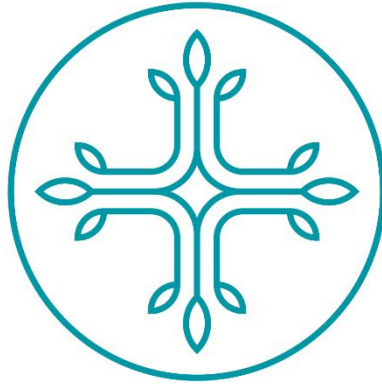




CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 9, 2026

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] O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- [P] **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
- [All] **For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

Psalms 95:1-3 ESV

SONG

O WORSHIP THE 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

- [P] **Heavenly Father, there are parts of our lives where we don't acknowledge you as Lord:**
- Often, we are unsatisfied with who you have made us to be. We seek validation from others more than we seek it from you.**
- Lord Jesus, there are parts of our lives where we don't acknowledge you as Saviour:**
- Often, our first response to challenges in life is problem-solving rather than prayer. Instead of being shaped by your cross, we try to avoid pain and suffering. And this disconnects us from our neighbors.**

[P] **Holy Spirit, there are parts of our lives where we don't look to you for hope:
Often, we fear the unknowns of the future, or we put our hope in technology,
education, or celebrities and don't believe that you are working all things for
good**

**Father, we come before you and acknowledge our weakness and our distraction.
We believe and trust you, Lord. Help our unbelief. Renew us through your Holy
Spirit and give us the same heart as Christ Jesus to love you with all our heart
and love our neighbor as ourselves.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.
Sing a song of redemption!
Let sorrow and sighing be no more.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

SONG

PSALM 57

MISSIONS FOCUS

Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford
Medical Missionaries
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Serge

Prayer for the Stafford Family
Led by Elder Nate Pillsbury

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 The Commons. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

SONG

JESUS PAID IT ALL

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E[found on **pages 57 -58** in the pew Bible]

Exodus 19:1-9, 16-20 ESV

Read by Jane Powers-Odenbach

Israel at Mount Sinai

19 On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸ All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. ⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.”

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰ The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

[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:
LEAVING EGYPT, FINDING HOME

Sermon:
IDENTITY AND THE GOD OF LOVE

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Lead Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A's #1 & 2

[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.

[L] What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

[P] **Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

SONG

MESSENGER DOXOLOGY #1

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 follow the directions given by the pastor in how to come to the front to receive the elements and then return to your seat.*
- *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 as you leave today. Thank you!*

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

S O N G

WHAT GRACE IS MINE

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

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

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

[L] Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

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

[L] Go now, and be a diverse people, who having gathered around the table of God's grace, extend his grace to others.

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

August 9, 2026

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

SPECIAL GUESTS: THE STAFFORD FAMILY

TODAY – 10 AM | CTR, 61 Neal St, Portland

We are delighted to welcome **Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford** and their four children to CTR today!

The Stafford's have faithfully served as medical missionaries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through Serge, and CTR has been privileged to partner with them in this gospel ministry for many years. This past May, while caring for patients during an Ebola outbreak, Peter contracted the virus and became critically ill. By God's abundant grace and mercy, he has made a full recovery.



Their family's journey is a remarkable testimony to God's faithfulness, sustaining power, and the hope of the gospel as they serve Christ in one of the world's most challenging mission fields.

During our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Peter and Rebekah will share an update on their ministry, the work God is doing in the Congo, and ways we can continue to pray for and support them.

Following the service, everyone is invited to *The Commons* for refreshments and fellowship. This will be a wonderful opportunity to spend time with the Stafford family, ask questions about their ministry, and hear more about how God is at work through their service.

Please plan to join us as we encourage the Stafford's, celebrate God's faithfulness, and learn how we can continue partnering with them in the gospel.

ON THE CALENDAR

DEACONS FUND SUNDAY

TODAY, AUGUST 9

Each quarter, we set aside a Sunday to prayerfully consider giving above and beyond our regular offering to support the Deacons Fund. These gifts go directly toward caring for individuals and families in our church and community who are facing financial hardship.

If you feel led to contribute, mark your gift “Deacons Fund” or select that option when giving online. Thank you for being part of this quiet, faithful work of care and compassion.

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY, AUG 12 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

Join the women of CTR for an evening of friendship, conversation, and a good book at our next Books & Bubbly gathering! We’ll be discussing *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi—a heartwarming story about the power of kindness, generosity, and truly seeing the people around us.

Set in the small town of Golden, the novel follows Theo, a mysterious newcomer who begins purchasing portraits of local residents from a coffee shop and returning them to the people they represent. Along the way, he invites people to share their stories, creating unexpected moments of connection, healing, and friendship. It’s a beautiful reminder of how small acts of compassion can make a lasting impact.

Whether you’re a longtime book club participant or joining us for the first time, you’re warmly invited. Come ready to share your thoughts, enjoy meaningful conversation, and spend a relaxed evening connecting with other women from CTR.

We’d love to have you join us—and feel free to bring a friend!

📅 ON THE CALENDAR

POOL PARTY at THE LOCKE'S

*SATURDAY, AUG 15 – 11 AM – 2 PM | 18 Mitchell Hill Road,
Scarborough*

Join us for a fun afternoon at the pool at the Locke's house from **11:00am — 2pm** on August 15! We'll have a lifeguard on duty and lunch will be provided. There will be plenty of time to swim, connect, and enjoy time together. Just bring your towel—we'll take care of the rest! We'd love to see you there!



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.



TO
PLEDGE
ONLINE

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



-CHRIST THE REDEEMER-

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Belong. Lean in. Launch out.

CTR Community Groups

launch mid-September, but our planning has already begun.
We'd love to reserve a place for you!

Whether you're a returning member, joining for the first time,
or not sure yet — we'd love to hear from every household.

PLEASE RESPOND BY **AUGUST 23.**

ABOUT COMMUNITY GROUPS:

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community Groups are smaller, regular gatherings in one another's homes — a place to share meals, open Scripture, and pray for each other as we learn to follow Christ in our everyday lives: our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and friendships. *Want the fuller picture?*



Visit the Community Groups page

HOW DOES GROUP PLACEMENT WORK?

We'll help match you/your family to a group nearby based on your neighborhood and schedule. If you're continuing in a group, we'll be in touch to confirm your spot; if you're new or requesting a change, we'll follow up with a recommendation soon after you respond.

HOW DO I RESPOND?

It's simple:

- **Fill out the form** (use the QR code): We'll be in touch soon!
- Or email Amanda McKrell, Director of Community Development, at amckrell@ctrportland.org.



In Community Groups, our goal is to deepen our love for one another, our love for God, and our love for our neighbors. We do this by spending regular time together, growing in friendship, and initiating ongoing conversations that grow our confidence to follow Christ in our daily lives.

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

WELCOME TEAM 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

MUSIC..... Kendra Hollen
Phone: 207.272.4104
E-mail: khollen@ctrportland.org

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 16 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

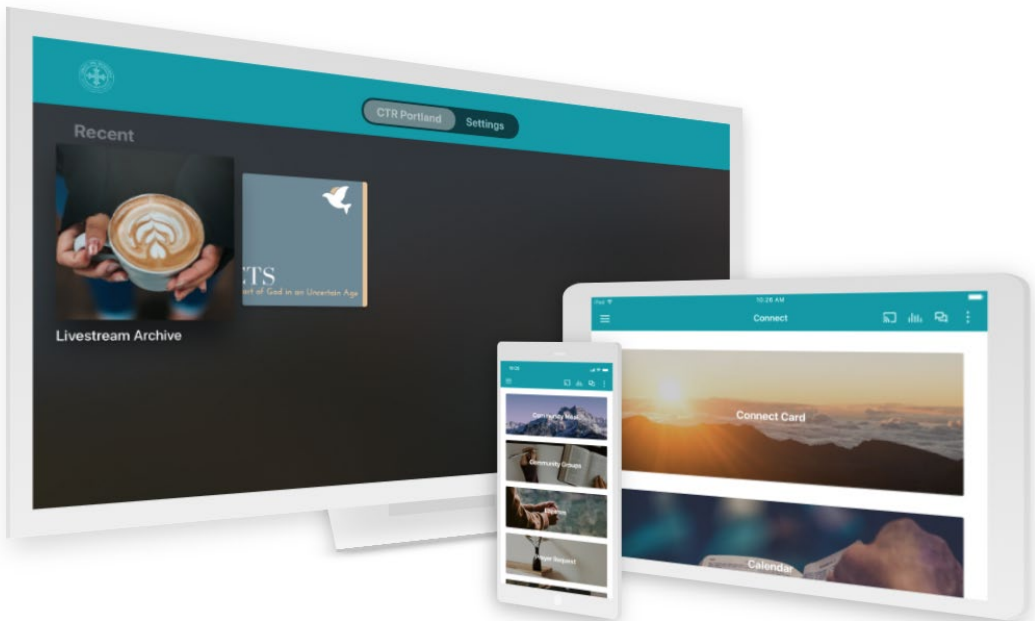
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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, Associate 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]

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.

CTR is located at
61 NEAL STREET, PORTLAND, ME 04102
207.878.1211 | <https://ctrportland.org>