



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**September 15, 2024**  
**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

Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist\*, BuxWV 208 Dietrich Buxtehude  
\*We pray now to the Holy Ghost  
Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said arr. Wilbur Held

### 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

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**May our worship reflect God's glory.**

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

**We worship with Christians around the world,  
with Christians throughout time.**

With Christians across geography and across time,  
**let us worship!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God,  
you call your church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you.  
Help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN #1**                      Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive us what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.  
Set us free from a past we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

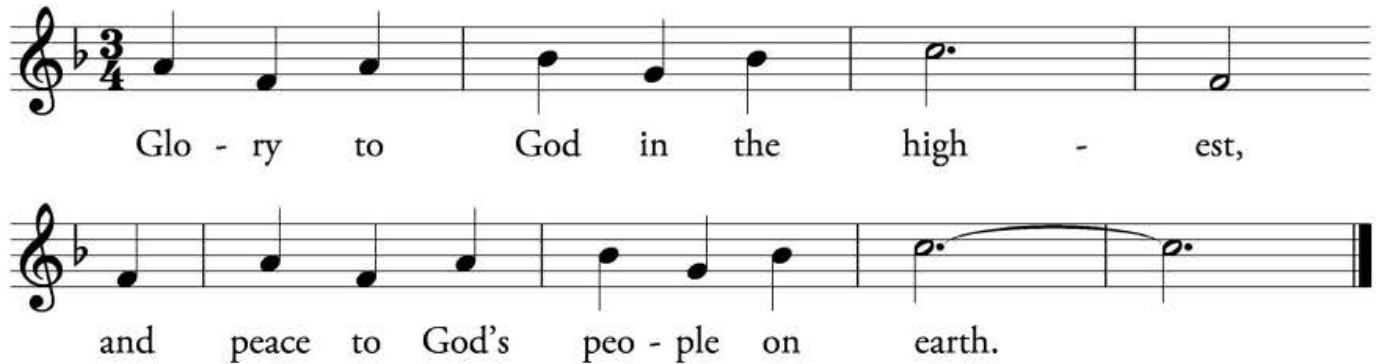
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**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,  
a gift of God by faith.  
Beloved people of God, believe the good news:  
through the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*– Please join in singing the refrain –*



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Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.

**\*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

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Steve Chown

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 19

Pew Bible, pg. 498

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Vernon Griffiths  
(arr. John Ferguson)

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;  
let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's mysteries known or yet untold;  
let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;  
let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;  
let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

— Jeffrey Rowthorn, 1979

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 8:27-38

Pew Bible, pg. 43

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“Letting Go and Opening Up”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

**\*HYMN #718**

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

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

(*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

*Thank you for your faithful support of the church.  
For various ways to contribute to the life and ministry of the church,  
please refer to page 6 of the worship bulletin.*

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:  
to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly, day by day.

— Richard of Chichester, 13<sup>th</sup> cent.

## \*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 #826**

Lift High the Cross

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Postlude in C Major

Henry Thomas Smart

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

## 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 Peggy, Linwood, Robin, and Linwood III by their families, the Browns, the Cornells, and the Allens.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Calling all kids! We're so excited to celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks **today!** Pastor Carmen will offer a special blessing and pray for another successful year of learning and growth. Please note that Sunday School will follow the blessing.

### **Ice Cream Social**

Join us after worship **today** for a sweet gathering at the Deacons' Ice Cream Social! Get to know your neighbors and enjoy a variety of delicious ice cream treats. We'll see you in Geneva Hall!

### **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.

### **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, pastor of Makers PDX, a non-traditional congregation our presbytery supports, will join us to discuss the film between screenings. Please consider bringing your friends and family to this free event.

### **Warm Springs Presentation**

Join us on **Sunday, September 29**, after worship in Calvin Library for a presentation by Dan Martinez, Emergency Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He will discuss the community's water challenges and how we can make a difference. We are collecting bottled water in Geneva Hall to support those in Warm Springs. Please consider donating a case of water to aid those in need.

### **Emergency Food Pantry**

We're gathering food donations for the Alder House emergency food closet, and we especially need hearty soups, canned chicken, and canned tuna. Drop off your contributions in the red bin in Geneva Hall or at the office. Thank you for your support! Your generosity helps us make a real difference in our community.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive Postponed**

The Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for this month has been postponed due to scheduling challenges. The new date for the drive is **Tuesday, December 31, 2024**, and will take place in Geneva Hall. We will provide more details closer to the event. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

### **Soft Goods & Books**

The Church is still accepting donations of books and soft goods such as clothing, towels, bedding, shoes, and luggage. Feel free to drop your donations off in Geneva Hall.

### **Spire Update**

The Spire will be transitioning to a bimonthly publication starting this fall. We will publish issues in October, December, February, April, June, and August. The summation date will stay the same: the second Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month. Please note we will only be accepting story-based articles and not general announcements.



***Get Thee Behind Me, Satan***  
***(Rétire-toi, Satan)***  
by James Tissot, c. 1886–1896

***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. Heidi Bolt, Interim Pastor  
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate 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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### **Support Staff:**

Alexis Crawford, Receptionist  
Deb Davis, Bookkeeper  
Bill Edwards, Sexton & Wedding Coordinator  
John Kelly, Facility Manager  
Sheila Riche, Communications

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 [@FirstPresPortland](https://www.instagram.com/FirstPresPortland)

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

### **First Presbyterian Church**

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