



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**September 21, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Fifteenth 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

Aria on a Chaconne  
Prelude in D

Joel Martinson  
Adam Heron

### 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

Take, O Take Me as I Am

John L. Bell

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (2 Corinthians 8:9)

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**that though he was rich,**  
yet for your sake he became poor,  
so that by his poverty you might become rich.

**Let us worship our gracious and loving God!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you are rich in love for your people.  
Show us the treasure that endures,  
and, when we are tempted by greed, remind us of your lavish mercy.  
Call us back into your service  
and make us worthy to be entrusted with the wealth that never fails.  
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.

**\*HYMN #327**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Everlasting God,  
we confess how we have not lived as your people.  
We serve many masters—work, wealth, power, addictions—  
yet find no hope in them.  
We hear the cries of the poor,  
and shut the doors of our hearts to them.

Forgive us, Compassion’s Heart,  
and heal us of our brokenness.  
Make us well, so that by our healing,  
we might be the hope and love others need in their lives,  
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
brought these gifts to us,  
calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

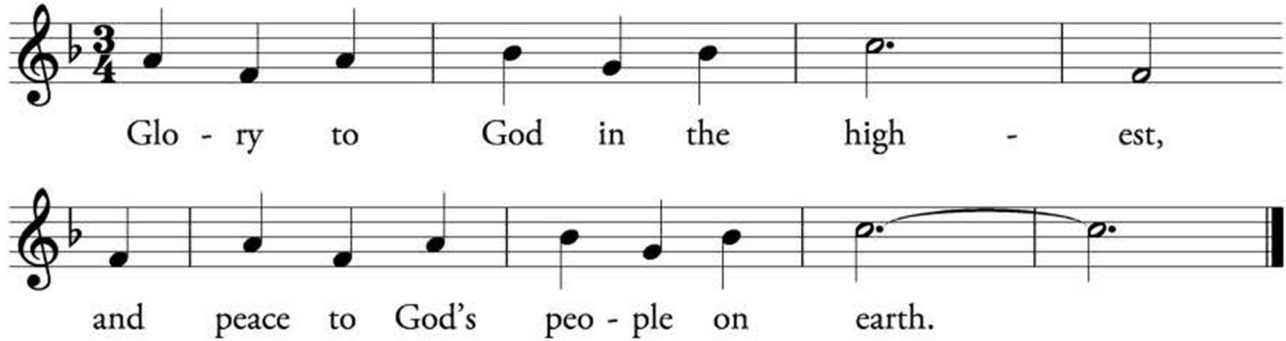
**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other,  
forgiving as God has forgiven us.

**We are God’s beloved children,  
and will model God’s grace and love in our hearts.  
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*- Please join in singing the refrain -*



© 1995 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* Page 4)

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**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Dominic James Mehta  
Son of Katherine Fiona Simpson and Sahil Mehta

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Linda Grabe

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Pew Bible, OT p. 854

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

How Blessed Are You

Jacques Berthier / Taizé

How blessed are you who are poor; the Kingdom of God is yours.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 16:1-13

Pew Bible, NT p. 79

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“Devotion and Service”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN #450**

Be Thou My Vision

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from a Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.  
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

## 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

### Take My Life, that I May Be

J. Aaron McDermid

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Amen.

— Frances R. Havergal, 1874

## \*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.

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg Music: © 2008 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* No. 608)

## \*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 #700**                      I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      Fantaisie-Impromptu, Op. posth. 66                      Frédéric Chopin

*(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: 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 Don & Juanita Alderton's September 22, 1957 wedding at First Presbyterian Church, by their children, Charlotte & Dean.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Biblical Theology for a Climate-Changed World: Passages from the Torah & Prophets**

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

**Where: Heritage Room**

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 today for the second installment of 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.

### **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)

### **Julia West House Welcome Bags**

We're so excited for the new JWH residents to begin moving in on October 3! To help welcome them, we're creating 90 welcome bags—one for each resident. So far, we have enough supplies to fully fill 25 bags, and we need your help to reach our goal! If you're able to donate, our most needed items right now are: **shampoo & conditioner, body wash, and mugs**. Thank you for supporting this community effort! For the full list, visit this link: [shorturl.at/gBoCT](https://shorturl.at/gBoCT)

### **Seeking BBQ Grill(s) for Future FPC Events!**

Do you have a grill in good condition that you no longer need? The church is hoping to add one or two more to help us host more fun, food-filled gatherings in the future. If you're upgrading or downsizing and have a grill to donate, we'd be so grateful! Please reach out to Pastor Brenna ([bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org)) if you're interested in donating.

### **Mission Study Report Now Available**

Thank you to everyone who helped the Mission Study Team produce our final report. From filling out the survey in May to enthusiastically attending the in-depth discussion sessions in June, July and August, your thoughts and recommendations guided our team as we completed our report. This report was approved by Session and is now available at the following link: [shorturl.at/9rjEp](https://shorturl.at/9rjEp)

### **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)).

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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### Office Hours

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

## First Presbyterian Church

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