendance! We'll have costumes and props available for any children who'd like to participate. This year's 9:00 pm Lessons & Carols will feature Celtic Christmas music composed by New Mexico's Karen Marrolli and performed by flute, violin, drum, piano, and choir! We hope you'll join us for these festive and reflective times of seasonal celebration.

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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[@FirstPresPortland](https://www.instagram.com/FirstPresPortland)

Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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