



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

January 4, 2026
10:30 am
Epiphany 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

Two settings of *Puer nobis*

Thomas Gieschen

& Alec Wyton

Prelude on *Kings of Orient*

David Clark Isele

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

Arise, Shine

Ruth Cunningham

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

— Isaiah 60:1

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

Darkness has been banished!

God's light of hope floods the earth.

God's light comes to us all.

Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Unison*)

God of endless light, you sent a star —
rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages,
overwhelming us with joy.
Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world
until the whole creation shines with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our light.
Amen.

***HYMN #152**

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

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

God of light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us,
but we have turned away and followed other paths.
We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart,
with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Strengthen our faltering steps
and guide us in your holy way of peace.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

John Merbecke, 1550 (arr. Healey Willan, 1930)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.
The light of God shines through the darkness.
Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Text: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt. Tune: GLORIA, 7.7.7.7 with refrain; French carol

***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

Andrea Bonsignori
Kandace Day

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Melissa Dailey

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, pg. 690

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Heavenly Light

Alexander Kopylov

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine!
May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!
Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love!
Show us the way unto our God, we pray!
Thou our beacon and guide shall be!
Light Divine, we praise thee!

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

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, pg. 2

SERMON

“Let Us Follow the Light”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #145**

What Child Is This

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *the Barmen Declaration*)

Jesus Christ,
as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture,
is the one Word of God
which we have to hear
and which we have to trust and obey
in life and in death.

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 6 of the worship bulletin.*

OFFERTORY

O Nata Lux

Patrick Castles

O nata lux de lumine, *O Light born of Light,*
Jesu redemptor saeculi, *Jesus, redeemer of the world,*
dignare clemens supplicum *with kindness deign to receive*
laudes preces que sumere. *the offering of praise and prayers.*
Qui carne quondam contegi *You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh*
dignatus es pro perditis, *for the sake of the lost,*
nos membra confer effici *grant that we may be made members*
tui beati corporis. *of your blessed body.*

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL, LM with refrain; English carol

***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 #150**

As with Gladness Men of Old

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Declamation on *Dix*

Craig Phillips

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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, Anna & Bill Meyers, Jackie West, 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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are given by the Webb family in honor of their dear Tom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Birthdays Celebration

When: today, Sun, Jan 4, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

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

Artist Talk: Joanne Kollman

When: Sun, Jan 11, 11:45 am

Where: Chapel Art Gallery

Join us next week for an artist talk from our current gallery artist, Joanne Kollman. From the artist: "Problem-solving in painting and in life seems to always migrate back to relationships, and mine are close to home."

Big Ideas Book Group December Meeting

When: Tue, Jan 20, 6:00 pm

Where: Chapel

The Big Ideas Book Group will meet in January to discuss the second half of *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 discussed the first four chapters in December and will discuss "Belonging" (chapters 5-7) this month. We hope you'll join us for this time of conversation and education!

2025 Per Capita - Mea Culpa!

As your Stewardship Chair, I have written to remind everyone to pay your Per Capita of \$50 for each FPC member. As I was looking at my donation record to FPC, I discovered I failed to make my payments for 2024 and 2025. Mea Culpa! I quickly rectified my oversight. To pay online, go to the FPC website and click on the donation button, choosing 2025 Per Capita Offering as the Fund. Also, you can submit it via your typical method of donating to FPC. Your support will make a difference.

- Greg Aldrich, Stewardship Chair

2026 Stewardship Campaign

"Let Your Light Shine Before Others"

As we enter 2026, we enter the final phase of our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Our theme, "Let Your Light Shine Before Others," has invited us to see stewardship not as an obligation, but as a joyful response to God's lavish mercy. Together, we are helping our church be a place where God's grace is known, where faith is nurtured, and where light reaches far beyond our walls. To date, we have received 95 pledges for a total of \$561,881. This puts the campaign at more than 86% of the goal of \$650,000. Thank you for your generosity!

New Way to Submit Bulletin/Spire Articles

We're excited to share a new, more streamlined way to submit text articles for our publications! To help us stay organized and ensure timely review, all article submissions will now be collected through online Google Forms. There are two separate links: one link for Friday eBlast and Sunday bulletin submissions and one for Spire articles. Please be sure to choose the one that matches your submission!

- **eBlast and Sunday bulletin announcements:** shorturl.at/sj0DU
- **February Spire articles (due January 9):** shorturl.at/Scsg8

Please note that text articles sent by email will be redirected to the appropriate Google Form. Thank you for your continued contributions and for helping us make this process smoother for everyone. We appreciate your support!

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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