



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

September 13, 2026

10:30 AM

Sixteenth 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 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee, BWV 691, 690, 642 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 God of Wondrous Beauty Christine Manderfeld

God of wondrous beauty! Light of all creation!
Awaken in our hearts new songs of praise.
Give praise to God, all you nations. Give glory, all you peoples.
Strong is God's love for us; God is faithful forever.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come from many places, carrying many stories.

Yet here we are, gathered as one people in the presence of God.

We remember those who taught us to pray, who showed us mercy,
who sang the songs of faith before us.

We give thanks for those whose faith has become part of our own story.

We come with all that we have received—and with all that remains unfinished.

For God is still at work among us.

We come not alone, but as the body of Christ:

a people who need one another, a people who sing together,

a people who bear one another's burdens and share one another's joy.

**We come to worship the God who has been faithful in the past,
who meets us in the present, and who calls us into the future.**

Come, let us worship the God whose steadfast love endures forever.

We are here. We belong to one another. And we belong to God.

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

Gracious and faithful God,
we give you thanks for bringing us together today—
for the people who have shaped our faith,
for the community we share, and for the grace that meets us here and now.
Help us receive with gratitude what has been handed down to us,
live faithfully in this present moment, and trust you with the future.
Give us the mind of Christ:
hearts open to one another,
lives ready to serve,
and courage to follow wherever you lead.
For you are at work among us and within us.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #327**

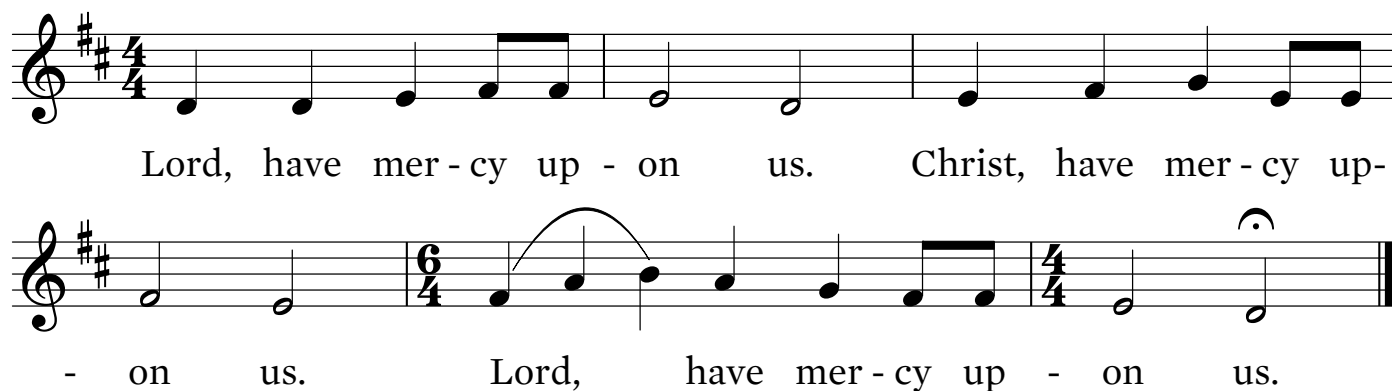
From All That Dwell Below the Skies

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

Gracious God, you have called us to be one body,
to have the mind of Christ, to look beyond ourselves,
and to love one another as you have loved us.
Yet we confess that we too often turn inward.
We hold tightly to what is familiar.
We cling to our own opinions and our own ways.
We forget the people who have been left at the edges.
We sometimes protect the institution rather than embody the love of Christ.
And we confess that the church
has not always been a place of safety, grace, or welcome.
We have caused harm.
We have remained silent when we should have spoken.
We have sometimes confused our own certainty with your truth.
Forgive us.
And yet, O God, do not let our failures have the last word.
Remind us that your grace is larger than our failures.
Teach us again the humility of Christ.
Make us a people who listen more deeply, love more generously,
forgive more freely, and make room for one another.
Take what is broken among us and make it whole.
Take what is weary and give it new life.
Take what we offer and use it for your purposes.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**



Healey Willan, 1928

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news:
God does not abandon us when we fail.
God does not turn away when the church falls short.
God continues to call, forgive, renew, and make all things new.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—
not because we have made ourselves worthy, but because God is gracious.
The steadfast love of God is greater than our failures, greater than our fears,
and greater even than the things we cannot yet imagine.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are made new.

And we are called again to walk in the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Blessing of the Backpacks

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Linda Grabe

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 40:1-11

Pew Bible, OT p. 513

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Georg Neumark
(arr. Jody W. Lindh)

If thou but suffer God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that naught can move.

Only be still and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent;
nor doubt our inmost wants are clear to one who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; in all thy labor faithful be,
and trust God's word, though undeserving, thou yet shalt find it true for thee;
God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

— Georg Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-13

Pew Bible, NT p. 197

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Why I Am and Remain a Christian"

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***HYMN #69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

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

We have received a faith from those who came before us.
We live that faith in the present,
and we entrust it to those who will come after us.
So, with Christians across generations and around the world,
let us affirm the faith we share:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Clothing Closets

Eileen Tremaine

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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

arr. Moses Hogan

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy...
Lord, I want to be like Jesus...

*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)

*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 #265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*BENEDICTION

INTERLUDE

Prelude on *Duke Street*

Charles Callahan

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Rev. Jim Moiso

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Duke Street*

Gilbert M. Martin

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.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Brenda Peterson on August 28, 2026. In keeping with Brenda's wishes, there will not be a memorial service. Please keep her loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Linwood, Robin, & Linwood III by their families the Browns, Cornells, & Allens.

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

Jerry Johnson Memorial Service

When: Sun, Sep 20, 2:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

A memorial service and reception will be held for Jerry Johnson next Sunday at FPC. Jerry passed away on July 12, 2026 with his wife Susan True and three young adult children at his side. Jerry served in many meaningful volunteer positions both at FPC and Menucha. Join us in celebrating his life and remembering his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Together Lab Service & Learning

When: Wed, Sep 23, 5:00 pm

Where: First United Methodist (SW Jefferson St. PDX)

Join us next week for an evening of service and learning with Together Lab and the Downtown Portland Interfaith Collaborative. Together, we'll strengthen our capacity for shared action with people most impacted by immigration enforcement and housing insecurity—and better advocate for and with our neighbors.

Register here: shorturl.at/pybeH

Adult Ed: Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber

When: weekly on Tue, Sep 15-Oct 27, 7:00 pm

Where: Zoom (us02web.zoom.us/j/82964584629)

Join us each week as Pastor Andrew Wall leads a discussion of this spiritual memoir. Bolz-Weber uses the liturgical calendar to share stories of finding divine grace through the people of her congregation.

This Week at FPC

- **Today, Sun, Sep 13, 12:00 pm:** Picnic on the Plaza
- **Today, Sun, Sep 13, 4:00 pm:** DoveLewis Service of Pet Grief and Remembrance
- **Tue, Sep 15, 7:00 pm:** Accidental Saints Study
- **Thu, Sep 17, 10:00 am:** Women's Open Circle
- **Fri, Sep 18, 11:00 am:** Practical Theology Study
- **Fri, Sep 18, 1:00 pm:** Two Dudes Bible Study

Contact the church office for more info and Zoom links.

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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