



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

August 2, 2026

10:30 am

Tenth 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 Two settings of *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* (BWV 730 & 731) J.S. Bach

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 Our Darkness Jacques Berthier / Taizé

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who long for the presence of God. Come with your joys and your sorrows.

We come with thankful and honest hearts.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

God welcomes our laughter and our tears.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**We come to worship the God who meets us in our grief, heals our hearts,
and leads us into hope.**

Let us worship God.

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

Gracious and compassionate God, you do not ask us to pretend that life is easy or that faith requires us to hide our tears.

You meet us in places of sorrow, walk beside us in our losses, and promise a comfort deeper than words can express.

Open our hearts today.

Give us the courage to grieve what is broken within us, to share in the burdens of our neighbors, and to receive your healing grace.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, shape us into people whose compassion reflects the heart of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #395**

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

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

Merciful God, too often we avoid what is painful.

We rush past grief, ignore the suffering of others, or distract ourselves from the truth about our own hearts.

Forgive us when we refuse to see the pain around us.

Forgive us when our comfort matters more than another's need.

Forgive us when we resist the truth about ourselves.

Give us courage to grieve what separates us from you, not because you delight in our sorrow,

but because you long to restore us through your mercy.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

Teach us that honest sorrow can become the doorway to healing, that repentance leads to freedom,

and that your grace is always greater than our failures.

In Jesus' name.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two measures of the melody. The second system contains the remaining measures, including a measure with a 6/4 time signature change and a final measure with a 4/4 time signature change. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.' The score ends with a double bar line. The text 'Hea-Wil-1928' is printed at the bottom right of the page.

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

Hea-Wil-1928

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news.

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

In Jesus Christ, God does not turn away those who come with tears,
nor reject those who confess their sin.

Instead, Christ meets us with mercy,
binds up our wounds, and offers us new life.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #645 (verse 4)**

**Throughout my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!**

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART, 8.7.8.7.8.8.7; Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

***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

*We are grateful for the joy and energy children bring to our faith community
and look forward to our Children's Moments resuming after the summer months!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shelby Walker

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 34:11-18

Pew Bible, OT pg. 508

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Love the Lord

Richard Smallwood
(arr. Nolan Williams, Jr.)

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.
I love the Lord, who heard my cry and chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair while I have breath to pray.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-4

Pew Bible, NT pg. 4

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

"The Room of Honest Grief"

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #463**

How Firm a Foundation

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)

We believe in God, whose love reaches to the poor in spirit,
whose mercy embraces those who mourn,
and whose justice lifts up the humble.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who announced the coming of God's kingdom,
who called the unlikely "blessed," who welcomed the forgotten,
fed the hungry, forgave sinners,
made peace among enemies, and remained faithful even to the cross.

We believe the Holy Spirit forms us into the likeness of Christ,
creating in us humble hearts, a hunger for righteousness,
merciful hands, pure intentions, and the courage to make peace.

We believe that God's kingdom is already breaking into the world,
even as we await its fullness.

Therefore, we will seek justice, extend mercy, walk humbly with our God,
and rejoice in hope,

trusting that nothing can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful support.

Contributions to the life and ministry of this congregation 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.*



OFFERTORY

Father, We Thank Thee

Michael Sitton

Father, we thank thee who hast planted thy holy Name within our hearts.

Knowledge and faith and life immortal Jesus thy Son to us imparts.

Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy pleasure, didst give us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the Bread eternal; thine is the pow'r, be thine the praise.

Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mercy, save it from evil, guard it still.

Perfect it in thy love, unite it, cleansed and conformed unto thy will.

As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, was in this broken bread made one,
so from all lands thy Church be gathered into thy kingdom by thy Son.

— Greek (from Didache), ca. 110 (tr. F. Bland Tucker, 1941)

*DOXOLOGY

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all'. The second staff continues with 'people here be - low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more;'. The third staff concludes with 'praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.' and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are aligned under the corresponding notes.

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

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Healey Willan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING

***HYMN #610**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Chaconne

Louis Couperin

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IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers are with the family of Jerry Johnson who passed away on July 12, 2026.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We join in holding in prayer: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Doug Marcks, 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 in loving memory of Lynn Hermanson Blum by Robin Blum Flaig and Bob Blum.

VISITING US?

We're so happy to welcome you to FPC! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card (located in the back of the pews) or scan the QR code to the right for a digital version.

We hope you'll join us at coffee hour downstairs in Geneva Hall after the service. We'd love to get to know you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Birthdays Celebration

When: Today, Sun, Aug 2, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

After worship today, we'll wish a happy birthday to all those born in August. We want to celebrate you after with cupcakes and a song at coffee hour!

Mirabella Exhibit Opening Reception

When: Today, Sun, Aug 2, 11:45 am

Where: Chapel

Join us after worship today for the opening reception of the Mirabella Art Group Exhibition. Meet the talented artists of Mirabella, whose work includes painting, photography, quilting, woodworking, needlework, and more. Nearly 15 resident artists are featured, with many exhibiting professionally throughout their careers. Enjoy refreshments and browse artist statements highlighting the inspiration behind their creative work. We hope to see you there!

FPC Youngish Adults

When: Sun, Aug 9, 9:15 am

Where: St. Honoré (downtown)

The FPC Youngish Adults will meet for our Second Sunday Coffee next Sunday! Come hang out, grab a drink/ bite to eat, and catch up. This coffee spot is about a 7-minute walk from the FPC parking garage and has plenty of seating and room for kids. You are welcome to join us anytime that works for you! We will head back to church around 10:10 AM. Signup for the listserve, here: forms.gle/8ur5AFcVW97zjf347

Menucha Summer Volunteer Work Party

When: Sat, Aug 15, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Menucha

Menucha's next work party is coming up soon! We'll celebrate summer by bonding as a community while improving the sacred property, with a particular focus on our paths and trails. Lunch will be provided. Sign up by emailing Menucha at hello@menucha.org. Questions? Email or call Menucha at 503-695-2243.

All-Church Picnic

When: Sun, Aug 23, 12:00 pm

Where: Menucha

Save the date now for our annual all-church picnic at Menucha! Bring a potluck dish to share and your own paper plates and utensils.

Beverages will be provided. We will meet by the swimming pool and enjoy some summer fun and fellowship! *Potluck dishes are divided by the first letter of your last name: A - J: dessert; K - O: main dish; P - Z: salad or side dish*

Menucha Annual Fundraiser

When: Sun, Sep 13, 4:30 pm

Where: Menucha

Menucha invites you to their Annual Fundraising Dinner, "Gathered in Harmony." Celebrate with an evening of music, storytelling, and shared purpose, featuring keynote speakers and performers Aaron and Nicole Keim, artistic directors of Ukulele Band Camp. Enjoy a delicious dinner and inspiring program while supporting Menucha's mission. Learn more and purchase tickets at menucha.org/fall-fundraising-dinner. Ticket sales end August 22.

Pastor Brenna Out of Office

Pastor Brenna is off on the second half of her sabbatical and will not be reachable till she is back in the office on **September 8**. We wish her well as she is on this renewal leave!

Summer Choir Invitation

All are welcome to join in singing with the Summer Choir through the end of August. There is no mid-week rehearsal, but participants are asked to prepare on their own during the week. Contact Greg Homza (ghomza@firstpresportland.org) for more info.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or eBlast?

Submit it at this link by Monday each week!

shorturl.at/eVnBQ

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. Dr. Joan Miller, Interim Head Pastor
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor
Rev. Andrew Wall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Aaron Morris, Stated Supply Pastor
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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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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