



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

September 20, 2026

10:30 AM

Seventeenth 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

Fantasy in E minor

Adam Heron

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

The Kingdom of God

Jacques Berthier / Taizé

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen, you who hunger and thirst for what is right.

We have come with God's teaching in our hearts.

Some of us are tired, and some of us are afraid.

And all of us come hungry for courage.

Hear the word that runs through all of Scripture: "Do not be afraid!"

God's deliverance is forever, and God's salvation is for all generations.

Take heart, people of God.

Let us worship God together.

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

God of every generation
you have spoken courage to prophets and fishermen,
to insiders and outsiders,
to the frightened and the faithful.
When it would be easier to just go along to get along,
give us hearts brave enough to love out loud.
Make us people who make room, as Jesus made room.
Through Jesus Christ, amen.

***HYMN #395**

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

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

Gracious God, your mercy is deeper than our fears
and wider than any of our self-protective behaviors.
All of us have had moments when we chose the easy and comfortable
over the difficulty of love and justice.
One way we grow in courage is by telling the truth together
and then leaning, together, into the wideness of Your mercy.
When the path of Jesus is hard,
and when love and justice are unpopular or invite backlash,
keep us tethered and grounded in the Spirit's strength and goodness.
Forgive us, and fill us with your daring.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, hear the good news.
To a man who could not stand on his own, Jesus said:
“Take heart... your sins are forgiven.”
That word is for all of us.
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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Estelle Brunner

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 51:7-8

Pew Bible, OT p. 681

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Beati

Jacques Berthier / Taizé

*Blessed are they who dwell in the house of the Lord.
[verses from The Beatitudes]*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Take Heart”

Rev. Aaron Morris

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN #731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm

*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.



Shall tribulation or distress, shall persecution, fire, or sword,
 or any peril of this world – or even death, or even death –
 shall any power of earth or heaven divide us from your love, O Christ?
 Shall illness, hunger, or despair, shall lonely grief or anxious fears,
 or deeds of hatred and disdain – or even death, or even death –
 shall any power of earth or heaven divide us from your love, O Christ?
 No, neither angel hosts nor thrones, nor height nor depth of evil's reach,
 nor present things, nor things to come – not even death, not even death –
 not any power of earth or heaven can part us from your love, O Christ.

— Mary Louise Bringle, 2006

*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 #687**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Fugue *from* Sonata in C Major

Felix Mendelssohn

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 in loving memory of Don & Juanita Alderton by their children, Charlotte & Dean.

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 in Geneva Hall after the service.
We'd love to get to know you!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Together Lab Service & Learning

When: Wed, Sep 23, 5:00 pm

Where: First United Methodist (SW Jefferson St PDX)

Join us this 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

General Assembly Delegate Talk

When: Sun, Oct 4, 1:30 pm

Where: Heritage Room

Join General Assembly delegate Kris Voss-Rothmeier as he presents on his time at GA and focuses on the process and rationale behind decision RIW-04, in which the denomination addressed the ongoing war in Gaza and declared Israel's actions in Gaza as a genocide. If you are curious and want to learn more about the “why” behind this official decision and declaration, be there!

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.*

Seeking Visual Arts Volunteers

We're looking to grow our team of volunteers who help make our Visual Arts program possible. There are five opportunities each year and two different ways to get involved: helping install a new exhibit or welcoming guests and assisting with the reception at the opening of each show. If you'd like to learn more and see if it might be a good fit for you, stop by the info table after church today.

Support the JWH Pop-Up Shop!

The new clothes closet supported by FPC will hold its first pop-up shop at the Julia West House on Monday, September 28, and we need fall clothing donations for men and women — think head to toe. We're especially low on sweatshirts (all sizes) and adult Halloween costumes! Please drop off items at Geneva Hall after service or during normal business hours. Contact Eileen Tremaine (530-524-5420) with questions!

New Sermon Series at FPC, Sep 27-Nov 8

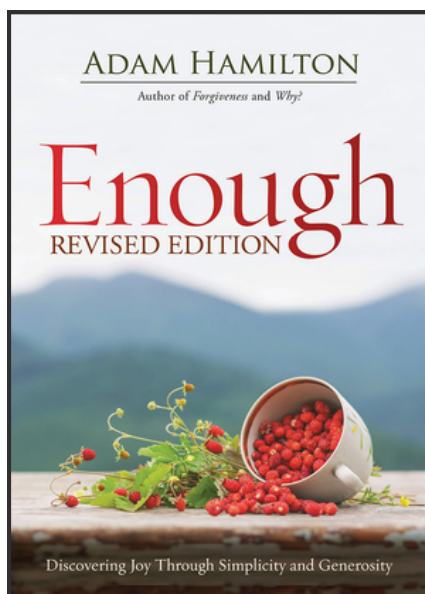
Enough: Discovering What It Means to Live with Enough

*What if the life we're searching for isn't found in having more,
but in discovering what is truly enough?*

Starting next Sunday, we invite you to join us for “Enough,” a six-week sermon series based on the book *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. Together, we'll explore what Scripture teaches about money, possessions, contentment, generosity, and the way our relationship with what we have shapes our relationship with God. The series is an invitation to slow down, pay attention, and discover a way of living that is marked by gratitude, trust, generosity, and purpose.

Come join us as we ask a simple but deeply important question:

What would it look like to live as though we already have enough?



This Week at FPC

Sun 9/20 2:00 pm Jerry Johnson Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

Tue 9/22 7:00 pm *Accidental Saints* Discussion (chapters 3-5, Zoom)

Fri 9/25 11:00 am Practical Theology (John Knox & Zoom)

1:00 pm Two Dudes (John Knox & Zoom)

Email hello@firstpresportland.org for more information & Zoom links.

FPC's Vision Statement

*We are committed to loving God and loving our neighbors.
We do this through being 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.



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

First Presbyterian Church of Portland

1200 SW Alder Street, Portland, OR 97205

www.firstpresportland.org, (503) 228-7331