



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 13, 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] Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

[All] **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

[L] Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

[All] **For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.**

SONG

PRAISE TO THE LORD

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

[L] Lord God, you have given yourself fully and completely to make us your people, a gift of grace to the world. We confess that too often we have kept this grace for ourselves. For the times when we've shied away from the suffering which comes when we love others as you have loved us.

[All] **Lord, have mercy.**

[L] For the times when we've taken your grace for granted and not allowed your love to overflow to others.

[All] **Christ, have mercy.**

[L] For the times when we've not trusted that you really care about us.

[All] **Lord, have mercy.**

[L] Fill us again with your love, poured out through the Holy Spirit so that our lives reflect your glory to the world. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Sisters and brothers, hear again the good news:

Christ suffered and died, not for the worthy, but for those who were unworthy. In him, we are reconciled with God, and through him you receive God's peace.

Your sins are forgiven. Live freely in God's love.

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

SONG
GRACE

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

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E

Acts 15:1-31, 36-41 ESV

Read by Landon Kepler

The Jerusalem Council

15 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

¹⁶ “‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
I will rebuild its ruins,
and I will restore it,
¹⁷ that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,
says the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸ known from of old.’

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, ²⁰ but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. ²¹ For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.”

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, ²³ with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, ²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰ So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

Paul and Barnabas Separate

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to

take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

[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.**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 13, 2025

Sermon Series:
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon:
JERUSALEM COUNCIL: BY GRACE ALONE!

Rev. Alden D. Groves
Assistant Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

[L] Christian, what do you believe?

[P] **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Abby Watson

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]

C E L E B R A T I N G H O L Y C O M M U N I O N

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

W O R D S O F I N V I T A T I O N & I N S T I T U T I O N

P R A Y E R O F T H A N K S G I V I N G

P A R T A K I N G O F T H E E L E M E N T S

SONG

THE WONDERFUL CROSS

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

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

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 endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

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

HIGHLIGHTS

July 13, 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

SUMMER STUDY: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

TODAY – 9 AM

Ever wondered about what exactly the church is? Or who it is? Or what it's for?

Come join us on Sundays at 9 AM from June 15 – August 3 for an overview study of why God made the church and what being the church means for our everyday lives.

CTR & NDA ANNUAL SOCCER GAME

TODAY – 1 PM | Deering High School

It's that time of year again—our annual soccer match against North Deering Alliance Church is happening on Sunday, July 13!

Whether you're lacing up your cleats or cheering from the sidelines, this is a great opportunity to enjoy some friendly competition, build relationships, and have a blast together as two church families.

Join the team if you're ready to play—or come cheer us on if you'd rather be part of the fan section! Bring a lawn chair, a water bottle, and your loudest cheering voice.

Let's show up with joy, good sportsmanship, and maybe a little team spirit as we continue this fun tradition with our friends at NDA.

📅 ON THE CALENDAR

👪 PARENTS OF ADULT CHILDREN: FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER

MONDAY, JULY 14 – 6:30 PM | 29 David Road, Portland

Parents of adult children are invited to an evening of fellowship, encouragement, and prayer. We'll reflect together on the unique joys and challenges of this stage of parenting—and how we can approach it with greater grace, wisdom, and love.

Questions? Call or text Laura Wiersma at 603-566-7746.

🏃 FCA POWER CAMP – GREATER PORTLAND

📅 JULY 21–24 | 9 AM–2 PM | Presumpscot Park (Deering High)

PARENTS: SIGN UP YOUR KIDS! Do your kids love sports? Do you want them to grow in confidence, character, and faith this summer? FCA Camp is the perfect place! Campers will receive great coaching in one of the following sports: Basketball, Football, Softball, Baseball, Soccer



Use this QR code to
SIGN UP YOUR KIDS!

Registration is open now!

Questions? Contact Abby Reid at 📞 404.723.4448 | ✉️ areid@ctrportland.org

🎬 MOVIE NIGHT: VENGEANCE

FRIDAY, JULY 25 – 7:30 PM | 536 River Road, Bowdoinham

Life, love, family—and murder—can look a little different in the West Texas desert. Join us for this month's movie night as we watch *Vengeance* (Rated R), drool over Whataburger fries, and reflect on the various mirages we face in life.

Hosted by Matthew and Emma Holloway.

ON THE CALENDAR

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

This month's pick: *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto—a witty and warm-hearted mystery featuring a lonely Chinese tea shop owner who stumbles upon a murder...and takes it upon herself to crack the case (with tea and life advice in hand). It's part whodunit, part heartwarming comedy, and 100% entertaining.

Come for the book talk and stay for the bubbly!

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

CTR SUMMER WRITING CHALLENGE

FRI, AUGUST 1 – 7:30 PM | 182 Pinecrest Rd, Portland

Looking for a creative outlet? Dreaming of becoming Maine's next great writer? Or maybe you just like snacks? Whatever your reason—join us for the CTR Summer Writing Challenge!

This year's prompt is “**confession.**” Write a story, essay, poem, song—anything inspired by the word (approx. 3,000 words max).

Submit your piece to Alden by **Friday, July 25**, then gather with us to share, discuss, and enjoy good company (and snacks!). Questions? Contact Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org.



TO PLEDGE
ONLINE

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.

LISTEN TO CTR ON SPOTIFY AND APPLE PODCASTS!

The sermon from each Sunday's Worship Service can be found on both Spotify and Apple Podcasts! This happens automatically each Sunday BUT please note that until the service is trimmed on Monday, the podcast will include the entire service. Once it is trimmed, it will include the scripture reading, the sermon and the prayer after the sermon. Please use the QR codes below to go straight to each platform.

Our full service is livestreamed to Facebook, YouTube and the CTR App. If you want to view the full service after Sunday, that can be viewed at any point on Facebook and YouTube.



Listen on
Apple Podcasts



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 18 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

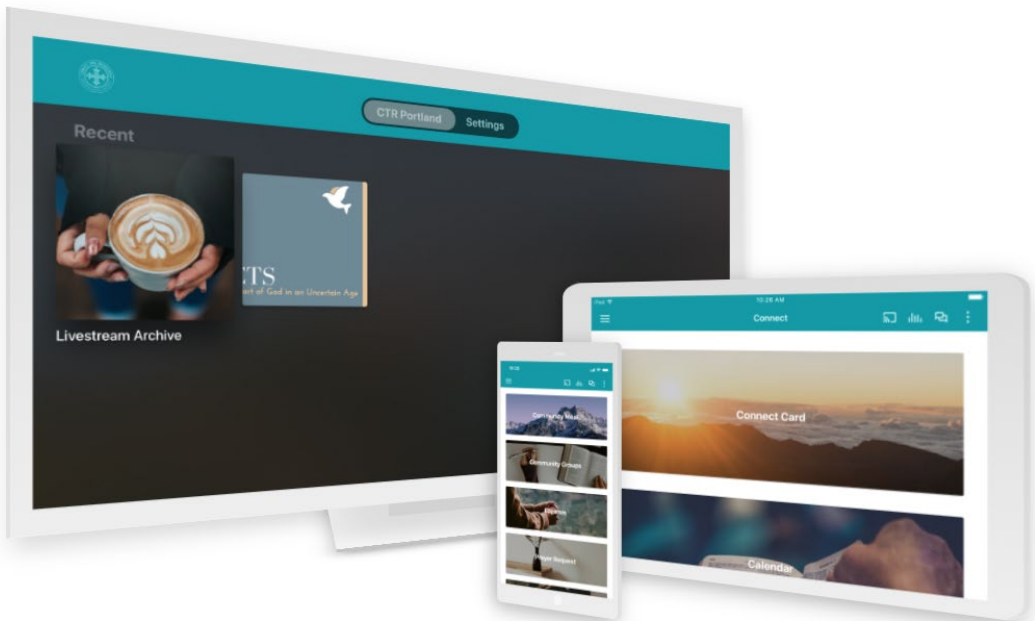
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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 Intern

[E-Mail: lwiersma@CTRPortland.org]

Landon Kepler

Summer Ministry Intern

[E-Mail: lckep1@gmail.com]

Austin Watson

Summer Pastoral Intern

[E-Mail: abetteraddress@gmail.com]

Abby Watson

Summer Ministry Intern

[E-Mail: abby.g.cooke@gmail.com]

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>