



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

# Service for the Lord's Day

September 22, 2024

10:30 am

Eighteenth 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

All Are Welcome  
Jesus Loves Me

arr. Lynn Trapp  
arr. Charles Callahan

### 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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

**We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.**

Who among you is seeking God's holy truth?

**We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.**

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

**We long to live lives of holiness and meaning.**

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

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

Almighty God,  
you created the heavens and the earth,  
and humankind in your image.  
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**\*HYMN #301**                      Let Us Build a House (*Verses 1, 4, 5*)

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

Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess our failure  
to be what you created us to be.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways,  
in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.  
By your loving mercy,  
help us to live in your light and abide in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

*Prayers of confession continue in silence.*

**\*LORD, HAVE MERCY**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

© 1995 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* Page 4)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

*– Please join in singing the refrain –*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

© 1995 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* Page 4)

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

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Estelle Brunner

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

James 3:13—4:3

Pew Bible, pg. 230

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

**ANTHEM**

**A Beautiful Thing**

Jane Marshall

Make your service of love a beautiful thing:  
want nothing else, fear nothing else, and let love be free to become what love truly is.  
Work to this end every moment without sparing.  
Always be fervent in humility and serve with wisdom.  
Make your pilgrimage with beauty and purity,  
without sadness or any hindrance of willfulness,  
in a sweet spirit of peace and joy.

– Hadewijch of Antwerp, 13<sup>th</sup> century

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 9:30-37

Pew Bible, pg. 45

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“Wonder and Wisdom”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

**\*HYMN #459**

O Word of God Incarnate

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

(*from the Declaration of Faith*)

**The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus.  
Led by the apostles they began to proclaim with boldness  
the new thing God had done in Christ.  
They began to experience in their fellowship  
a new quality of common life.  
We believe that by the power of the same Spirit  
the church can be set on its way again,  
even when it seems beyond hope of renewal.  
We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings.  
We are faithful to the reformers of the past  
when we hold ourselves open in the present  
to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit.**

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

**SALTSHAKERS**

Jean Smith & Vena Edwards

*Thank you for your faithful support of the church.*



*Contributions 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 to the left.*

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

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?  
 Gave thee life and bid thee feed by the stream and o'er the mead;  
 Gave thee clothing of delight, softest clothing, wooly, bright;  
 Gave thee such a tender voice, making all the vales rejoice?  
 Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:  
 He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb.  
 He is meek and he is mild, he became a little child.  
 I a child, and thou a lamb, we are called by his name.  
 Little Lamb, God bless thee! Little Lamb, God bless thee!

— William Blake, 1789

### \*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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Called from worship to your service, forth in your great name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom, may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1961 © Oxford University Press  
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8.7.8.7.D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude on *Beach Spring*

Wilbur Held

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

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We join in holding in prayer: Kathy Callas, Louise Grose,  
Fran Hermanson, Russ Mendenhall, Gordon Friedeman,  
Bruce Purdy, Phyllis Whittington, and others facing illness and  
loss.*

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*Today's sanctuary flowers are given in loving memory of  
Don & Juanita Alderton's September 22, 1957 wedding  
at First Presbyterian Church, by their children,  
Charlotte & Dean.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Screening of Feature Documentary *1946*

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring two free 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.

### SALTSHAKERS

This must-do fellowship opportunity is a wonderful way to connect with others in the FPC congregation. You'll sign up for four potluck dinners in small groups of eight, held in homes throughout the year from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025—one dinner each quarter. The deadline to sign up is **September 29**. You can register as an individual or with a friend. Each participant will host one dinner, which can take place at home, in a backyard, at a park, or a food cart pod. For more details, contact Jean Smith, who will be signing up participants after the service in Geneva, or via email at [jeanel53@gmail.com](mailto:jeanel53@gmail.com).

### 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.

### Women's Book Club

Join us for the Women's Book Club on **Tuesday, October 1**, from **11:00 am to 1:00 pm** in the **Heritage Room**. We'll enjoy a bag lunch at 11:00 am, followed by a discussion of *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak. The meeting will also be accessible via Zoom (check the eBlast for the link). Moderated by Cindy Finch, the book explores themes of family, ancestry, and the impact of war on Cyprus, told through the unique perspective of a fig tree and the lives of sixteen-year-old Ada and her parents. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Peace and Global Witness Offering

*“Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”* —Matthew 5:9

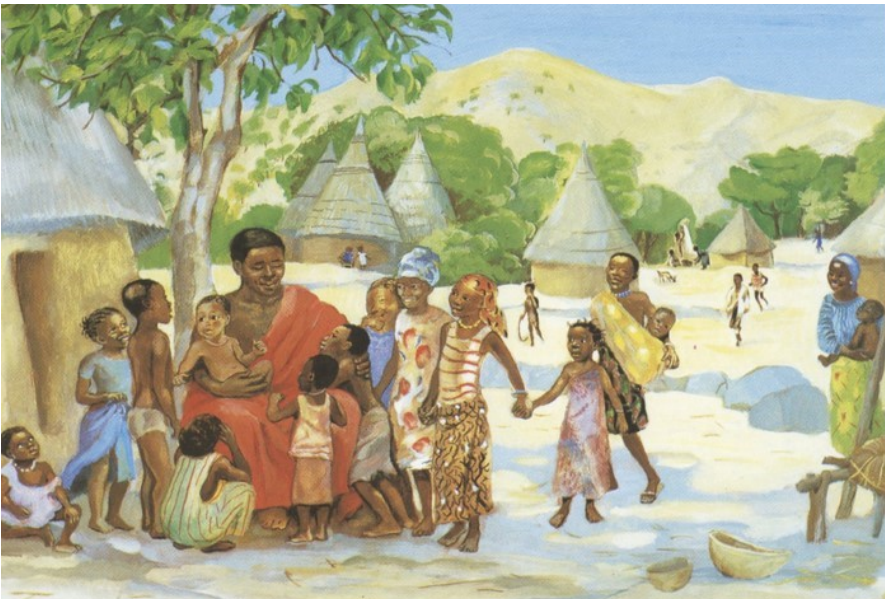
The Peace & Global Witness Offering focuses on global challenges such as conflicts between nations and peoples, the plight of refugees fleeing war and persecution, human trafficking, and societal instability caused by violence in communities and families. Our gifts will be dedicated in worship on **World Communion Sunday, October 6**. A 25% share remains with our congregation to assist local programs. Donations can be made online through the church website, by mail, or on Sundays in worship.

### Emergency Food Pantry

We're collecting 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!



*Jesus welcomes the children*

JESUS MAFA  
is a response to the New Testament  
readings from the Lectionary  
by a Christian community  
in Cameroon, Africa. 1973.

*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

- [hbolt@firstpresportland.org](mailto:hbolt@firstpresportland.org)
- [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org)
- [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org)
- [ddornack@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ddornack@firstpresportland.org)
- [ghomza@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ghomza@firstpresportland.org)
- [cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)

**Support Staff:**

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

- [office@firstpresportland.org](mailto:office@firstpresportland.org)
- [ap@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ap@firstpresportland.org)
- [events@firstpresportland.org](mailto:events@firstpresportland.org)
- [facility@firstpresportland.org](mailto:facility@firstpresportland.org)
- [communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org)

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1200 SW Alder Street, Portland, OR 97205  
[www.firstpresportland.org](http://www.firstpresportland.org)  
(503) 228-7331