

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 27, 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]

ADVENT CANDLE READING

Read by Douglas and Moriah Peaslee

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

[L] As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,
in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

[All] **Let us worship God.**

SONG

ARISE, SHINE FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

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

[R E N E W A L]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[L] Arise, shine: for your light has come.

[P] **O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or
in us.**

[L] And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

- [P] **We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**
- [L] For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
- [P] **We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**
- [L] And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- [P] **Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

based on Isaiah 60:1-3

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- [L] Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

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

SONG

IMMANUEL

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

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE ENDURES [MAGNIFICAT]

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E R E A D I N G

Genesis 17:15-21; 18:1-15; 21:1-5

Read by Haylee Freeman

Isaac's Birth Promised

¹⁵ And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” ¹⁹ God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

¹⁸ ¹And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” ¹⁰ The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

The Birth of Isaac

²¹ ¹The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

[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.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Nov 27, 2022

Advent Sermon Series:
THE MOTHERS OF JESUS

Sermon:
SARAH

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior 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 Andrew Button

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 & 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

COME THOU FOUNT [ABOVE ALL ELSE]

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

W O N D E R F U L , M E R C I F U L S A V I O R

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

[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!

[P] **Amen!**

HIGHLIGHTS...

November 27, 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
FREEPORT/DURHAM
NEW GLOUCESTER

SCARBOROUGH
BIDDEFORD
LAKES REGION

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:

MON, NOV 28

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)

FRI, DEC 2

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.

SUN, DEC 4

CTR YOUTH BOWLING – 12 PM

@ West-Port Bowling Lanes, 135 Maine Street, Westbrook

Lunch is provided! FMI, please contact Emma Holloway @ unmemiriamemma@gmail.com

SUN, DEC 11

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – after the Worship Service

Save the date for this meeting! This is an opportunity for members of the congregation to learn about the ministry both looking back at the last year and looking forward to 2023 from CTR leadership. This meeting is packed with information so plan to stay!

GIVING TREE GIFTS are due. See complete information on page 13.

KEGS & CAROLS EVENT – 4 – 7 PM

Please join us for this family-friendly event at Rising Tide Brewing, 103 Fox Street, Portland.

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

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:



GIVING TREE 2022:

We are thrilled to partner once again with CourageLIVES, an organization that works with the victims of human and sex trafficking, for our annual Giving Tree. Later this month, come choose an ornament from the tree set up in the back of the church and bring gifts back (unwrapped) with the ornament attached. You can provide everything on the tag or just a few things! **Please ensure that the gifts and ornaments are returned to church by Sunday, December 11.** If you have any questions about the gifts or the organization, contact Claire Roberts @ clerkus@gmail.com.

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. 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

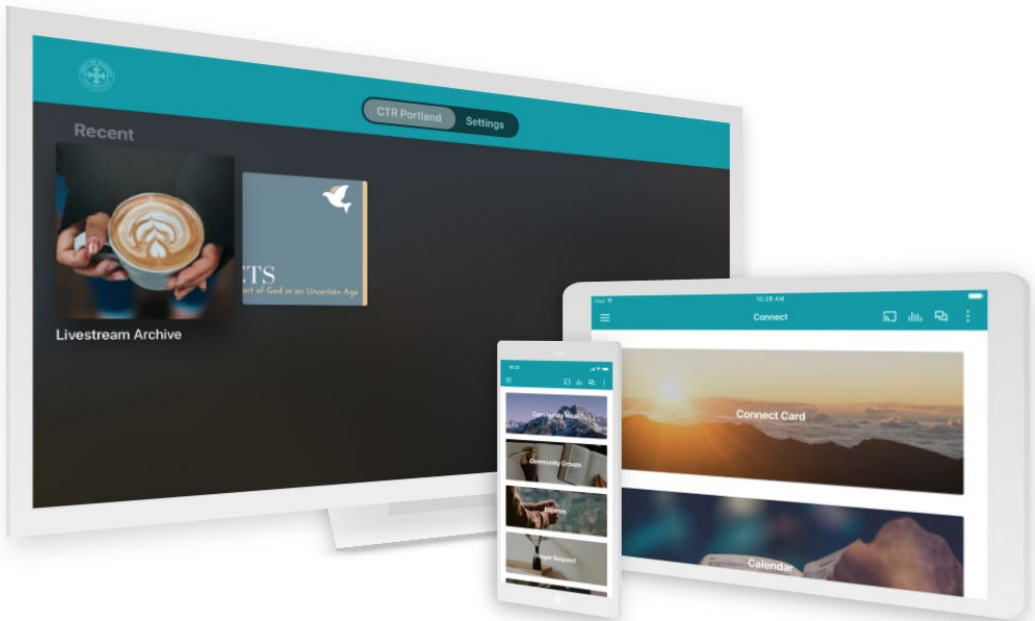
MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

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
Tel. 956.207.1398

Reverend Josh Henderson, Assistant Pastor

E-mail: JHenderson@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 757.375.7640

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>