



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day
September 6, 2026
10:30 am
Fifteenth 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

Serenade

Phil Lehenbauer

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 #466

Come and Fill Our Hearts

– Please join in singing –

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, for Christ calls us into the room of peace.

**We come, carrying the conflicts we cannot resolve
and the wounds we cannot heal.**

Blessed are the peacemakers, Jesus tells us, for they shall be called children of God.

Teach us to be more than people who love peace.

Make us people who make peace.

Come, all who long for reconciliation, for wholeness,
for the well-being of God's people.

**We come to seek the peace of Christ—
the peace that restores what has been broken.**

Let us worship the God who makes peace and calls us to make peace.

We are ready to listen, to speak, to forgive, and to take the first step.

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

God of peace, you are not a God of division, resentment, or fear,
but the God who brings what is broken back together.
You have shown us your way in Jesus,
who calls the peacemakers blessed and names them your children.
Quiet the agitation within us.
Give us courage where we would rather withdraw,
humility where we are certain we are right,
and compassion to see the person on the other side of the conflict.
Teach us to listen before we answer,
to speak words that heal rather than wound,
and to make the first move when reconciliation is needed.
Gather us into your peace this day,
so that we might carry that peace with us
into our homes, our relationships, our church, and our world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #401**

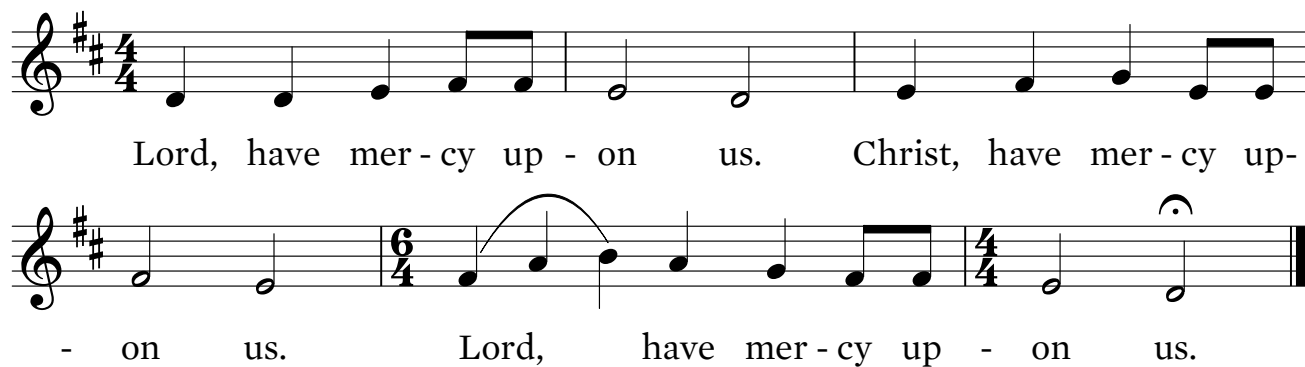
Here in This Place

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

Merciful God, we confess that we often want peace
without the work of peacemaking.
We would rather avoid difficult conversations
than risk saying what needs to be said.
We would rather be right than be reconciled.
We hold tightly to our grievances
and wait for someone else to make the first move.
Forgive us for the times we have answered anger with anger,
hurt with hurt, silence with silence.
Forgive us when we have mistaken the absence of conflict for peace,
when beneath the quiet there is resentment, loneliness, or pain.
Give us the courage of Abigail,
who stepped into the space between anger and destruction.
Give us the wisdom of Jesus,
who calls us to love beyond the boundaries of our comfort.
Make us instruments of your peace.
Where something is broken, help us begin to mend it.
Where there is distance, help us take a step toward one another.
Where there is anger, teach us the way of mercy.
We ask this in the name of Christ, who reconciles us to you and to one another.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**



Healey Willan, 1928

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news:

God has not left us trapped in our divisions, our failures, or our old ways of being.

In Christ, God is reconciling the world—

and God has entrusted that ministry of reconciliation to us.

Thanks be to God.

Friends, know that you are forgiven.

You are held in the peace of Christ, and you are free to begin again.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTER COMMISSIONING OF LAUREN DEMING

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 next week!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Diane Ponder

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 25:23-35

Pew Bible, OT pg. 270

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lord, in Thy Mercy

Felix Mendelssohn

Lord, in thy mercy grant us peace throughout all generations;
thou art alone our sword and shield, Lord who dost guide the nations.
Defend us, O God, we pray thee.

(Madeline Ross, soprano)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-9

Pew Bible, NT pg. 4

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

"The Room of Peace"

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*HYMN

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

**Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.**

Text: © 1980 by James Quinn, SJ (inspired by Francis of Assisi)

Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English folk melody

***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

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator we are family.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

*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)

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

Christ, Our Peace

Marty Haugen

**Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that divide us;
Christ, our peace, come, make us one body in you.**

Each time we eat this bread, each time we drink this cup,
we share Christ's death and rising until the reign of...

One is the bread we break, one is the cup we drink,
one is the body gathered here at the feast of...

All you with hungry hearts, who seek God's gracious reign,
all you who thirst for justice, come to the feast of...

And all are welcome here; here there is food for all,
blest meal of grace and mercy, gathered as one in...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING

***HYMN #373**

O Day of Peace

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Peace May Be Exchanged

Dan Locklair

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 Patricia & Theodore Ziel by their daughter Sharon Ziel.

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

Congregational Meeting Notification

When: Sun, Sep 13, following worship

Where: Sanctuary

After worship next week, we will hold a congregational meeting to vote on Rev. Dr. Joan Miller's call as FPC's Pastor as well as the terms of her call. Church members on the active roll are able to vote and all are welcome to attend.

September Birthdays Celebration

When: Today, Sun, Sep 6, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

After worship today, we'll wish happy birthday to all born in September. Celebrate with us at coffee hour!

FPC Offices Closed for Labor Day

When: Mon, Sep 7, all day

The FPC offices will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day. Feel free to leave us a voicemail or email us and we'll respond soon!

Jackie West Memorial Service

When: Sat, Sep 12, 2:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

A memorial service and reception will be held for Jackie West next week at FPC. Her family would appreciate your presence in celebrating her life. Join us in holding her loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Jerry Johnson Memorial Service

When: Sun, Sep 20, 2:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

A memorial service and reception will be held for Jerry Johnson later this month 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. Please join us in celebrating his life and remembering his loved ones in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Ministry

This morning we are commissioning a new Stephen Minister for FPC. Stephen Ministers serve individuals who are facing life challenges by offering confidential, one-to-one listening, and walking alongside them as they rebuild their lives. For more info, contact one of our pastors, Bill Resley, or Janet Leatherwood.

Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Tue, Sep 8, 12:30-6:00 pm (by appt only)

Where: Geneva Hall

FPC is hosting our next community blood drive this week and we need your help! Donating blood is a simple act that can make a life-saving difference. To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit shorturl.at/tlyRJ. Join us in giving the gift of life—your contribution matters more than ever. Thank you for your support and generosity!

I-5 Closures This Month

When: starting Fri, Sep 11

All southbound lanes of I-5 between I-405 and I-84 will close around-the-clock starting September 11 for up to five weeks for repairs and paving. These closures may impact the ease of getting to FPC during these weeks so please plan ahead and drive safely!

Road Closures Next Week

When: Sun, Sep 13, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: downtown Portland

Please note that a large event downtown (Sunday Parkways) will bring temporary street closures next Sunday. Streets along SW Broadway and SW Park Avenue between Oak and Harrison streets will be closed to motorized traffic, with limited access for residents. SW 4th, 5th, and 6th avenues will remain open for north-south travel. We have a very full day at FPC on this date, so you may want to plan an alternate route or allow extra time for travel and parking.

FPC Youngish Adults

When: Sun, Sep 13, 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 or bite to eat, and catch up. We'll meet at the FPC garage to take the approx. 7 minute walk together. You're welcome to join us anytime! Signup for our listserv at this link: forms.gle/8ur5AFcVW97zfj347

Kick Off Sunday Service & Picnic

When: Sun, Sep 13, during and after worship

Where: Sanctuary & Plaza

Break out your denim and red bandanas to celebrate a new season of learning at FPC! Students are invited to bring backpacks for a blessing during worship. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a picnic, live music, bubbles, and fun water activities on the Plaza! *Food and volunteer signups are available in Geneva Hall.*

DoveLewis Service of Remembrance

When: Sun, Sep 13, 4:00 pm

Where: Sanctuary

Remember, reflect, and find support with us at the Annual DoveLewis Service of Remembrance as we honor beloved animal companions who shaped our lives. RSVP at this link: shorturl.at/X43pO

Adult Ed Study: Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People 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, a tattooed and profane Lutheran pastor, uses the liturgical calendar to share gritty, funny, and honest stories of finding divine grace through the messy, broken people of her Denver congregation.

New Saltshakers Cohorts

When: quarterly, Oct 2026 - Sep 2027

Saltshakers is a fellowship program that organizes groups of 6-8 people who gather quarterly throughout the year to share a potluck meal in their homes. It's a great opportunity to get to know other FPC members, build connection, and support each other! Sign up with Jean Smith after worship by September 27.

Save the Date: FPC Women's Retreat

When: Apr 16-18, 2027

Mark your calendars for the annual FPC Women's Retreat next spring at Menucha. Plans are already underway for this special time together. Proceeds from our Fall PWM Bake and Craft Sale in support this event.

Ways to Engage at FPC!

Curious what opportunities there are to get involved at FPC? A new chart lists all our opportunities and how to get started with them! An electronic version (updated often!) is available via our weekly eBlast and a printed version is posted in Geneva Hall.

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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