



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

# Service for the Lord's Day

August 18, 2024

10:30 am

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

Regular text is read by minister.

**Bold text is read by congregation.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

## THE GATHERING

*The prelude is a time of music for quiet reflection to prepare our hearts for worship.*

### PRELUDE

Two settings of *Gather Us In* John Behnke & Paul Carlson

### 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

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

John L. Bell

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

— Desmond Tutu, c. 1994

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the congregation.

**Great are the works of the Lord  
studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is God's work,  
and God's righteousness endures forever.

**God has gained renown by wonderful deeds,  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Loving God,  
open our ears to hear your word  
and draw us closer to you,  
that the whole world may be one with you  
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN #401**

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

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God,  
you have raised Jesus from death to life  
and sent his Spirit to be with us always.  
We confess that we have not trusted in  
the truth of that Spirit to enliven our hearts,  
to set us in the ways of justice, and to free us from fear.  
We have turned away from the gift of Christ's presence.  
Forgive us,  
and turn our hearts back to you,  
that we may be your faithful and loving people,  
walking in the footsteps of the One  
who came to transform the world.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*Cantor first, then ALL*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The first line of musical notation is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' The melody is simple and repetitive.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

The second line of musical notation is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It consists of two measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.' The melody is simple and repetitive.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The third line of musical notation is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. It consists of two measures of music, each followed by the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' The melody is simple and repetitive.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,  
and abundant in loving kindness.

Believe the good news of the gospel:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

THAXTED

O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
for we can on-ly won-der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up-on your Word,  
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might-y Lord.

Text: Michael Perry © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: Gustav Holst

**\*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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Linda Grabe

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 34:9-14

Pew Bible, pg. 508

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Now That the Daylight Fills the Sky

Plainsong

Now that the daylight fills the sky, we lift our hearts to heaven on high,  
that God, in all we do or say, would keep us free from harm this day.

Our hearts and lips may God restrain; keep us from causing others pain,  
that we may see and serve the Son, and grow in love for everyone.

From evil may God guard our eyes, our ears from empty praise and lies;  
from selfishness our hearts release, that we may serve, and know God's peace,

that we, when this new day is gone, and night in turn is drawing on,  
with conscience free from sin and blame, may praise and bless the holy Name.

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

— *attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4<sup>th</sup> cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Ephesians 5:15-20

Pew Bible, pg. 194

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Walking in Wisdom”

Rev. Brenna Dykman

\***HYMN #761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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

(*from the Confession of 1967*)

**In Jesus of Nazareth,  
true humanity was realized once for all.  
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people  
and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.  
He expressed the love of God in word and deed  
and became a brother to all.  
The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity.  
Those joined to him by faith are set right with God  
and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community.  
Christ is head of this community, the church,  
which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.**

*Thank you for your continued support of the church.  
For ways to contribute to our ministry, please see page 6 of the worship bulletin.*

**OFFERTORY**

Take My Life, that I May Be

J. Aaron McDermid

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Amen.

— *Frances R. Havergal, 1874*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM; Genevan Psalter, 1551

**\*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 #733** We All Are One in Mission

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major, BWV 560 J.S. Bach

*Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.*

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Our prayers are with the family of Donna Maling, who passed away on August 7, 2024.*

*“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”*

**CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Contributions to the church can be made in the following ways:*

*Mail a check to the church office.*

*Leave your gifts in the offering plates as you depart worship.*

*Scan the QR code on the right.*

*Visit <https://pushpay.com/g/firstpresportland>.*



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We join in holding in prayer: Kathy Callas, Louise Grose, Fran Hermanson, Russ Mendenhall, Gordon Priedeman, Bruce Purdy, Phyllis Whittington, and others facing illness and loss. If you would like your name added to the prayer section of the weekly bulletin, please contact the church office.*

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of Tom Withycombe by Kathy Withycombe and families.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Memorial Services

The congregation is invited to two upcoming memorial services. The first service will honor Pastor Carmen's father, Don Goetschius, on **Monday, August 19**, at **2:00 pm** at Eastwoods Presbyterian Church in Vancouver. The second service will be held for Leonard Cain, who passed away on July 20, 2024, and will take place at FPC on **Saturday, August 24**, at **2:00 pm**. Following Leonard's service, please join the family for a reception in Geneva Hall.

### Open Circle Resumes

Open Circle resumes meeting on **Thursday, September 5**, in the Heritage Room. Meetings have a soft start at **10:00 am** when our Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88908907928> goes live. We begin our study time with prayer at **10:15 am**. We will read *From Judgment to Hope: A Study on the Prophets* by Walter Bruggemann. Books will be available for purchase for \$11.

### Sunday School Kick-off

Join us for the Sunday School Kick-off on **September 8!** Children in grades K-8 are invited to join our weekly Sunday classes, where we'll enjoy crafts, games, and Bible stories. We can't wait to see you and hope you'll make Sunday School a regular part of your routine this year!

### Blessing of the Backpacks

The annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" will take place on **Sunday, September 15!** Invite your children and grandchildren to bring their backpacks to worship and receive a special blessing from Pastor Carmen for the school year.

### New Book Group

Big Ideas is a book group for those interested in exploring recently published non-fiction works addressing challenges faced by Christians in the Portland area. We will meet in person once a month. Join our first meeting at **6:30 pm** on **Monday, September 16**, in Calvin Library. We will discuss *The Great De-Churching* by Jim Davis and Michael Graham. Reach out to Marilyn Howe at [harrietwho92@gmail.com](mailto:harrietwho92@gmail.com) for more information.

### August FPC Coffee Hour

If your last name begins with W, X, Y, or Z, August is your month to shine at Coffee Hour! There are multiple ways in which you can help. Visit [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABA92BA2FFCE9-46813925-coffee#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABA92BA2FFCE9-46813925-coffee#/) for more information and to sign up or call the church office at (503) 228-7331. Thank you for helping make our Sunday coffee hour a warm, welcoming, and tasty event!

### Emergency Food Closet

One of the ways our church supports the residents at Alder House is by providing an emergency food closet—and we could use your help to keep it stocked. We're currently in need of peanut butter and canned soup. Please drop off your donations in the red bin in Geneva Hall or at the office. We appreciate your support as we strive to love and care for our neighbors.

### Mary (Mimi) Cernyar Fox's Exhibition

Discover *Painting from the Holy Well*, Mary (Mimi) Cernyar Fox's exhibition, on display in the Chapel Gallery through **October 27**. Her spiritually inspired paintings, shaped by her studies and early life experiences, showcase a profound appreciation for nature and a commitment to peace. For more information, visit [marycernyarfoxart.com](http://marycernyarfoxart.com).

### Soft Goods and Books

We're still accepting donations of books and soft goods such as clothing, towels, bedding, shoes, and luggage. A gentle reminder that we are unable to accept home goods like kitchen items, decorations, or office supplies. Donations can be left in Geneva Hall. Thank you for your support!

### Walk the Wildwood

Walk the Wildwood 2024 saw an incredible turnout with over 80 participants! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised **\$7,983** to date. We will continue to accept donations through the end of August at <https://bit.ly/3U7vCVc> or drop off used sneakers in the GotSneakers bin in Geneva Hall. We're so grateful for your ongoing support!



## ***SLAM 2024 Youth Mission Trip***

***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. Brenna Dykman, Bridge Pastor

Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor

Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Associate Pastor

Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate

Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries

Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

### **Support Staff:**

Alexis Crawford, Receptionist

Deb Davis, Bookkeeper

Bill Edwards, Sexton & Events Coordinator

John Kelly, Facility Manager

Sheila Riche, Communications

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### **Office Hours**

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

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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