

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11, 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 Larrabee Family

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.

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

- [L] We gather in preparation...
- [P] **for good news is about to be proclaimed.**
- [L] We gather in expectation...
- [P] **for joy is about to explode in our midst.**
- [L] We gather in celebration...
- [P] **For we are those people who have said...**
yes to the manger,
yes to love enfleshed,
yes to the one incarnate for others,
yes to the wholeness of God.
- [L] With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

SONG
HYMN OF JOY

G O D S A N C T I F I E S
[R E N E W A L]

CONFESSIO N O F S I N

[All] **Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.**

**In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.**

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] Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free. He releases us from our fears and sins and helps us find our rest in him. Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death. Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation, and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom. And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:

[All] **Come now, long-expected Jesus, come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.**

SONG

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

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.**

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S O N G

MARY'S SONG

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

Ruth 1; 4:13-17

Naomi Widowed

¹ In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Naomi and Ruth Return

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth and Boaz Marry

⁴ ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

[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.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec 11, 2022

Advent Sermon Series:
THE MOTHERS OF JESUS

Sermon:
RUTH

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism Q & A #46

[L] What was the estate of Christ's humiliation?

[P] **The estate of Christ's humiliation was that low condition, wherein he for our sakes, emptying himself of his glory, took upon him the form of a servant, in his conception and birth, life, death, and after his death, until his resurrection.**

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 & 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
HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

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

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING / KING OF HEAVEN

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

[L] May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

[P] **Amen!**

HIGHLIGHTS...

December 11, 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** **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – after the Worship Service
- KEGS & CAROLS EVENT** – 4 – 7 PM
Our annual Kegs and Carols gathering is back! Come join us for a song-filled celebration of the season at:
 Rising Tide Brewery, 103 Fox St., Portland.
 -Snacks provided
 -The kitchen is open for your orders until 5:30PM
- MON, DEC 12** **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 16** **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 18** **GIVING TREE GIFTS** are due. See complete information on page 13.
- 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
- 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:



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. 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 18.** 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

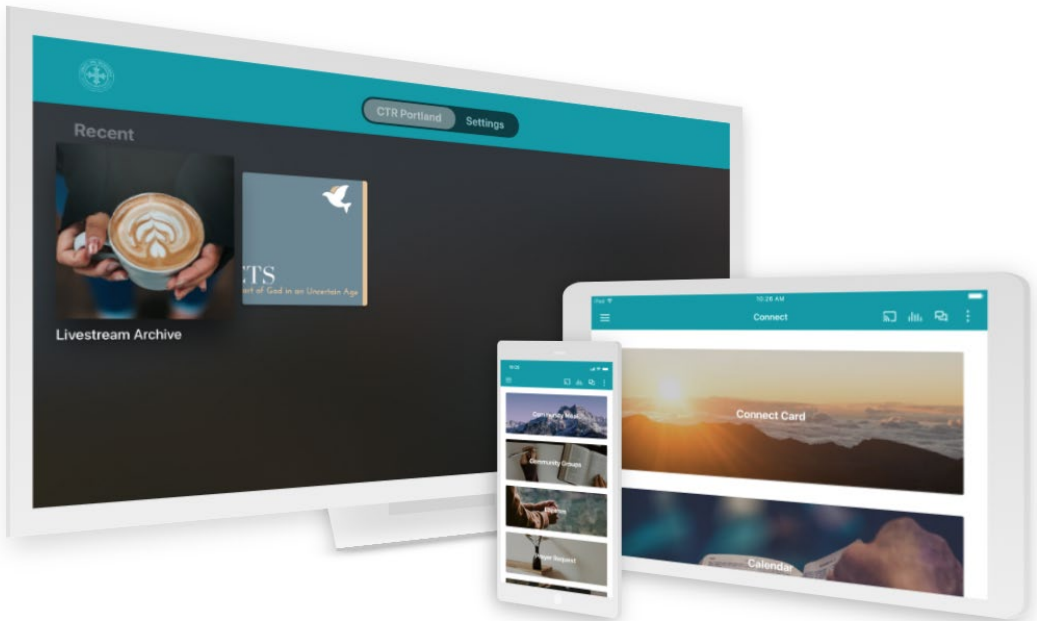
MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

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
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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]

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