



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**September 14, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Fourteenth 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

Ubi caritas  
All Are Welcome

arr. Gerald Near  
arr. Lynn Trapp

### 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

How Very Good and Pleasant

Barbara Boertje

How very good and pleasant when we live in unity.  
It is like precious oil, like fresh morning dew.  
We gather here together with our hearts and voices raised  
to God, who's the center of our unity and praise!

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We are surrounded by diversity.

**We all come from different backgrounds.**

We are here together to listen to God's Word.

**We live together and are bound by God's love.**

The Lord calls us to worship in unity.

**In our worship, let us become one.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Dear Lord, give us the eyes to see opportunities for compassion,  
the integrity to meet the needs we see.

Stir our hearts into action to care for neighbors near and far  
then give us faith to leave the results in your hands.

Amen.

**\*HYMN #301**

Let Us Build a House (*Verses 1, 4, 5*)

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God who calls us and sends us,  
we confess that we look to take care of the needs of our community,  
forgetting that we belong to a global community.

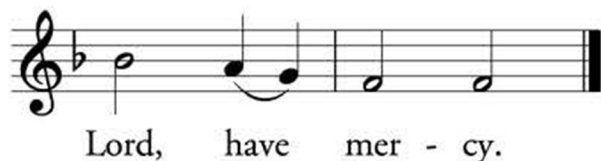
We are quick to respond to the needs near to home;  
we turn a blind eye to the suffering of others on distant shores.

Forgive us, give us courage to go where you are calling us.

Help us to look for you in all we help to serve.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**



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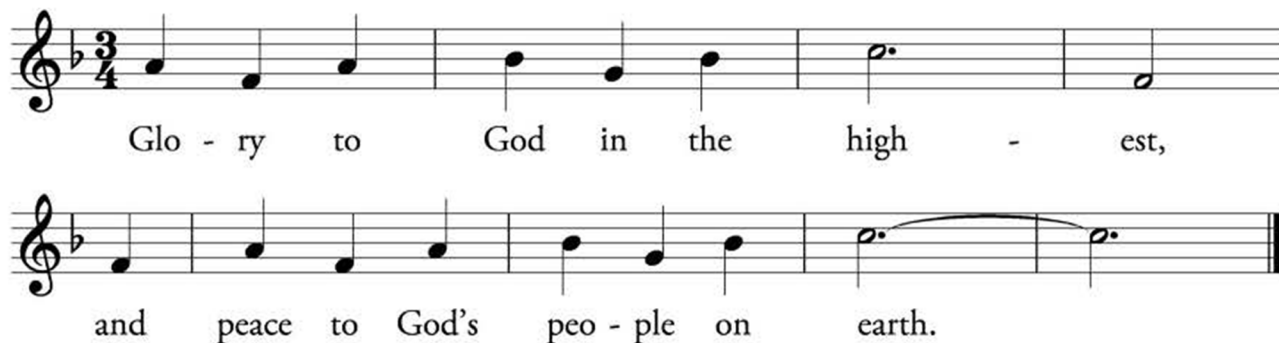
**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The good news of the Gospel is that everything we have done wrong  
is forgiven by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*- Please join in singing the refrain -*



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Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.

**\*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**

Ford Morris

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 139:1-10; 13-14

Pew Bible, OT p. 577

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

O God, You Search Me

Bernadette Farrell

O God, you search me and you know me. All my ways lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you go before me: ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising. You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me: in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding: God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me, still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you: even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me, gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you: safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 28:16-20

Pew Bible, NT p. 34

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON**

"Will You Come and Follow Me?"

Rev. Brenna Dykman

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD****\*HYMN #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

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

**We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this;  
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;  
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;  
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,  
helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly;  
that, for God, pure and undefiled religion is  
to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;  
that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;  
that the church must therefore stand by people  
in any form of suffering and need,  
which implies, among other things,  
that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice,  
so that justice may roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

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

Kapayapaan, Peace Be with You

Maria R. Nieva

May God be with you to protect and lead you. *Kapayapaan*, peace be with you.  
Hope and justice, everlasting love. *Kapayapaan*, peace be with you.  
Where there is hatred, may you sow love.  
Where there is darkness, may there be light.  
May you embrace the peace of Christ.

– based on the prayer traditionally ascribed to Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)  
 (“*Kapayapaan*” is Tagalog/Filipino for “peace.”)

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;                      praise Christ, all  
 peo-ple here be - low;                      praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more;  
 praise Tri-une God, whom we                      a - dore.                      A - men.

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\*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 #295**

Go to the World!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Scherzo

Alan Ridout

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

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Peggy, Linwood, Robin, and Linwood III by their families, the Browns, Cornells and Allens.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **September Birthday Celebration Today!**

**When:** Today, Sun, Sep 14, 11:30 am

**Where:** Geneva Hall

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

### **Biblical Theology for a Climate-Changed World**

**When:** Today, Sun, Sep 14, 21, & 28, 11:45 am

**Where:** Chapel

Heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires leave no doubt—we live in a climate-changed world. This demands both adaptation and compassion for the vulnerable, yet meaningful progress remains slow. In the U.S., deep-rooted individualism often impedes collective action. Join us starting this week for this series, in which Dr. Robert Kugler explores biblical traditions that call us beyond ourselves—to live in partnership with nature and in service to others—revealing how Christian scripture offers a compelling theology for today's climate challenges.

### **DoveLewis Service of Remembrance**

**When:** Today, Sun, Sep 14, 4:00 pm

**Where:** Sanctuary

We're honored to host DoveLewis and their annual memorial service to honor the memory of beloved animal companions. The undeniable impact that animals have on our lives is everlasting, and the Service of Remembrance pays tribute to that deep connection. **We welcome you to bring a photo of your beloved companion to place at the altar before our service begins.** Registration is not required but appreciated: [dovelewis.org/serviceofremembrance](http://dovelewis.org/serviceofremembrance)

### **Saltshakers Sign Ups**

Sign up throughout September for the next round of Saltshakers! This fun fellowship opportunity involves small dinner groups of 6-8 people meeting four times over the next year. It is an excellent way to get to know other church members. To sign up or get more info, chat with Jean Smith at coffee hour during September or send her an email ([jeanel53@gmail.com](mailto:jeanel53@gmail.com)).

### **Big Ideas Book Group**

**When:** Tue, Sep 16, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Chapel Art Gallery

The Big Ideas Book Group starts back this week! Join us to discuss *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis. The book argues that Christian nationalism, particularly the version that promotes white supremacy, is a distortion of Christianity and a threat to both democracy and the integrity of white churches. Contact Marilyn Howe at [harrietwho92@gmail.com](mailto:harrietwho92@gmail.com) for more information and to join the group's email list.

### **God's Work and Call in Uganda**

**When:** Sun, Oct 5, 11:45 am

**Where:** Calvin Library

Join us next month for a special talk by Rev. Canon John Mulindabigwi, Founder and Director of Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Uganda. Rev. Mulindabigwi will share how he and his wife Jolly followed God's call - selling land to start a school that now serves over 1,500 students. Hear their inspiring story and learn how God is working through missions to break the cycle of poverty in rural Uganda.

### **Women's Book Club October Meeting**

**When:** Tue, Oct 7, 11:15 am

**Where:** Heritage Room & Zoom

Mark your calendars for next month's time of fellowship and book discussion. Joyce Evans will lead our meeting with the book *What the Eyes Don't See* by Mona Hanna-Attisha. This riveting text details the true account of the 2014 discovery that the children of Flint, MI, were being exposed to lead in their tap water. It then discusses the battle with the government to expose the truth. We hope to see you in person or on Zoom: [us02web.zoom.us/j/81233316517!](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233316517)

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

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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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