



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

# Service for the Lord's Day

December 28, 2025

10:30 am

The First Sunday after Christmas

*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

Sussex Carol  
Gesù Bambino  
Still, Still, Still

Trad. (arr. Mark Hayes)  
Pietro Yon (arr. Mark Hayes)  
Trad. (arr. Mark Hayes)

*(Darlene Cusick, piano)*

### 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

If in Your Heart

Ana Hernández

If in your heart you make a manger for his birth,  
then God will once again become a child on earth.

*– Angelus Silesius (17<sup>th</sup> cent); trans. Stephen Mitchell*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we worship the One who sent us Jesus,  
**the One who calls us,**  
the One who equips us,  
**the One who loves us without end.**  
With joyful hearts, let us worship God.



**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE** (*Unison*)

**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**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Melissa Dailey

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 41:9-10

Pew Bible, pg. 669

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

God Our Protector

Steve Bell

God our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people.  
For if we could be with you one day in time, it is better than a thousand without you.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 2:13-15

Pew Bible, pg. 2

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD****\*HYMN #154**

Jesus Entered Egypt

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *the Confession of 1967*)

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.  
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people  
and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.  
He expressed the love of God in word and deed  
and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women.  
But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people.  
His life and teaching judged their goodness,  
religious aspirations, and national hopes.  
Many rejected him and demanded his death.  
In giving himself freely for them,  
he took upon himself the judgment  
under which everyone stands convicted.  
God raised him from the dead,  
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.  
The victim of sin became victor,  
and won the victory over sin and death for all.**

**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**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Trad. (arr. Mark Hayes)

**\*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 #134**

Joy to the World

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson  
(arr. Michael Edwards)

*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: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Russ Mendenhall, Anna & Bill Meyers, and others facing illness and loss.*

*You can request prayer by calling 503-228-7331 x 2 or emailing [prayer@firstpresportland.org](mailto: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.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*Our prayers are with the family of Joan Palmer, who passed away on December 16, 2025.*

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given by Doug Blomgren in loving memory of Ann Bartsch.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2026 Stewardship Campaign

#### **“Let Your Light Shine Before Others”**

In November we dedicated our 2026 pledges to First Presbyterian. To date, we have received 88 pledges for a total of \$530,793 towards our goal of \$650,000. These pledges are a commitment to our church’s health and its mission. We thank all of you who already submitted pledges. If you haven’t, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2026. You can use the pledge card you received in the mail or pick one up in the narthex. You can pledge online at [firstpresportland.org](http://firstpresportland.org) and click on “2026 Stewardship Campaign.” Thank you for your ongoing support of First Presbyterian Church of Portland.

### FPC Office Closure

#### **When: Thu, Jan 1, all day**

The FPC offices will be closed this Thursday in observance of New Years Day. If you do need to contact us, please feel free to leave a voicemail or send an email and we’ll connect with you asap. We hope you enjoy a safe and meaningful holiday season with loved ones!

### January Birthdays Celebration

#### **When: Sun, Jan 4, 11:30 am**

#### **Where: Geneva Hall**

After worship next week, 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!

### February Spire Articles Deadline

#### **When: Fri, Jan 9**

We’d love to include articles and photos from recent church events in the February edition of The Spire! **Please note we have a new way to submit Spire articles. Go to the following link to fill out the Google Form and submit your text:** [shorturl.at/gIaWC](http://shorturl.at/gIaWC). Pictures can still be submitted to [communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org). Thank you for helping us highlight the wonderful activities and events happening in our church community.

### 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 Otherring: 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: Otherring 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 Donations

Many of us make financial donations as part of our year-end traditions. As you consider gifts to your favorites, such as public television and radio, musical organizations, art institutions, etc, please be sure to consider your church community at FPC. Have you paid off your pledge for 2025? Perhaps your generosity might include a special gift to FPC. Please know that your contributions will help to keep FPC a thriving community in downtown Portland. In addition, your gift includes supporting some of the neediest people who are our downtown neighbors.

### 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

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

[hbolt@firstpresportland.org](mailto:hbolt@firstpresportland.org)  
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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  
Eric Park, Maintenance Technician

[communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org)  
[ap@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ap@firstpresportland.org)  
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[@FirstPresPortland](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresPortland)



[@FirstPresPortland](https://www.instagram.com/FirstPresPortland)

### Office Hours

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

## First Presbyterian Church

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