

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 31, 2025

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.

→ You may use this QR code to link
to the lyrics in our worship service today.



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]

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

[L] “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,

[P] **“who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

[L] Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

[P] **Before the mountains were born,**

[L] or You brought forth the earth and the world,

[P] **from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

[L] Wait for the Lord;

[P] **be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.**

SONG

COME, PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING

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 lasting forgiveness, you are not surprised to find us standing before your throne once again, asking for your forgiveness. It's true, Father: we have sinned again. In our thinking, in our doing, in our negligence, and in our self-righteousness, we ask once more for your forgiveness. O God, we harbor an unfounded fear that one day your grace will run out; that your forgiveness will be exhausted. But each time we come before you, you once more welcome us with open arms. Thank you for a forgiveness that has not failed and will never fail. In the name of Jesus Christ, who has forgiven all, we pray, 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] Know this:

The Lord is slow to condemn and swift to forgive and so we can claim the words of the psalmist who declares, "Therefore my heart greatly rejoices. The Lord is their strength. He is a stronghold of salvation to his anointed."

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

S O N G

I'LL NOT BE SHAKEN

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.**

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

SONG
ABIDE WITH ME

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E

Revelation 22

Read by Carly Schenk

The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Is Coming

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

⁷ “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, ⁹ but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”

¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

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

Isaiah 40:8

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

Sermon Series:
THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Sermon:
THE SECOND COMING: WAITING WITH CONFIDENCE

Rev. Alden D. Groves
Assistant Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

[L] What is your only comfort in life and in death?

[P] **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Sue Miller

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.

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

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INVITATION & INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

SONG

THE SANDS OF TIME ARE SINKING

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.

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.

SONG

ON JORDAN'S STORMY BANKS

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

[L] The LORD bless you and keep you;
 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
 So shall God's name be placed upon his people. Go, now, in the light of His
 blessing, and live by his grace!

- Adapted from Numbers 6:24-27

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

HIGHLIGHTS

August 31, 2025

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.



ON THE CALENDAR

FALL LAUNCH & CHURCH-WIDE POTLUCK

SUNDAY, SEPT 7 | after the Worship Service | 97 Allen Ave, Portland

Come celebrate the start of a new season of ministry with us! We'll be kicking off Community Groups, Christian Formation Classes for adults and children, an Inquirers' Class, and CTRKids ministry.

After the service, stay for a church-wide potluck!

- Last names A–H: bring a side dish
- Last names I–Z: bring a dessert

Bring along lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy fellowship on the lawn. Kids can look forward to a bounce house and plenty of fun activities.

It's going to be a joyful time of worship, fellowship, and celebration—you won't want to miss it!

Questions? Contact Claire Roberts at 956-270-2565 or clerkus@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

SUNDAYS, SEPT 7 – NOV 9 | 9:00 AM | 97 Allen Ave, Portland

This fall we're gathering for a new season of Christian Formation—opportunities for every age to grow in God's Word and in community.

Adult & Teen Class

Knowing God: Intro to Theology

You don't need a seminary degree to study theology—just a willingness to know God better. This class is for ordinary Christians who want their faith to be deep, steady, and joy-filled.

Together we'll walk through the core truths of the faith—God's character, his Word, his purposes, his promises, and his saving work through Jesus Christ. Whether you're a lifelong Christian, new to church, or just curious, this class will help you grow in knowledge, joy, confidence, and devotion.

CTRKids Classes

- **Ram Island Class:** Potty-Trained – PreK
- **Bug Light Class:** Kindergarten – 1st Grade
- **Two Lights Class:** 2nd – 4th Grade
- **Headlight Class:** 5th Grade +



*Use this QR
code to sign up!*

Come ready to grow in faith and fellowship together this fall!

INQUIRERS' CLASSES (FALL)

SUNDAYS, SEPT 7 – NOV 9 | 9:00 AM | 97 Allen Ave, Portland

Interested in learning more about CTR? Considering joining our church as a member? Come to our Inquirers' Class! This is a great opportunity to hear about our heart and our history as a church, to interact with our leaders and staff, to meet other newcomers, and to ask your questions about what we do and why we do it.

There's no obligation to join CTR if you come to the class. However, if you would like to become a member, the Inquirers' Class is a prerequisite.

Questions? Contact Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215-704-0132.



*Use this
QR code to
sign up!*

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WED, SEPT 10 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

September's pick: *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy

Join us in September for *Books & Bubbly*! This month we're reading *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy—a haunting, beautifully written novel set on a remote island where a fractured family guards a global seed vault. When a mysterious woman washes ashore, long-buried secrets surface, testing trust, grief, and resilience. Come enjoy thoughtful conversation, community, and a little bubbly and savory and sweet bites as we reflect on this powerful story together!

Questions? Contact Claire Roberts at clerkus@gmail.com or 956-270-2565.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Belong. Lean in. Launch out.

Whether you're brand new to CTR or have been here for years, **community groups are for you!**

These smaller gatherings meet regularly in homes throughout Greater Portland. Together we:

- Form friendships
- Share meals
- Pray for and engage one another throughout the week
- Encourage one another to live on mission in our everyday contexts

Why join a group?

Community groups are the primary way we care for and grow with one another at CTR. No matter your age, stage, or point in your faith journey, you'll find a place to belong, be challenged, and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

We'll learn to keep asking each other: *Where has Christ placed you to serve him this time tomorrow?*

Already in a group?

Watch your inbox! If you attended a group last year, you'll receive an email to confirm your group placement for Fall 2025.

For any questions or concerns, email: amckrell@ctrportland.org.

New to CTR or to community groups?

We would love for you to join us!

Scan the QR code to sign up or email amckrell@ctrportland.org.





This is the perfect time to get your kids connected with CTRKids!

Whether your child is in the nursery, children's church, Christian Formation classes, or joins us for special events throughout the year, registering them helps us prepare well, keep them safe, and support their spiritual growth.

Signing up ensures your family is in the loop about upcoming opportunities, and it allows our team to care for your kids with excellence.



*Use this
QR code to
sign up
your kids!*

We can't wait to see how God will work in their lives this year—don't miss out, sign them up today!



DEEP ROOTS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As part of our **Deep Roots Capital Campaign**, we've invited everyone in our community to prayerfully consider how they can support the next chapter of our church's life together.

If you would prefer to make a pledge online, please visit our **online pledge form**—and feel free to share the link with friends, family, or others in your circle who believe in the mission of our church.

Every gift, every conversation, and every step of faith helps us put down deep roots for generations to come.



TO PLEDGE
ONLINE

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 17 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

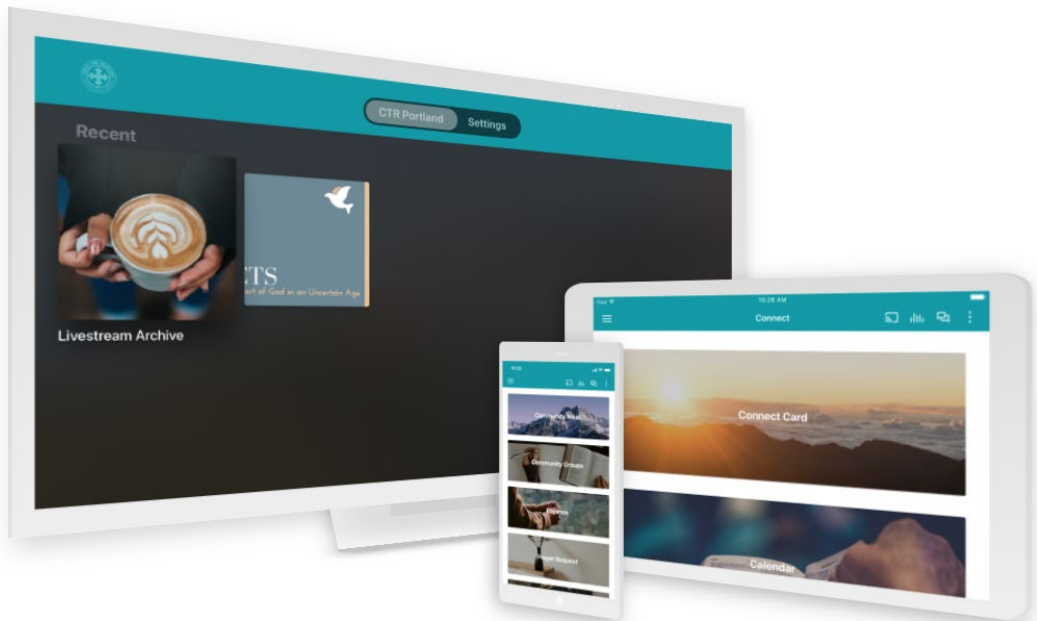
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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, Lead Pastor

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

Reverend Alden D. Groves, Assistant Pastor

E-mail: AGroves@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,
Music Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: khollen@CTRPortland.org]

**Amanda McKrell,
Director of Community Development**

[E-mail: amckrell@CTRPortland.org]

**Abby Reid,
Children's Ministry Director &
Connections Coordinator**

[E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator

[E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

Laura Wiersma, Ministry Assistant

[E-Mail: lwiersma@CTRPortland.org]

In need of assistance?

If you're experiencing a material need beyond what you can manage, the CTR Deacons may be able to help. Please call them at 207-331-1304 or email deacons@ctrportland.org. All inquiries will remain confidential, and you will receive a reply within twenty-four hours.

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>