

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER

-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 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 Matthew and Emma Holloway

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."

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

[L] The mighty God summons the earth from the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets.

[P] **Our God comes and will not be silent.
God calls, and we respond to his love.**

[L] The heavens declare God's righteousness.

[P] **We tell out God's glories!**

[L] Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

[P] **And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever.**

based on Psalm 50:1-3, 6

S O N G

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

GOD SANCTIFIES

[RENEWAL]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[L] Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

[P] **God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things--our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.**

based on Psalm 126

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[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 BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

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

I'LL NOT BE SHAKEN

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

Joshua 2:1-21

Read by Sarah Cohen

Rahab Hides the Spies

2 ¹And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” ¹⁴ And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death!”

If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.” ¹⁷ The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. ¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household. ¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. ²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.” ²¹ And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

[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.**

Advent Sermon Series:
THE MOTHERS OF JESUS

Sermon:
RAHAB

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Senior Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Larger Catechism Q & A #37

[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 reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Peter Kouba

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.

GOD STRENGTHENS

[TABLE]

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

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU [PSALM 130]

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

J O Y T O T H E W O R L D

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

[L] As you leave this place this day, may God's love sustain you, and may you love those who surround you. May God's Spirit empower you, and may you empower all those you meet. May God's joy fill your hearts and may this joy overflow to the ends of the earth for God's glory, now and forever. Amen.

[P] **Amen!**

HIGHLIGHTS...

December 4, 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
FREEPORT/DURHAM
NEW GLOUCESTER

SCARBOROUGH
BIDDEFORD
LAKES REGION

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** **CTR YOUTH BOWLING – 12 PM**
@ West-Port Bowling Lanes, 135 Maine Street, Westbrook
Lunch is provided! FMI, please see Emma Holloway.
- MON, DEC 5** **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 9** **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 11** **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – after the Worship Service**
Save the date for this meeting! This is an opportunity for members of the congregation to learn about the ministry both looking back at the last year and looking forward to 2023 from CTR leadership. This meeting is packed with information so plan to stay!
- 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
- 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**

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

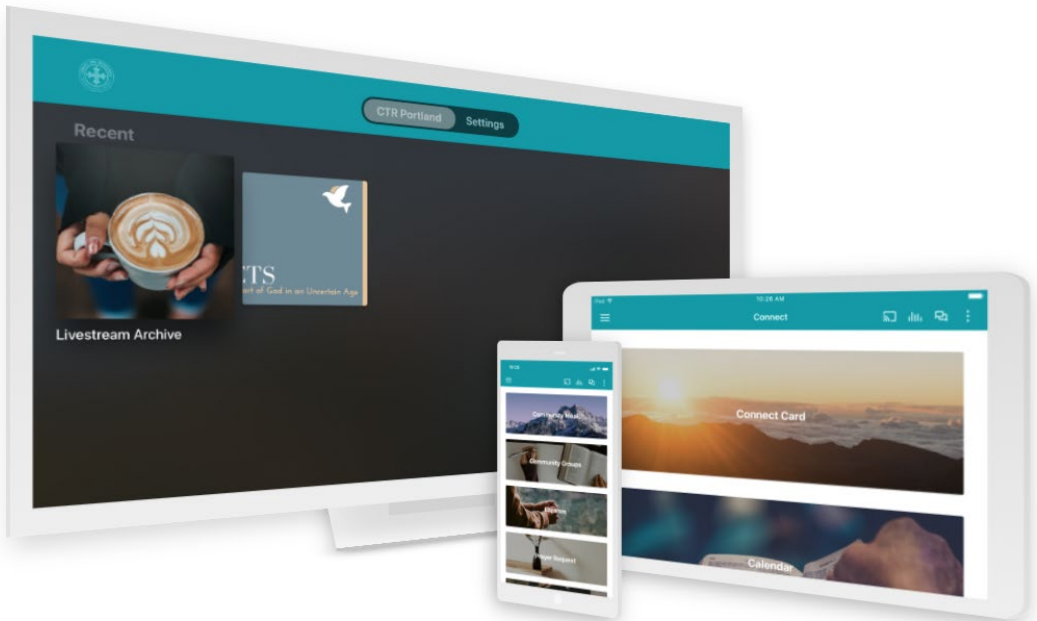
MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

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
Tel. 207.459.6797

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]

Offices located at North Deering Congregational Church, 1364 Washington Avenue, Portland

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