



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day
December 7, 2025
10:30 am
Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

Regular text is read by minister.

*Please stand as you are able.

THE GATHERING

The prelude is a time of music for quiet reflection to prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659
**Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT #95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

– Please join in singing –

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Rev. Jeff and Lori Sievert

We light this candle for peace, as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

[The second candle is lit.]

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them. (Isa. 11:6)**

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace to you and welcome,

**from the God who grows severed trees,
the Savior who healed withered bodies,**

the Spirit who gives wild new growth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise;
we hear your call to turn toward you,
to change our lives and welcome you in.
Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace,
that our worship together may open us
to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. Amen.

***HYMN #83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

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.

Thanks be to God.

***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**

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

Linda Grabe

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible OT, p. 640

ANTHEM

People, Look East

arr. Malcolm Archer

[the text can be found at #105 in the Glory to God hymnal]

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible NT, p. 2

SERMON

“Puring and Preparing”

Rev. Brenna Dykman

***HYMN #163**

Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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

**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.**

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Cindy Finch

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 7 of the worship bulletin.*

Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Make a straight path for him, make a straight path; prepare the way of the Lord!

COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF GREAT THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

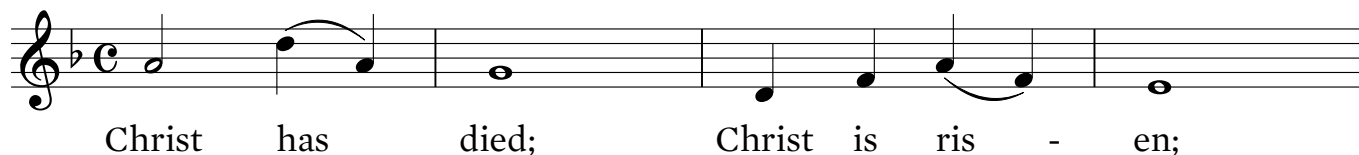
GREAT THANKSGIVING ACCLAMATIONS

Therefore, we sing your praise...

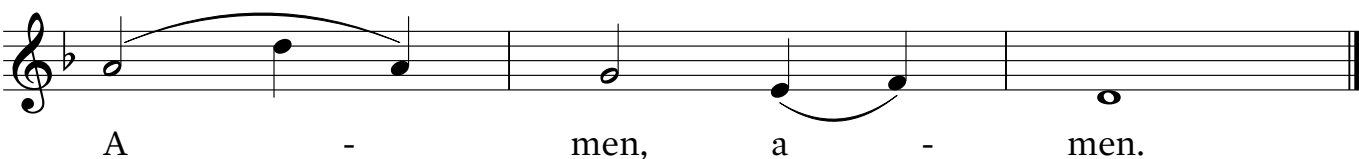
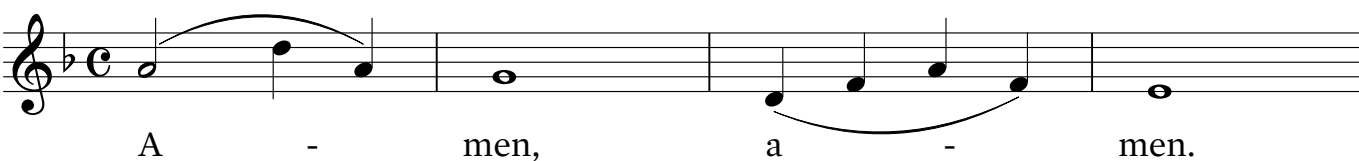
The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and
 might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
 all cre - a - tion seeks your light! Bless-ed is the one who
 comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

...a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.



...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.



Great Thanksgiving acclamations based on the hymn tune PICARDY, arr. Kimberly Bracken Long

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.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Prelude on Veni Emmanuel

Beatrice A. Miller

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING

***HYMN #96**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

***BENEDICTION**

INTERLUDE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

arr. Charles Callahan

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659
**Savior of the Nations, Come*

J.S. Bach

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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, 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. 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers are with the family of Marie Wilson, who passed away on November 22, 2025, and the family of Jon Kline, who passed away on November 26, 2025.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Marlin Icenogle by the Icenogle, Halsey, & Hoem families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Stewardship Campaign

“Let Your Light Shine Before Others”

In November, we dedicated our 2026 pledges to First Presbyterian. To date, we have received 81 pledges for \$488,813 towards our goal of \$650,000. These pledges are a commitment to our church’s health and its mission. We thank all of you who already submitted pledges. If you haven’t, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2026. You can use the pledge card you received in the mail or pick one up in the narthex. You can pledge online at firstpresportland.org and click on “2026 Stewardship Campaign.” Thank you for your ongoing support of FPC.

December Birthday Celebration

When: Today, Sun Dec 7, 11:45am

Where: Geneva Hall

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

Joanne Kollman Art Gallery Opening Reception

When: Today, Sun Dec 7, 11:45am - 1:00 pm

Where: Chapel Art Gallery

Join us following the congregational meeting this morning in the Chapel Art Gallery to welcome local artist Joanne Kollman and view her beautiful oil paintings-luminous still lives, expressive portraits and evocative regional landscapes. Refreshments will be served.

Cookie Ministry!

When: Sun, Dec 14, 12:00 pm

Where: Kitchen & Geneva Hall

Join us for the second day 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. Sign up during coffee hour to participate!

Winter Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Tue, Dec 16, 12:30-6:00 pm (appt only)

Where: Geneva Hall

FPC is hosting our next community blood drive, and we need your help! **This event is by appointment only.** Every donation helps patients in need and supports emergency care across the country. To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter code: FirstPresbyterianChurch.

Big Ideas Book Group December Meeting

When: Tue, Dec 16, 6:00 pm

Where: Chapel

The Big Ideas Book Group will meet in December and January to discuss *Belonging Without Othering: How We Save Ourselves and the Word* by John A. Powell and Stephen Menendian. Powell is a law professor at UC Berkeley and former legal director of the ACLU. The text is divided into two parts: Othering and Belonging. We’ll discuss the first part, “Othering” (chapters 1-4), at our December meeting and the second part, “Belonging” (chapters 5-7), in the new year.

Christmas Joy Special Offering 2025

When: Sun, Dec 21, during worship

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. This 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 on the Sunday before Christmas. We hope you’ll join us for this celebratory and reflective day of worship and giving.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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. Paper order forms are also available. Deadline for orders is **Monday, December 15**. Donations for this year's poinsettias are \$18 for each person remembered or honored. Thank you for supporting this ongoing FPC tradition!

Parking Garage Updates Member Vehicle Info

The Parking Garage LPR System was been installed this week and will be live on Monday, December 8. Please make sure you have provided vehicle, license plate and mobile phone information to avoid parking charges when attending worship or events at church. If you have not, you can do so at this link: shorturl.at/yQSqw

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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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