



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

September 1, 2024

10:30 am

Fifteenth 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

Aria

Craig Phillips

Aria

David Ashley White

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

James M. Capers

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

— Psalm 51:10-12

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right

and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue

and do no evil to their friends.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord, let our hearts not be far from you.
Help us reach out to our neighbor,
even when we are busy or tired.
Let us tear down walls when we'd rather let them stand.
Let the world know we are your disciples
not because our hands are clean,
but because they are soiled
with the mark of your people. Amen.

***HYMN #804**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Grace,
we confess that we are people who confuse
the letter of the law with the heart of the law.
We misuse your instructions to entrap others.
Forgive us and help us to be gracious to others.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

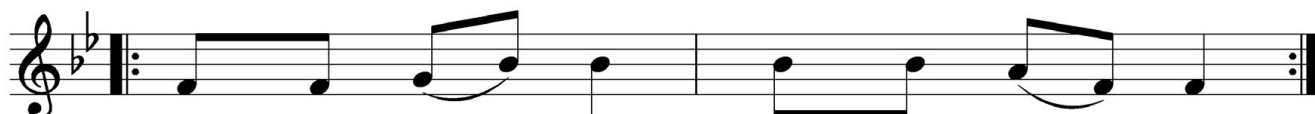
Cantor first, then ALL



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



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



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

© 1996 by Christopher Walker

***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

Steve Chown

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 15

Pew Bible, pg. 495

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Henry Walford Davies

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God:
the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.
Still to the lowly soul he doth himself impart,
and for his cradle and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.

— *John Keble, 1819*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 19-21

Pew Bible, pg. 42

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“When Rituals Become Roadblocks”

Rev. Brenna Dykman

***HYMN #729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

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

(*the Scots Confession*)

For as God the Father

beholds us in the body of his Son Christ Jesus,

he accepts our imperfect obedience as if it were perfect,

and covers our works, which are defiled with many stains,

with the righteousness of his Son.

We do not mean that we are so set at liberty

that we owe no obedience to the Law—

for we have already acknowledged its place—

but we affirm that no man on earth,

with the sole exception of Christ Jesus,

has given, gives, or shall give in action

that obedience to the Law which the Law requires.

*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

God Be in My Head Philip Wilby

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

— from Sarum Primer, 1514

***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 #697**

Take My Life

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

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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 her husband, Dr. Ray Corwin, by Alice Corwin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth Announcement

Announcing the safe arrival of Zen Taiwo Babatunde and Lex Kehinde Babatunde, sons of Fikayo and Lizette Babatunde, and grandsons of John and Grace Babatunde.

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.

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!

Women's Book Club is Back!

Please join us on **Tuesday, September 10** for the start of this year's book club. Pastor Brenna will facilitate our time together for this first meeting. Bring your book suggestions and we will gather for a brown bag lunch at **11:30 am** in the Heritage room. The discussion will begin at **12:00 pm**. A Zoom option is available at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81233316517>.

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.

Ice Cream Social

Join us for a sweet gathering at the Deacons' Ice Cream Social! Get to know your neighbors and enjoy a variety of delicious ice cream treats on **Sunday, September 15**, following worship. Don't miss this chance to connect and enjoy some ice cream together!

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 for more information.

Screening of Feature Documentary 1946

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring two private screenings of the award-winning movie *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* on **Thursday, September 26**, in Geneva Hall, one at **5:00 pm** and one at **7:00 pm**. This feature documentary tells the story of researchers who found evidence in the Yale University archives that translators mistakenly used the word "homosexual" in a popular edition of the Bible. Rev. Josh White and members of Makers PDX will be joining us. Please feel free to bring friends and family to this free event.

Spire Update

Please note that the Spire will be transitioning to a bimonthly publication starting this fall. Issues will be sent out in October, December, February, April, June, and August. The summation date will stay the same, which is the second Tuesday of the month. Please note that we will also only be accepting story-based articles and not general announcements. Announcements will be shared via the weekly bulletin and e-blast.

Summer Choir Thanks

Thanks so much to everyone who participated in Summer Choir! If you are interested in singing with the FPC Chancel Choir for the fall season, please contact Greg Homza at ghomza@firstpresportland.org for more information.



Basílica de la Sagrada Família

*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. Carmen Goetschius, Associate Pastor
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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