



**CHRIST
THE REDEEMER**
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 19, 2023

ADVENT CANDLE READING

Read by David & Becca Dyke

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 shepherds were the first to hear the joyful announcement of Christ's birth-- the good news of great joy for all the people.*

Reader 1 Upon seeing the baby Jesus, the shepherds spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.

Reader 2 *We have also heard this wonderful news. We welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

Reader 1 Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

Reader 2 *And we are filled with an expressible and glorious joy.*

based on Luke 2:10, 17-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:8

Song:

GLORIA CHORUS from ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD FROM HIGH

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Sean J. S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

Song:

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Read by Matthew Reid

God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his offspring will strike the serpent's head.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Song:
COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18
Read by Paula Ward

God promises to bless the earth through Abraham's offspring.

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Song:
ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Read by Landon Kepler

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

Musical Reflection:

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Chamber Choir

Handbells: Devon Miatke & Kendra Hollen

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by Jocelin Yagel

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Song:
O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38
Read by Moriah Peaslee

The Angel Gabriel greets Mary.

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.

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.

Vocal Reflection:
SONG OF MARY

Words by Patricia Mock, Music by Faye Lopez, "Vocalise" by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Chamber Choir w/Soloist Lily Pollock
Violin: Kevin Jones

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Read by Sam Schneider

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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.

Song:

AWAY IN A MANGER [FOREVER AMEN]

Led by the CTR Children's Chorus

[Congregation will join on the third verse.]

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Read by Tammy Locke

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.”¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ When 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.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Song:

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Read by Stuart Bailey

The wise men seek Jesus.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose

went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Song:

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

NINTH LESSON

HOMILY

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

John 1:1-5, 9-18

John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Song:

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Led by the Choir & Children's Chorus

[Congregation will join on verses 2 and 3.]

THANK YOU

to all of those who are participating or assisting in our service tonight.

“Away in the Manger” Children’s Chorus

CTR Kids

“Silent Night” Children’s Chorus

Jacqueline Cohen
Paul Cohen
Theo Green
Rosie McKrell

Cedric Joyce
Ruthie Kirby
Benji McKrell
Lily Roberts

Winnie Reid
Gwendolyn Jones
Isla Roberts

CTR Chamber Chorus

Stuart Bailey
Nick Davenport
Sarah Davenport
Matthew Holloway
Sofia Johnson

Tammy Locke
Devon Miatke
Moriah Peaslee
Erin Pollock
Jane Powers-Odenbach

Fran Rodenburg
Sam Schneider
Jim Scott
Paula Ward

Vocalists

Katie Kirby, Moriah Peaslee

Soloist

Lily Pollock

Handbells

Kendra Hollen, Devon Miatke

Violin

Kevin Jones

Cello

Mimi Townsend

Piano

Kendra Hollen

Readers

David & Becca Dyke, Matthew Reid
Paula Ward, Landon Kepler, Jocelin Yagel
Moriah Peaslee, Sam Schneider,
Tammy Locke, Stuart Bailey

Senior Pastor

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

Music Director

Kendra Hollen

Audio/Visual Technicians

Quincy Freeman, Douglas Peaslee

Set-Up

Quincy & Haylee Freeman

Childcare

Jane Powers-Odenbach, Claire Roberts, Cheryl Sullivan



**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]
Ally Henderson, Children's Ministry Co-Director [E-Mail: ahenderson@CTRPortland.org]
Abby Reid, Children's Ministry Co-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>