



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10, 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: Brian & Emily Way

[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] *Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

[Reader 1] Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.

[Reader 2] *If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

[Reader 1] We are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

[Reader 2] *Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."*

Based on John 1:4-5; 12-46; Ephesians 5:8;
I Thessalonians 5:5; I John 1:7

S O N G
GLORY TO GOD

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] Rejoice in the Lord always.

[P] **I will say it again: Rejoice!**

[L] Let your gentleness be evident to all.

[P] **The Lord is near.**

[L] We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming. Let us worship God!

based on Philippians 4:4-5

S O N G

H Y M N O F J O Y

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] **Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free. He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him. Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death. Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation, and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom. And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:

[All] **Come now, long-expected Jesus. Come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.**

SONG

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

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

MARY'S SONG

S C R I P T U R E

Luke 1:39-45 ESV

Read by Haylee Freeman

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

[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 VISIT

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #36

[L] What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

[P] **That he is our mediator, and that, with his innocence and perfect holiness, he removes from God's sight my sin— mine since I was conceived.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by David Dyke

GOD STRENGTHENS

[TABLE]

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

COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

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.



SONG

SING WE THE SONG OF EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION and SENDING

[L] In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

December 10, 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 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!

ON THE CALENDAR:

MON, DEC 11

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.

FRI, DEC 15

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](#)] for more information! Any and everyone is welcome with their children. Please contact Abby Reid if you have any questions.

SUN, DEC 17

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).

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>