



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

November 17, 2024

10:30 am

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

Regular text is read by minister.

*Please stand as you are able.

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

Prelude on *Dunlap's Creek*
Prelude on *When the Saints*

Charles Callahan
Rebecca Groom te Velde

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 card in the offering plates as you depart.
Those worshipping online are invited to click the blue tab on the worship page, "Visiting FPC? Let's Connect!"*

INTROIT

We've Come This Far by Faith

Albert A. Goodson

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word; God's never failed us yet.
O, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

The people of the Word say, "Come."

Let everyone who is thirsty come.

Receive the gift of the water of life.

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

**Spirit, you listen to us with unwavering attention,
and you invest in us so we can flourish.**

**Now speak to us as we worship;
make the most of this moment
we share with you today. Amen.**

***HYMN #35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

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

**Eternal God,
too often we settle for the way things are.
We embrace what is comfortable
and disengage from the work of necessary change.
We fail to hope for a new day and a new world
because our present reality feels good enough.
Forgive us. Have mercy upon us.
Fill us with the passion to live and work
towards a world made just and equitable and new.**

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY #576** (*choir first, then all*)



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



Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Text: Trad. liturgical text Music: © 1990 by Swee Hong Lim

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #583** (*English text; twice through*)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Trad. liturgical text Music: Jacques Berthier © 1981 by Les Presses de Taizé

***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

Jenny Anton

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:1-8

Pew Bible, pg. 50

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM

How Firm a Foundation

arr. John Karl Hirten

[the text can be found at #463 in the Glory to God hymnal]

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Pew Bible, pg. 244

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Gift of Faith”

Rev. Heidi Bolt

*HYMN #39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

(from the Confession of Belhar)

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message
of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church
to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities
of life for society and the world.**

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

OFFERTORY

While on the Sea Ukrainian melody (arr. Larry Sue)

(Handbell Ensemble; Paul Butler, guest conductor)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #717**

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

— Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987

***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 #313**

Lord, Make Us More Holy

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Processional in E-flat

David N. Johnson

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CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

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 on the right.

*Visiting [https://pushpay.com/g/
firstpresportland](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 Walt Meihoff
by his wife Jean Meihoff.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 FPC Stewardship Campaign

**“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.”
Lamentations 3:22**

Last week, we dedicated our 2025 pledges to First Presbyterian. Our 2025 goal is **\$740,000**. The pledges are a commitment to our church’s health and mission. We thank all of you who have submitted your pledges so far. If you haven’t done so already, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2025. You can use the pledge card you received in the mail or pick one up in the narthex. You can also pledge online at www.firstpresportland.org or by scanning the QR code below. Thank you for your ongoing support of First Presbyterian Church, Portland!



Annual Giving Tree

Our Annual Giving Tree will grace Geneva Hall again this year! We are supporting unaccompanied high school students through EMO’s Second Home program, adults living with HIV through EMO’s HIV Day Center program, and senior clients of Friendly House. The tree will be up **today** through **Sunday, December 1**. Please return unwrapped gifts to the church by **Sunday, December 8**. We hope you’ll consider making someone’s holiday a little brighter by selecting one of the gift tags and adding it to your holiday shopping list!

Big Ideas Book Group

The Big Ideas Book Group will discuss *How To Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going* by Susan Beaumont on **Monday, November 18**, at **6:00 pm** in the Chapel Gallery. The book looks at the nuances of leading a church during periods of anxiety and transition, emphasizing listening and learning from mistakes rather than acting rashly. Email Marilyn Howe at harrietwho92@gmail.com for more information.

PWM Bake Sale

Join us for the PWM Bake Sale on **Sunday, November 24**, in Geneva Hall! We’ll feature a delicious selection of cakes, cookies, breads, cupcakes, jams, and jellies. We also have a presale signup available during coffee hour, allowing you to order your favorites in advance. Get ready to start baking goods to contribute to this fun event!

Help Us Decorate for Advent

The Chancel Guild invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 30**, at **9:00 am** to decorate the sanctuary for Advent. With many hands, we’ll transform our space in just 1-2 hours—and share in the joy of preparing for the season together! Contact Sandy Castles at (503) 449-4255 or patsandcastles@yahoo.com to sign up.

Women’s Book Club

Join us on **Tuesday, December 3**, at **11:00 am** in the Heritage Room as we delve into the riveting book *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy, moderated by Allyn Kirkham. It tells the untold story of the fearless young women who cracked German and Japanese codes to help win World War II. Bring your brown bag lunch or join us via Zoom (link in the weekly eBlast).

Advent Devotional Books

Advent devotional books are available on a table in Geneva Hall to help keep you connected to God this busy season. There is also an electronic copy on the church website under the ‘**Church Life**’ tab, and then click ‘**Adult Education**.’ It will also be shared in the weekly eBlast.

Annual Quilt Show

The highly anticipated FPC Quilt Show is here! Experience a stunning collection of modern and antique quilts, showcasing both new creations and cherished treasures. Open for a limited time only—throughout November—don’t miss your chance to see these beautiful works of art in person.



Prophet Hannah in the temple; Samuel's prayer testing
by Workshop of Rembrandt, c. 1700

*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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Office Hours

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

First Presbyterian Church

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