

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 17, 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: Mimi Townsend & Mladen Markovic

[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] *Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by making straight all that is crooked.*

[Reader 1] A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

[Reader 2] *Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

[Reader 1] Let us prepare for Jesus, the Christ, who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive and release to the prisoners.

[Reader 2] *For as a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

based on Isaiah 40:3, 5; 61:1, 11

S O N G

GLORY TO GOD

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] 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

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] **O promised Christ:**

We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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] 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

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

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

Kevin & Elisabeth Jones

Natalee Stotz

Stuart & Sarah Bailey

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

Led by Elder Rick Hollen

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

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE ENDURES [MAGNIFICAT]

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-56 ESV

Read by Jane Powers-Odenbach

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

[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 SONG

Rev. Jeremy McKeen

Planting Pastor

Gospel City Fellowship

Portsmouth, NH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q & A #22

[L] How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

[P] **Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasoning soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary and born of her, yet without sin.**

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

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION SONG

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

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.



SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD

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

[L] As you continue in this season of waiting, may your waiting refine you.
May you grow in the likeness of Jesus each day while we await his return.

And may the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and forevermore.

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

December 17, 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:

SUN, DEC 17

TWO LIGHTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – 9 AM

For children in 2nd -5th grade! Join us every other Sunday morning for treats + fun while deepening your knowledge and faith in the Gospel! For more information, please contact Abby Reid (areid@ctrportland.org).

MON, DEC 18

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.

TUES, DEC 19

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE - 6:30 PM

Come and experience the story of Christmas through a series of readings and songs at this beloved service. Dating back to the end of the 19th century, this service traces the arc of salvation from the fall of man to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Put this on your calendar and plan to attend!
Childcare will be provided through age 4.

ON THE CALENDAR:

FRI, DEC 22

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.

SUN, DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM

Plan to join us as we gather as a church family on Christmas Eve for worship and praise at the birth of our Savior! There will be readings from scripture, a selection from the Advent choir, more Christmas carols, and a message from God's Word.

[This will be the only service on Christmas Eve as our traditional Lessons & Carols Service is on Dec. 19.]

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

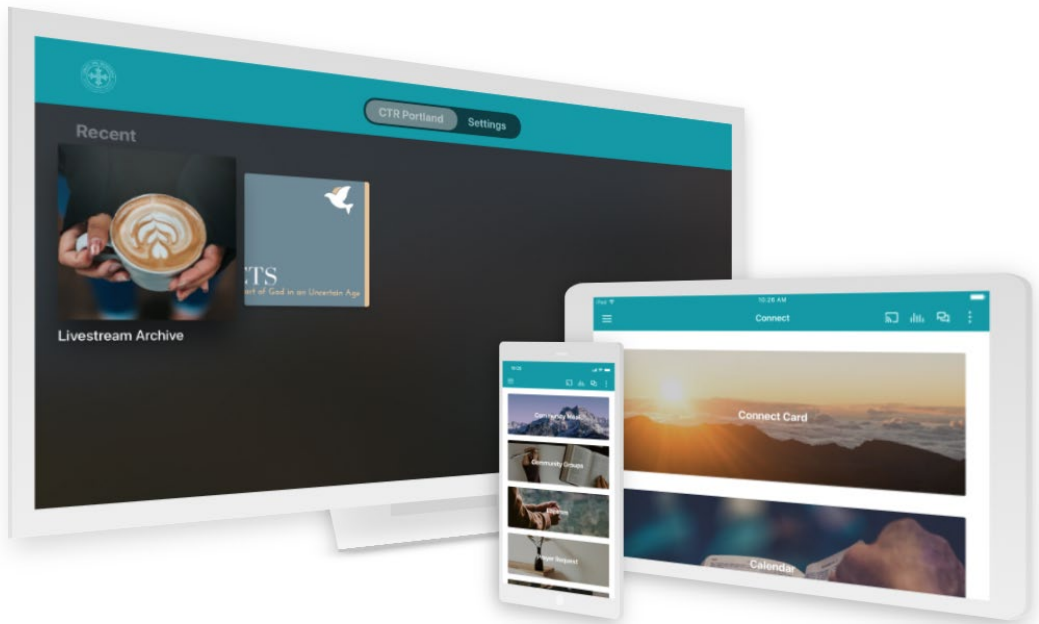
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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>