



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

August 31, 2025

10:30 AM

Twelfth 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

arr. Phil Lehenbauer
arr. Ronald A. Nelson

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 Desmond Tutu,
who did the hard work
of reconciliation and forgiveness in South Africa after apartheid.
May we learn from him. May his discipleship in the name of Jesus inform our own.
Amen.

***HYMN #475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, help us.

**When we have run away,
when we have turned our backs on love,
when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing,
help us.**

Merciful God, forgive us.

**When we have been selfish,
when we have been mean,
when we have closed our ears to the cries of others,
forgive us.**

Powerful God, heal us.

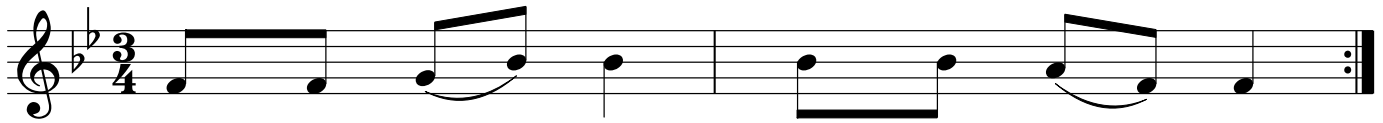
**When we are so broken we cannot move,
when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds,
when we are too ashamed to seek community,
heal us.**

**Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace
and hear your call in Christ.**

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.

© 1996 by Christopher Walker

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

All this is from God,

**who sought reconciliation with us through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;**

So we are ambassadors for Christ, on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

We are truly 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

Diane Ponder

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Pew Bible, NT p. 181

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD***HYMN #750**

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

*Sing three times (melody or harmony); hum the fourth time.****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Confession of Belhar)*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith.

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

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

Rodolfo Gaede Neto

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,
to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness:
until your Kingdom come, kyrie eleison!

***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

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 #366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Festival Prelude on *Hyfrydol*

Alfred Fedak

*This service is based on
Holy Disruptors – How Christian Saints, Prophets, and Mystics Led in Times of Difficulty by Pastor Siri Stromme.
Prayer of Confession written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission.
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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: Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Russ Mendenhall, Gordon Priedeman, Phyllis Whittington, and others facing illness and loss.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are given by Alice Corwin in loving memory of her husband, Dr. Ray Corwin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Directory Photo Days

When: Sun, Sep 7, Sep 21, Oct 12

Where: Chapel Narthex/Geneva

The Deacons are putting together a new photo directory! We'll be taking member photos in September and October before and after worship. For questions, contact Shelby Walker, Dustin Coles, or Cindy Finch.

Final Day for Walk the Wildwood Donations

When: Today, Sun, Aug 31

Where: Geneva Hall

Today's the final day to donate to Walk the Wildwood campaign for Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Uganda! We collected \$12,756 and 300 sneakers as well as sponsors for 4 students! Final tally is expected this fall once funds from the sneakers are received. Thank you to all this year's participants, donors, and volunteers!

FPC Needs YOU as Our Next Elder or Deacon!

When: nomination deadline Sun, Sep 7

FPC is entering an exciting season of growth and renewal—and we need you! If you feel called, we hope you'll consider serving as an elder, helping guide FPC's future; or as a deacon, caring for our community and creation. You are welcome to nominate yourself or someone else! To submit questions and nominations, contact Cathy Chang-Lowe, chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee (cchanglowe@gmail.com).

Summer Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Tue, Sep 30, 12:30-6:00 pm (appointment only)

Where: Geneva Hall

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

Julia West Donations

Help welcome our 90 new neighbors moving into the Julia West House this fall! FPC has purchased reusable shopping bags to fill with essentials our neighbors will need as they move from chronic houselessness into their new apartments. Please bring items from the list to help us fill the bags. You can drop off contributions in the red box in Geneva Hall, near the elevator, next time you're at church. Thank you for supporting our new neighbors.

Supporting Our Shared Mission: FPC Per Capita

Did you know that FPC pays \$50 per member of the church in per capita? Per capita is an annual per member apportionment that enables Presbyterians to mutually and equitably to share the costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is one expression of commitment to God and to the larger faith community. **Would you consider giving \$50 dollars per church member in your household to support the wider church's connectional work?**

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
Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

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Support Staff:

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Deb Davis, Bookkeeper
Bill Edwards, Sexton, Events & Wedding Coordinator

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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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