



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

August 9, 2026

10:30 AM

Eleventh 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

Gather Us In
Andante tranquillo

arr. John Behnke
Felix Mendelssohn

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

Blessed Are the Meek

ed. William B. Bradbury

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not fret because of those who prosper through injustice.

Do not let anger rule your heart.

We wait for the Lord with hope and trust.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

**We come not to grasp for power,
but to receive God's strength.**

Christ calls us into the room of gentle strength,
where courage is tempered by humility,
and power is shaped by love.

**Come, let us worship the God
whose kingdom belongs to the humble.**

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

God of quiet power, in a world that prizes dominance
and rewards those who push to the front,
you reveal another way through Jesus Christ.
Teach us the strength that does not wound, the courage that does not boast,
and the confidence that rests in your faithfulness rather than our own striving.
When anger tempts us, grant us patience.
When fear drives us, grant us trust.
When we are tempted to seize control,
remind us that the earth is not won by force but received as your gift.
Shape us into people whose lives bear witness to the gentle strength of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #401**

Here in This Place (*verses 1, 2, 4*)

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

Merciful God, too often we mistake loud voices for strong character
and winning for faithfulness.
We grasp for control instead of trusting you.
We answer anger with anger, impatience with impatience,
and power with more power.
We confess that we have overlooked the quiet courage of gentleness.
We have forgotten that your Son entered Jerusalem on a donkey
rather than a warhorse,
washed the feet of his disciples,
and conquered not through violence but through the cross.
Forgive us.
Train our hearts to be strong enough to be gentle,
confident enough to be humble, and secure enough to entrust ourselves to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. 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 includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Healey Willan, 1928

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news.
Jesus does not bless the powerful because they dominate,
but those whose lives are shaped by God's gracious strength.
In Christ, God forgives our grasping,
calms our restless hearts,
and gives us the Spirit who forms in us gentleness, patience, and peace.
The One who calls us blessed also makes us new.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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

Linda Grabe

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 37:1-11

Pew Bible, OT p. 510

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**Commit Your Way to God the Lord**

Thurlow Weed

Commit your way to God the Lord: your cause will shine as bright as fire;
delight to do God's holy word and you shall find what you desire.

Be still before the Lord and wait, and do not fret when wrong succeeds;
refrain from anger, turn from hate, for God will punish evil deeds.

Salvation comes from God alone: the faithful know their help is sure;
to heaven, all our needs are known, and in God's strength we are secure.

Commit your way to God the Lord; to peace and truth and grace aspire;
then mercy shall be your reward; God's promises, your heart's desire.

— from Psalm 37; para. Michael Perry, 1989

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-5

Pew Bible, NT p. 4

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“The Room of Gentle Strength”

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD***HYMN #729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

***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 firstpresportland.org.*



OFFERTORY

We Serve the Prince of Peace

C. David Bolin

Jesus said, "Blest are the meek." He calls us to "turn the cheek."

"Go," he said, "the second mile." We serve the Prince of Peace.

"Give your coat" and "share your bread," these are things our Savior said.

"Love your enemies," as well. We serve the Prince of Peace.

"Lend, expecting nothing back." "Share your wealth so none will lack."

"Do as you'd have done to you." We serve the Prince of Peace.

Jesus said, "You are the light; place your lamp upon the height."

We're to shine so all will see. We serve the Prince of Peace.

— Terry W. York, 2004

*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.

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 contains the melody for "people here be - low; praise Holy Spirit ever - more;". The third staff contains the melody for "praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen." and ends with a double bar line.

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 #546**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Entrata Festiva

David Lasky

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.

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 by John Evans in celebration of Joyce Evan's birthday, a gift from her family.

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

Hal Broughton Memorial Service

When: Fri, Aug 14, 11:00 am

Where: Sanctuary

The family of Hal Broughton would appreciate your presence this week at a memorial service honoring and celebrating his life. All are welcome at this time of remembrance. Please keep the family in your prayers during this time.

Menucha Summer Volunteer Work Party

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

Where: Menucha

Menucha's next work party is this Saturday! We'll celebrate summer by bonding as a community while improving the sacred property. 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

Join us in a few weeks for our annual all-church picnic! Bring a potluck dish to share and your own paper plates and utensils. Beverages will be provided. Come enjoy some summer fun and fellowship! *Potluck dishes are divided by the first letter of your last name: A - H: dessert; I - O: main dish; P - Z: salad or side dish*

Covenant Conversations: Cascades

When: Sat, Aug 29, 10:00am- 3:30 PM

Where: Westminster PC

As a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, FPC is honored to help host Covenant Conversations: Cascades, a Presbytery-wide gathering focused on faithful inclusion. Through worship, conversation, and workshops, we'll explore Scripture, our faith tradition, and the stories around us as we grow in recognizing the image of God in all people. Together, we'll support church leaders, engage challenging conversations, and deepen our witness. Join us for this meaningful time of learning and connection.

Save the Date: Kick-Off Sunday

When: Sun, Sep 13

Where: Sanctuary & Plaza

Save the date now for our annual Kick-Off Sunday! We'll celebrate the start of a new school year and education season here at FPC as well as share a picnic together on the plaza. More details will be shared in the coming weeks!

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. 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.

PWM Annual Bake & Craft Sale

The PWM Bake and Craft Sale is coming in November. For now, as gardens and creative projects flourish, please consider contributing homemade jams, pickles, baked goods, soaps, potholders, crafts, homemade cards, or anything else you cook or make. Proceeds will support next year's FPC Women's Retreat, so everyone can attend regardless of cost. More details soon!

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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