



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 24, 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: Matthew & Emma Holloway

[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] *Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God's love. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

[Reader 1] Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

[Reader 2] *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

[Reader 1] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,

[Reader 2] *the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

based on John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 1:15

S O N G

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH [CHORUS]

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] You came to us, Word made flesh, to show us what it means to love.

[P] **You came to us, Word made flesh, to teach us how to serve.**

[L] You came to us, Word made flesh, to remind us to clothe the naked and feed the hungry.

[P] **Come to us now, Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Love us, teach us, and feed us as we worship you together now. Alleluia! Amen.**

Based on John 1/Matthew 25

SONG

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

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] **God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long, we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us.**

Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels and remake our lives that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. 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] I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

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

SONG

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN REJOICE

ADVENT CHOIR

“Tidings of Joy”

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.**

SONG
MARY'S SONG

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E

Luke 2:1-21 ESV

Read by Moriah Peaslee

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

[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 SON

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #29

[L] Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Savior?

[P] **Because it is he who saves us from our sins and because no salvation may be sought for elsewhere or found in anyone else.**

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

[T A B L E]

C E L E B R A T I N G H O L Y C O M M U N I O N

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!

S O N G : S I N G G L O R I A

W O R D S O F I N V I T A T I O N & I N S T I T U T I O N

P A R T A K I N G O F T H E E L E M E N T S

C O M M U N I O N S O N G

O N C E I N R O Y A L D A V I D ' S C I T Y

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

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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

[L] “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14

May his life and light shine upon you this day and forevermore.

[All] **Amen!**

HIGHLIGHTS

December 24, 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:

FRI, JAN 5

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.

MON, JAN 8

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, JAN 17

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

Ladies: Our book is ***Have You Seen Luis Velez?*** [Catherine Ryan Hyde]. For more info, please contact Claire Roberts [clerkus@gmail.com].

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

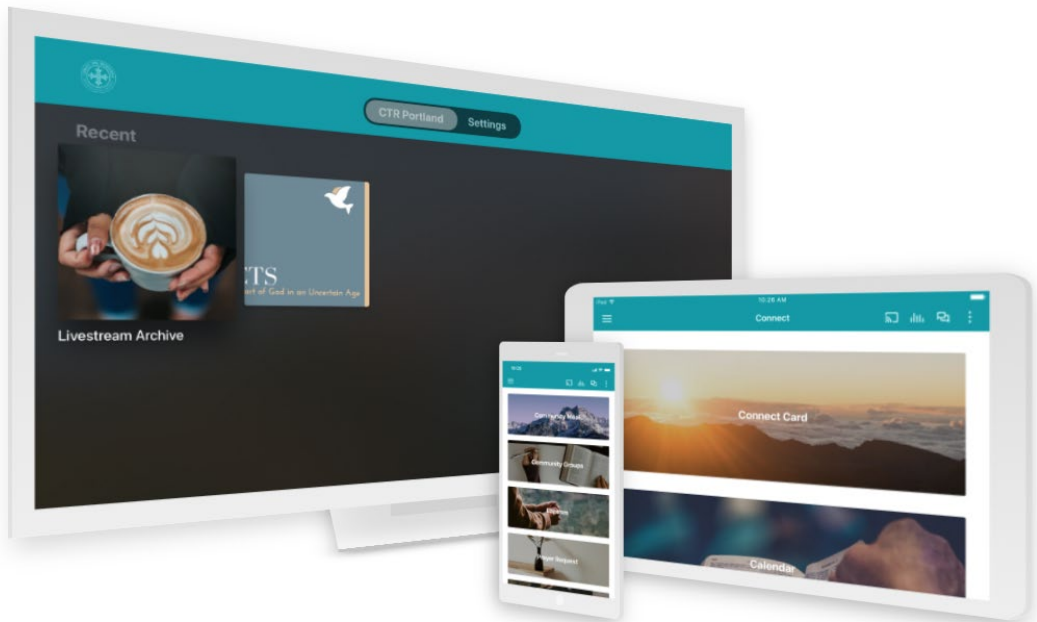
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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>