

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2023

Welcome to CHRIST THE REDEEMER...

We're glad you've joined us. Whether you have followed Jesus your whole life or you can't remember the last time you stepped foot in a church, we want you to feel welcome to come as you are and worship with our church family. If you have any questions about our church or where to find something, please don't hesitate to ask. We're excited about what God is doing among us as we seek to live, grow and serve as followers of Jesus in Portland and in our surrounding neighborhoods. So, welcome to CTR, we'd love to have you as part of our family.

During our service, our nursery is open for babies who are crawlers through 3-year-olds. If you need help finding the nursery area, please ask any of our greeters!

Children's Church is in session. After the blessing each week, children age 4 – 1st grade are welcome to go to Children's Church. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

THE RHYTHM OF OUR WORSHIP

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), when Jesus' disciples found themselves troubled and confused, Jesus met them along the way. When they confessed their troubles and doubts to Him, His words and presence began to change them. He unfolded God's Word to them, pointing to His own person and work. He dined with them, giving thanks and breaking bread. The disciples recognized their Lord's presence with them and hurried to tell others the good news.

In the Emmaus story, we recognize the pattern of historic Christian worship as it began to take shape. Our worship liturgy at Christ the Redeemer moves through a specific rhythm: God **SUMMONS** us as His people, God **SANCTIFIES** us to Himself, God **SPEAKS** to us in His Word, God **STRENGTHENS** us at His table, and God **SENDS** us into the world to share His grace.

The emphasis throughout our worship is upon God's action and our appropriate response. In worship, we rehearse the gospel message of Jesus' death and resurrection and are caught up into the mission of the Triune God. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity as children of God and then impelling us outward into our world.

-adapted from City Church Philadelphia [Guide to Our Worship](#)

A D V E N T C A N D L E R E A D I N G

Readers: EJ & Vicky Kruse

[Reader 1] The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

[Reader 2] *The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel."*

[Reader 1] The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

[Reader 2] *We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.*

[Reader 1] God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

Based on Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:28

S O N G

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

G O D S U M M O N S

[P R A I S E]

C A L L T O W O R S H I P

[L] A voice cries:

[P] **"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

[L] As we worship today,

[P] **let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.**

[L] Let us worship God.

based on Isaiah 40:3

SONG

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

G O D S A N C T I F I E S

[R E N E W A L]

C O N F E S S I O N O F S I N

[All] **Almighty God, you have surprised us with your presence in unexpected ways. In the expectations of our routine, we have missed the treasure that you place before us. We come to worship you in community often expecting nothing more than the usual. We begin our days, our weeks, assuming all will run as it always has. We do not look for the unexpected, for your active presence in our daily lives and for that we confess our sorrow. Forgive us for not allowing our eyes to catch the unexpected, to glimpse your glory in the ordinary. May this season, we see the presence of your Son by the power of your Spirit in new and transformative ways. Amen.**

T I M E O F S I L E N T R E F L E C T I O N A N D C O N F E S S I O N

W O R D S O F C O M F O R T A N D A S S U R A N C E O F P A R D O N

[L] “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption [as sons and daughters]. Because you are his [children], God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

Galatians 4:4-7

In Christ, you are forgiven, adopted into God’s family, an heir to the kingdom!

[P] **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

LIFE OF THE PEOPLE
[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



THE PEACE OF GOD
and THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

[L] May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

[P] **And also with you.**

[L] People of God, what is our prayer for these and all our children?

[All] **May the Lord be with you.**

[Children] **And also with you.**

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S O N G

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE ENDURES [MAGNIFICAT]

S C R I P T U R E

Luke 1:26-38 ESV

Read by Sarah Cohen

Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

[L] The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the Word of God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8

The Word of the Lord.

[P] **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Series:
CHRISTMAS WITH MARY

Sermon:
MARY'S FAITH

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #35

[L] What does it mean that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?

[P] **That God's eternal Son, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, true human nature so that he might become David's true Son, and like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Laura Wiersma

G O D S T R E N G T H E N S

[T A B L E]

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

A Word about Communion: Communion is the family meal of Christians. Baptized believers actively looking to Jesus as their hope for salvation are warmly invited to share in this meal with us as our brothers and sisters.

- Please approach the servers by coming up the middle aisle and returning to your seat via the outside aisles.
- Once you receive the bread and wine/juice, please hold on to it as you return to your seat. We will partake together as one body after everyone has received the elements.
- Children and those who are not partaking are also welcome to approach the servers for a prayer or word of God's blessing. We ask that you fold your hands as you approach so the server is aware.
- Please dispose of your communion cups and any other trash in the wastebasket located at the back of the sanctuary or the one near the exit at the front of the sanctuary as you leave today. Thank you!

SONG: SING GLORIA

WORDS OF INVITATION & INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION SONG IMMANUEL

G O D S E N D S

[MISSION]

RESPONSES OF JOY

**OFFERING OUR LIVES AND
RESOURCES**

[our tithes and offerings]

If you would like to give online, please use this QR code:
This takes you to our online giving portal.



S O N G

SING WE THE SONG OF EMMANUEL

B E N E D I C T I O N a n d S E N D I N G

[L] Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

December 3, 2023

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



CTR KIDS LENDING LIBRARY

We are so excited about our CTR Kids Lending Library! Before and after church, please visit the library cart near our nursery and choose a Gospel-centered book to take home with you for the week! There are books available for all age groups, and some parenting resources as well!

ON THE CALENDAR:

SUN, DEC 3

TWO LIGHTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – 9 AM

For children in 2nd -5th grade! Join us every other Sunday morning for treats + fun while deepening your knowledge and faith in the Gospel! For more information, please contact Abby Reid (areid@ctrportland.org).

MON, DEC 4

WOMENS' BIBLE STUDY – 6 PM

@ the home of Laura Wiersma, 29 Lilac Lane, New Gloucester (GPS does not recognize this address so please use 54 N Pownal Road - that will get you to Lilac Lane). A light supper will be served.

This is a weekly Bible study and will be in the Book of Galatians. You may purchase the study guide, **“Galatians: At His Feet”** (Blanton/Gordon) on Amazon.

WED, DEC 6

BOOKS & BUBBLY – 7 PM @ 64 Brook Rd., Portland

Ladies: Our book is ***Once Upon a Wardrobe*** [Patti Callahan]. For more info, please contact Claire Roberts [clerkus@gmail.com].

FRI, DEC 8

FRIDAY PLAY GROUP – 10 AM – 1 PM

Calling all stay-at-home moms or dads! Plan to join us at playgroup every Friday at 10am. We are at a different location every week, so keep a lookout on Instagram [[@ctrportlandkids](https://www.instagram.com/ctrportlandkids)] for more information! Any and everyone is welcome with their children. Please contact Abby Reid if you have any questions.

ON THE CALENDAR:

SUN, DEC 10

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF CTR – immediately following the Worship Service

This is an opportunity for members of the congregation to learn about the ministry from CTR leadership both looking back at the last year and looking forward to 2024. This meeting is packed with information so plan to stay!

SUN, DEC 10

ANNUAL KEGS & CAROLS – 3 – 6 PM (Earlier Time This Year!)
@ Rising Tide Brewing Company, 103 Fox Street, Portland

This event is for everyone! Join us for this fun event at Rising Tide and invite friends or neighbors to join us. Drop in for just a few minutes or come and stay for the entire time.

There will be some appetizers provided but you are welcome to order from the menu (the kitchen closes at 5:30 pm). There will be activities for the kids, carol singing, and time to connect with both old and new CTR friends. Make this event one of your holiday must-dos!

TUES, DEC 19

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE - 6:30 PM

Come and experience the story of Christmas through a series of readings and songs at this beloved service. Dating back to the end of the 19th century, this service traces the arc of salvation from the fall of man to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Put this on your calendar and plan to attend!

Childcare will be provided through age 4.

SUN, DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM

Plan to join us!

CTR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Are you interested in joining a community group at CTR? Signing up for a community group is simple!

Fill out a form online at <https://www.ctrportland.org/community-groups>

or use this QR code to go directly to the form.

Or contact one of the coordinators:

Amanda McKrell (griswoldam1@gmail.com or 716-479-0093)

Matt Reid (mattreid522@gmail.com or 404-550-8872).



SERVE...

At CTR, we believe that part of what makes the church a beautiful place is that it draws people with various passions and gifts into one body. Below are some opportunities to use your passions and gifts to serve one another and our local community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIESAbby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

GREETER MINISTRY Abby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

MISSIONS COORDINATOR.....Kathi Favre
Phone: 207.298.2089
E-mail: klfavre@gmail.com

MUSIC..... Kendra Hollen
Phone: 207.272.4104
E-mail: khollen@ctrportland.org

SET-UP..... EJ Kruse
Phone: 814-392-4810
E-mail: ejkruse89@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS.....Claire Roberts
Phone: 956.270.2565
E-mail: clerkus@gmail.com

How Do I Get and Stay Connected at CTR?

At CTR we long for clear communication and deep bonds. We are excited that you're interested in being more connected and involved. The following is a list of our communication channels and their purpose in the life of our body:

1. EMAIL NEWSLETTER (*Keeping in Touch*)

This is the primary vehicle by which we communicate regarding the life of our church. Most weeks you will receive an email with announcements and upcoming events. From time to time, our elders will also use this vehicle for church-wide or members only correspondence. **NOTE:** *If you are not regularly checking your email from CTR, it will be difficult to feel and be connected in the life of our church.* [Use this QR code to sign up for the email.]



2. CTR APP & TEXT MESSAGES

The CTR App is designed to help those in our church interact with each other. It is largely crowd sourced and includes information on informal meetups, prayer requests, live and past sermons/services, different hobby groups, ways to give, etc. [See page 14 to download the App.]

Text Messages are sent exclusively as reminders about events in the days/hours immediately beforehand.

3. SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday mornings employ several communication methods, including written **announcements in our Order of Worship**, verbally highlighted **announcements**, and (new) **projected announcements** running before and after the service. Sunday Morning announcements are focused on pointing people to events and ministries that help them explore or integrate more fully into the life of our church. Given the diverse backgrounds and circumstances of those attending Sunday Morning Worship, only on rare and exceptional occasions will these vehicles be used by leadership for information that is primarily member focused.

4. CTR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

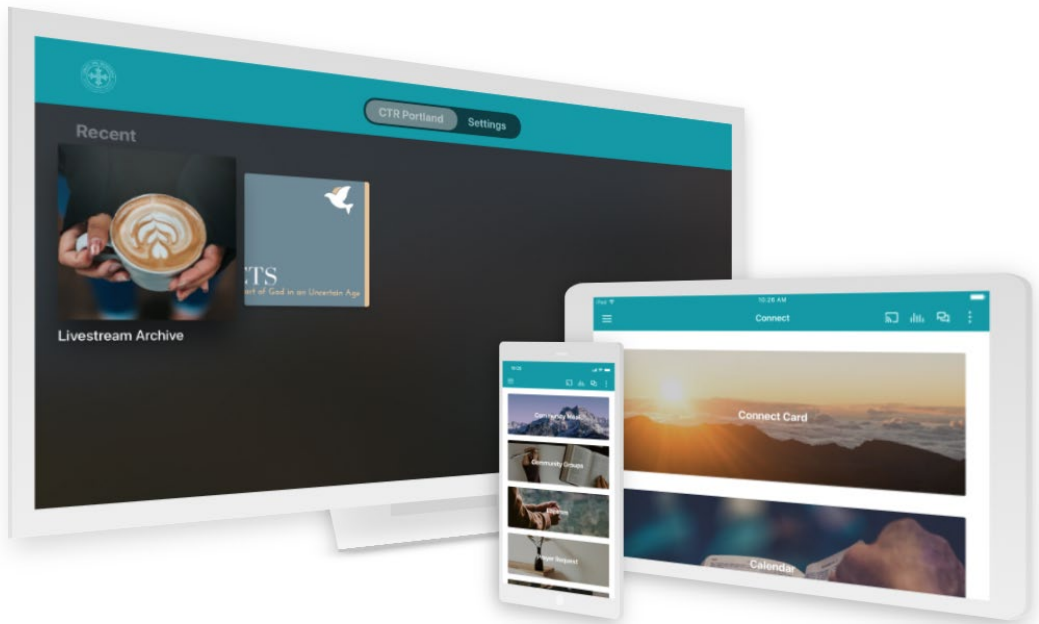
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

The CTR Website [ctrportland.org] is designed to be our front door– a welcoming place for new people to discover and learn about our church. It is minimal in announcements and church life information.

Social Media [Instagram & Facebook] is used for promotion of church events. People are encouraged to “re-post” as a way of sharing with and inviting their friends. [@ctrportland]

If you would like to access or have had difficulty accessing any of these vehicles, please contact ctr@ctrportland.org. Our admin, Cheryl Sullivan, is happy to help you get integrated into our communication systems.

DOWNLOAD THE CTR APP!





**CHRIST
THE REDEEMER**
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
longs to be a diverse people who gather around
and extend the table of God's grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 AM

Reverend Sean J.S. Roberts, Senior Pastor

E-mail: SRoberts@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 956.207.1398

Sue Miller, Director of Community Care

E-mail: SMiller@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 207.459.6797

Kendra Hollen, Music Ministry Director [E-Mail: khollen@CTRPortland.org]

Abby Reid, Children's Ministry Director [E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Abby Reid, Connections Coordinator [E-mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administration [E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

Offices located at North Deering Congregational Church, 1364 Washington Avenue, Portland

CTR is co-located at the
WHITE MEMORIAL
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
97 Allen Avenue | Portland, ME 04103
207.878.1211 | <https://ctrportland.org>