

CHRIST  
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 18, 2022

## 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 and up 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](#)*

# G O D S U M M O N S

[ P R A I S E ]

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

Read by the Ben and Megan Lufuta

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

In the wilderness prepare the way of our Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.  
And they shall name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us."

Every valley shall be lifted up  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all the people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

[L] Our souls magnify the Lord!

[P] **Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

[L] The mighty One has done great things for us!

[P] **Holy is God's name!**

[L] Let us worship God.

[P] **For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;  
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

—based on Luke 1:46-50

SONG

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

**GOD SANCTIFIES**

[RENEWAL]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[All] **While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever,  
we sadly confess having done so little with so much.**

**Forgive us Lord,  
for not reading your Word,  
for not searching our hearts,  
for not facing our sins,**

**Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God!**

**Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a  
fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of  
Christ's glory. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] **Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.**

--based on Isaiah 40:1-2

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

SONG

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

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.



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mary [Mimi] Townsend  
EJ Kruse  
Victoria Kruse  
Matthew Holloway  
Emma Holloway

James Cerone  
Fran Rodenburg  
Trevor Brown  
Lily Roberts  
Benjamin McKrell

Vows for the new members:

*Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving his displeasure, and without hope save in his sovereign mercy?*

*Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?*

*Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the follower of Christ?*

*Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?*

*Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to promote its purity and peace?*

Vow for the congregation:

*Do you, members of Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church, acknowledge your need for these brothers and sisters in Christ and commit yourselves to their growth in holiness by God's grace?*

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS

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**

[WORD]

SONG

IMMANUEL

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 11:1-17, 26-27

Read by David Dyke

*David and Bathsheba*

11 <sup>1</sup>In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” And Uriah went out of the king’s house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup> When they told David, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” <sup>11</sup> Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.” <sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup> And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” <sup>16</sup> And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. <sup>17</sup> And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. <sup>27</sup> And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased 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.**

Advent Sermon Series:  
THE MOTHERS OF JESUS

Sermon:  
BATHSHEBA  
“Justice and Hope in the Face of Treachery”

Rev. Josh Henderson  
Assistant Pastor



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism Q & A #47

[L] How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

[P] **Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth, in that, being from all eternity the Son of God, in the bosom of the Father, he was pleased in the fullness of time to become the son of man, made of a woman of low estate, and to be born of her; with divers circumstances of more than ordinary abasement.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Elder Nathan Pillsbury

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**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 &amp; INSTITUTION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

[L] Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

[P] **Christ has died.**  
**Christ has risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

[L] Alleluia! Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.

[P] **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

[L] The gifts of God for the people of God.

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF REFLECTION

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth*

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief*

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin*

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment*

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG

## IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

G O D S E N D S

[MISSION]

R E S P O N S E S O F J O Y

O F F E R I N G O U R L I V E S A N D

R E S O U R C E S

[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

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

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

[L] The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Live now in the power of Christ, to the praise of his name!

--based on Titus 2:11-13

[P] **Amen!**

# HIGHLIGHTS...

*December 18, 2022*

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.



## COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Community groups are one of the primary places that we get to know one another, care for another, and help one another grow in the gospel. Most of our groups have paused for the summer, but if you are interested in joining a group in the fall, please contact Pastor Josh Henderson [info on back of OOW].

There are currently groups in the following communities:

PORTLAND (2 groups)  
SOUTH PORTLAND  
LAKES REGION

SCARBOROUGH  
FREEPORT/DURHAM  
NEW GLOUCESTER

## CTR KIDS LENDING LIBRARY

We are so excited about our CTR Kids Lending Library! Before and after church, please visit the library cart in the back of the sanctuary 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:

- TODAY, DEC 18      **GIVING TREE GIFTS** are due.
- MON, DEC 19      **WOMENS' WEEKLY 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 meal will be served.  
Curriculum: “Romans: At His Feet” (Blanton/Gordon)
- TUES, DEC 20      **LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE** – 6:30 PM  
Please join us for our annual Lessons and Carols service held this year on **Tuesday**, December 20th. This is a great opportunity for those who usually travel on Christmas Eve to attend this joyful celebration of the Incarnation. This service includes Bible story readings and music especially for our children. Come and worship!
- SUN, DEC 25      **CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE** – 10 AM
- FRI, JAN 6      **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. It has been a joy to fellowship with parents from CTR and also meet other parents from the greater Portland area! Please contact Abby Reid if you have any questions.
- WED, JAN 18      **BOOKS & BUBBLY** – 7 PM @ 64 Brook Rd., Portland  
Ladies: Our next book is *A Place to Hang the Moon* [Kate Albus]. Claire Roberts has 10 copies of the book (\$10 each). If you would like one, please contact her.

## MERCY TEAM: SERVE WITH THE ROOT CELLAR

Our Mercy Team is supporting the effort to provide food for the many asylum-seeking families that are housed at the Motel 6 in Portland. The Root Cellar needs regular assistance packaging and delivering meals. We hope to send regular volunteers to help meet this important and tangible need.

There are opportunities to serve between 4:30pm and 6:30pm, Monday- Saturday.

Please contact Josh (jhenderson@ctrportland) for more info.

If you would like to package meals,  
use this QR code to sign up:



If you can help with meal delivery,  
Use this QR code to sign up:



## CTR PRAYER CHAIN:

If you have a prayer request or would like to join the prayer chain at CTR, please send an email to [prayer@ctrportland.org](mailto:prayer@ctrportland.org). The coordinators, Carol Fecteau or Megan Lafuta, will be happy to help.

# 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 MINISTRIES ..... Ally Henderson  
Phone: 757.375.3757  
E-mail: ahenderson@ctrportland.org

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

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

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

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

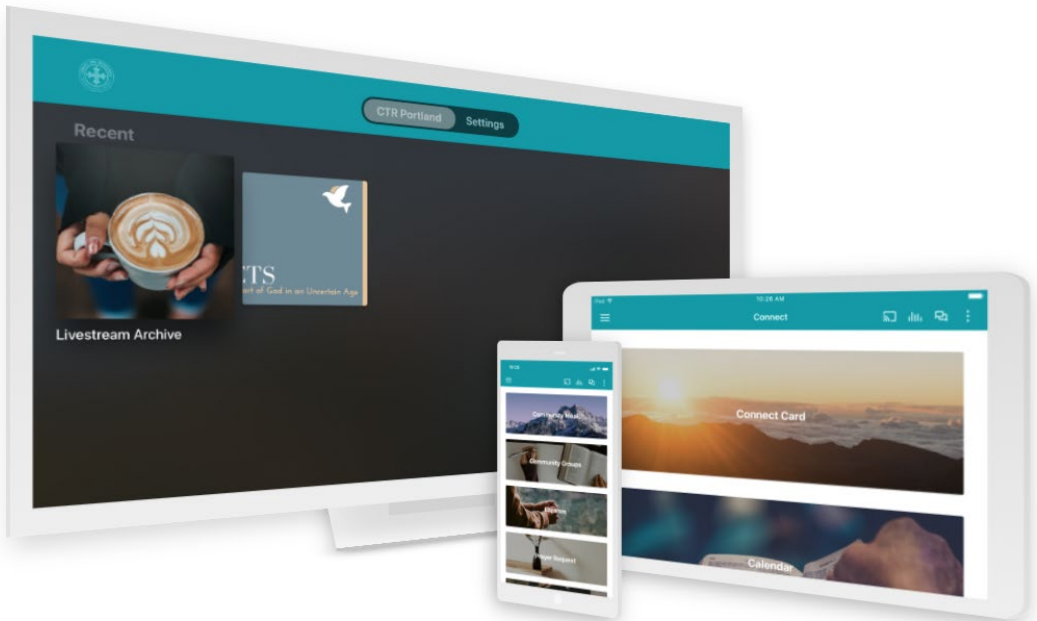
SET-UP..... Haylee Freeman  
Phone: 207-286-7175  
E-mail: haylee.freeman91@gmail.com

PRAYER COORDINATOR ..... Carol Fecteau  
Phone: 207.650.5529  
E-mail: prayer@ctrportland.org

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



# 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](mailto:SRoberts@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 956.207.1398

**Reverend Josh Henderson, Assistant Pastor**

E-mail: [JHenderson@CTRPortland.org](mailto:JHenderson@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 757.375.7640

**Sue Miller, Director of Community Care**

E-mail: [smiller@CTRPortland.org](mailto:smiller@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 207.459.6797

**Kendra Hollen, Music Ministry Director** [E-Mail: [khollen@CTRPortland.org](mailto:khollen@CTRPortland.org)]  
**Ally Henderson, Children's Ministry Co-Director** [E-Mail: [ahenderson@CTRPortland.org](mailto:ahenderson@CTRPortland.org)]  
**Abby Reid, Children's Ministry Co-Director** [E-Mail: [areid@CTRPortland.org](mailto:areid@CTRPortland.org)]  
**Abby Reid, Connections Coordinator** [E-mail: [areid@CTRPortland.org](mailto:areid@CTRPortland.org)]

**Cheryl Sullivan, Administration** [E-Mail: [ctr@CTRPortland.org](mailto:ctr@CTRPortland.org)]

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