

# CHRIST THE REDEEMER

—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE  
December 28, 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 ]

## CALL TO WORSHIP

- [L] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
- [P] **on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**
- [L] Jesus Christ is our life and light.  
In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

## SONG

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

**G O D   S A N C T I F I E S**

[ R E N E W A L ]

## CONFSSION OF SIN

- [All] Almighty God who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: before you and our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess our sins. We have ignored the presence of your Spirit. We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge. We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.

**In your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

## TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFSSION

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

In Christ, we are forgiven!

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

## SONG

JOY TO THE WORLD

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 – 1<sup>st</sup> grade are welcome to go to Children's Church downstairs in The Commons. They will re-join their families after the sermon.*

## SONG

O COME LET US ADORE HIM

**G O D S P E A K S**

[ W O R D ]

S C R I P T U R E

Luke 2:21-40 ESV

Read by Jane Powers-Odenbach

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

*Jesus Presented at the Temple*

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

*The Return to Nazareth*

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon 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.**

Sermon Series:

THE SONGS AND STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Sermon:

THE JOY OF AN OLD MAN

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

*Lead Pastor*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## Heidelberg Catechism Q &amp; 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

## 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.**

## SONG

SING GLORIA

**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 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!*

## WORDS OF INVITATION &amp; INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

## SONG

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOR

## 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**

[ M I S S I O N ]

R E S P O N S E S O F J O Y

## 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

ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

## BENEDICTION and SENDING

[L] May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel. Amen.

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

# HIGHLIGHTS

December 28, 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.



## 1 ON THE CALENDAR

### NEW TO CTR DESSERT NIGHT

***SUNDAY, JAN 11 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland***

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If you're new to Christ the Redeemer [whether that's 6 weeks or 6 months], we'd love to get to know you better! Join us for a relaxed New to CTR Dessert Night at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pastor Sean and Claire Roberts. This is a great opportunity to meet our pastors and other leaders, hear a bit about the heart of our church, and enjoy conversation together over dessert. Plan to join us!

### BOOKS & BUBBLY

***WEDNESDAY, JAN 14 | 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland***

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Ladies, join us for Books & Bubbly on Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Claire Roberts. We'll enjoy light refreshments, great conversation, and a relaxed evening together as we discuss our current book. Whether you're an avid reader or just coming for the fellowship, you're welcome!



# 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.

 **TO  
PLEDGE  
ONLINE**

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Belong. Lean in. Launch out.*

Whether you're brand new to CTR or have been here for years, **community groups are for you!**

These smaller gatherings meet regularly in homes throughout Greater Portland. Together we:

- Form friendships
- Share meals
- Pray for and engage one another throughout the week
- Encourage one another to live on mission in our everyday contexts

### Why join a group?

Community groups are the primary way we care for and grow with one another at CTR. No matter your age, stage, or point in your faith journey, you'll find a place to belong, be challenged, and grow as a disciple of Jesus. We'll learn to keep asking each other: *Where has Christ placed you to serve him this time tomorrow?*

For any questions or concerns, email: [amckrell@ctrportland.org](mailto:amckrell@ctrportland.org).

**New to CTR or to community groups?** We would love you to join us!

Scan the QR code to sign up or email [amckrell@ctrportland.org](mailto:amckrell@ctrportland.org).



# 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 ..... Abby 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

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

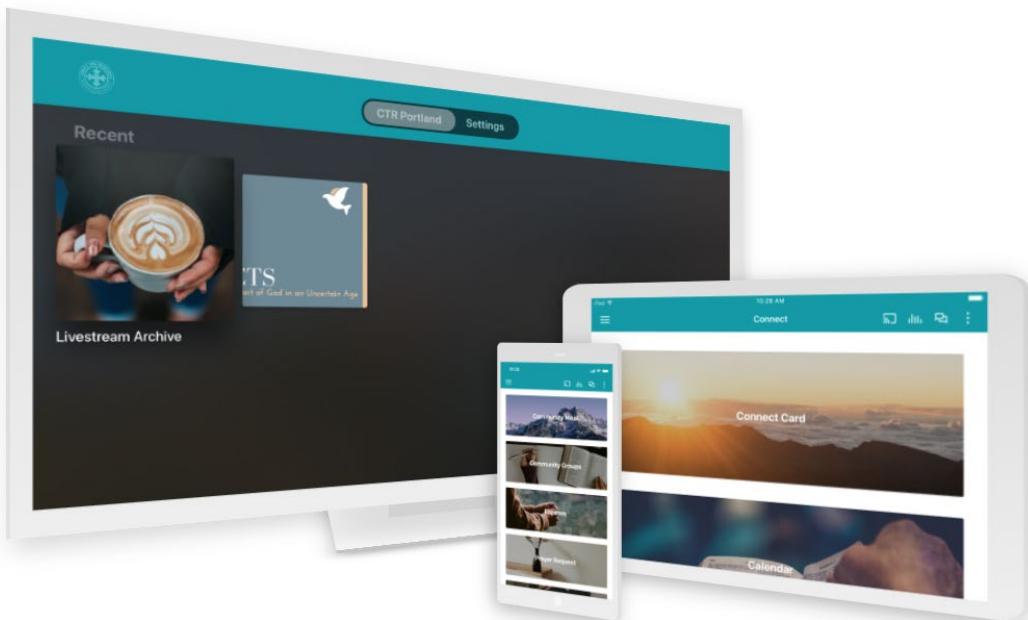
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:SRoberts@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 956.207.1398

**Reverend Alden D. Groves, Assistant Pastor**

E-mail: [AGroves@CTRPortland.org](mailto:AGroves@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,  
Music Ministry Director**  
[E-Mail: [khollen@CTRPortland.org](mailto:khollen@CTRPortland.org)]

**Amanda McKrell,  
Director of Community Development**  
[E-mail: [amckrell@CTRPortland.org](mailto:amckrell@CTRPortland.org)]

**Abby Reid,  
Children's Ministry Director &  
Connections Coordinator**  
[E-Mail: [areid@CTRPortland.org](mailto:areid@CTRPortland.org)]  
**Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator**  
[E-Mail: [ctr@CTRPortland.org](mailto: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](mailto: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>