



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

# Service for the Lord's Day

September 7, 2025

10:30 am

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion Sunday

*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

Song without Words, Op. 19, No. 1  
Träumerei (Dreaming), Op. 15, No. 7

Felix Mendelssohn  
Robert Schumann

*(Darlene Cusick, piano)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INTROIT

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

South African

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.  
Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hunger.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of power and mercy,

**only with your help can we offer you fitting service and praise.**

May we live the faith we profess

**and trust your promise of eternal life.**

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

**one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds,**

**that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you,**

**we may glorify your holy name,**

**and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you**

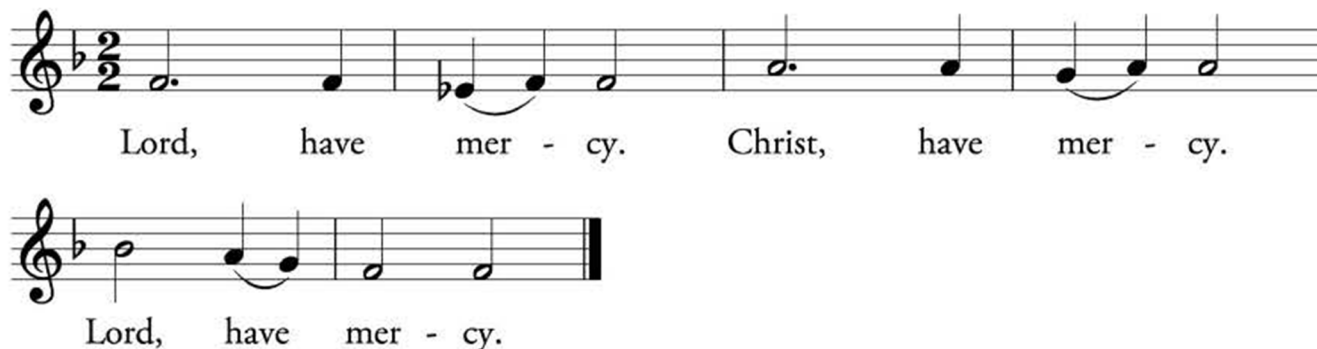
**in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O God, our Heavenly Creator, we confess that we have lost our way.  
 Too easily we are distracted from what really matters.  
 In our better moments we recognize  
 that life is better than death and love is superior to hate.  
 Yet, far too often in the heat of the moment, we lose our heads—  
 and perhaps worse—we lose our hearts.  
 We each strive to control our life.  
 We are well meaning, Lord,  
 but sometimes we choose paths that lead us away from you.  
 So today we acknowledge our sin and confess our shortcomings,  
 and with humility we ask you to help us strive for the greater gifts  
 and to show us a still more excellent way.  
 We want to be your people, but we are sometimes afraid of your demands.  
 Our fears run deep and we cannot overcome them by ourselves.  
 Remind us once again that the beginning of wisdom is to trust your holiness.  
 Help us cling to this trust and live with the faith that you will provide for us.  
 As we worship you in deep conviction,  
 speak the words of comfort and hope to us once again.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

\*LORD, HAVE MERCY



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

Lord, have mer - cy.

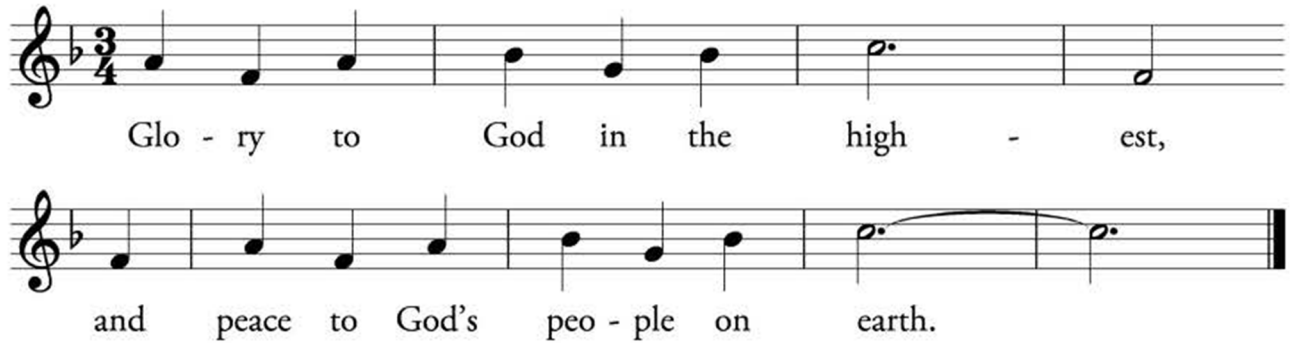
© 1995 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* Page 4)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord of the Universe assures us that in our human lives before God  
 we are to “first sit down and estimate the cost.”  
 We are God’s people.  
 It is God who made us and we are God’s.  
 “We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.”  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*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**

Shelby Walker

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Pew Bible OT, p. 186

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Teach Me, O Lord

David Hurd

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you.

Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life.

— *Psalm 119:33-38, 40*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 14:25-33

Pew Bible NT, p. 78

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“What Disciples Do”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN #432**

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts,**

**forgiving sinners,**

**and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,**

**Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain**

**and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,**

**vindicating his sinless life,**

**breaking the power of sin and evil,**

**delivering us from death to life eternal.**

*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.*

**OFFERTORY**

**Choristers' Prayer**

**Richard Proulx**

O God, who inspired King David to write songs and appoint singers for worship:  
give us grace, that with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
we may sing and make music to the glory of your name:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*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)

**COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING ACCLAMATIONS

*– Today’s Great Thanksgiving acclamations can be found on the numbered pages at the beginning of the hymnal –*

Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy – Page 9**

Thank you, O God .....

.....to live for him in joy and praise.

**Christ Has Died, Christ Is Risen – Page 10**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit ...

.....now and forever.

**Amen – Page 11**

## 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

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness  
Thanks Be to Thee

G.F. Handel  
(arr. Hal H. Hopson)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# THE SENDING

### \*HYMN #516

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major, Op. 37, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

*Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.  
Today’s service includes several pieces by Hal Hopson,  
a prolific composer of church music, and a Presbyterian. He died on July 20 at the age of 92.*

## 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 Patricia & Theodore Ziel by their daughter Sharon Ziel.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today's Events at FPC!

- Church Directory Photos (before and after worship, Chapel Narthex)
- Blessing of the Backpacks (during worship, Sanctuary)
- Picnic on the Plaza (11:30 am, Plaza)
- Menucha Fall Fundraiser (4:30 pm, Menucha)
- Elder/Deacon Nomination Deadline (submit to Cathy Chang-Lowe, [cchanglowe@gmail.com](mailto:cchanglowe@gmail.com))

### 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)).

### Biblical Theology for a Climate-Changed World

**When:** 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 next 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.

### Women's Book Club Fall Start Date

**When:** Tue, Sep 9, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Where:** Heritage Room

Join us for the new season of the Women's Book Club this week! We will be voting on a list of books we've read over the summer. We hope to see you in person or on Zoom: [shorturl.at/EjY0p](https://shorturl.at/EjY0p)

### PWM Bake Sale Planning Meeting

**When:** Wed, Sep 10, 7:00 pm

**Where:** Zoom ([shorturl.at/dW5Sx](https://shorturl.at/dW5Sx))

All women of FPC are invited to join us this week to make plans for the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Bake Sale. If you are not available for the meeting but would like to help, please reach out to Anna Wells ([kannaw@msn.com](mailto:kannaw@msn.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](http://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!

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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[ghomza@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ghomza@firstpresportland.org)

[cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)

### Support Staff:

Alexis Crawford, Communications Coordinator

Deb Davis, Bookkeeper

Bill Edwards, Sexton, Events & Wedding Coordinator

[communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org)

[ap@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ap@firstpresportland.org)

[events@firstpresportland.org](mailto:events@firstpresportland.org)



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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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[www.firstpresportland.org](http://www.firstpresportland.org)

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