



CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 27, 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] "Clap your hands, all peoples!

[P] **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!"**

[L] The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign;

[P] **His is the name above all names.**

[L] We are witnesses: the Lord is risen!

[P] **Christ has ascended to reign on high.**

S O N G

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

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

[All] **Holy God, we groan at our weaknesses, and we ask forgiveness.**

Your Word is so clear, and your grace is so good. But we close our ears to your call, and with our perverse pride we foul the gifts you have given us. Like your servant Paul, we know what you require of us; yet, like Paul, what we do is not the good we want to do, and the evil we do not want to do, that evil we keep on doing. We mistreat those we love, and we dishonor you, the One who made us.

How long, O Lord, will we continue to ignore your will?

Yet you provide streams of living mercy; you invite us again and again to live renewed lives. So we turn once again to the cross, to the empty cross, to the stone rolled away, to our interceding Lord Jesus Christ seated at your right hand, to the gracious gift of your Spirit.

We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. We draw upon your promises, and we ask once again simply for mercy. With your Holy Spirit, sanctify us. Hear our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Hear the good news:

You are God's holy, precious, and beloved children. Your sins are forgiven. But more than that: through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has opened the way for us to dwell forever in the presence of God.

He has suffered and died so that you would know that God is always for you. Jesus is not ashamed to call you his brothers and sisters, and through him you are being made perfect, a place for God's Spirit to dwell. May you live in this peace, that in Christ, you are enough, now and always.

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

SONG

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

LIFE OF THE PEOPLE
[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

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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
O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E

Acts 17:16-34 ESV

Read by Landon Kepler

Paul in Athens

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Paul Addresses the Areopagus

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

[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.**

Sermon Series:
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon:
THE GOSPEL IN THE MARKETPLACE OF BELIEF

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts
Lead Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & 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.

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

DOXOLOGY [Old 100th]

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

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

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 SOLID ROCK

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

[L] Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of all creation. You were once sinners, alienated and hostile in mind to God, but you have been reconciled through his body and death. Continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard.

Brothers and sisters, proclaim the glorious mystery of the gospel, revealing God's glory, grace, and love to the world.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

July 27, 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.

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WED, JUL 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.

ON THE CALENDAR

CTR SUMMER WRITING CHALLENGE

FRI, AUG 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, then gather with us to share, discuss, and enjoy good company (and snacks!). Questions? Contact Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org.

WOMEN’S DROP-IN

*THURS, AUG 7 – 7-8:30 PM | Foundation Brewing, 1 Industrial Way
#7, Portland*

Ladies, we’d love for you to join us for a relaxed evening at Foundation Brewing. It’s an easygoing time to connect, enjoy good conversation, and simply be together. Come as you are, drop in when you can, and stay as long as you like.

DEACONS FUND SUNDAY

SUN, AUG 10

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.

📅 ON THE CALENDAR

🍺 MEN'S DROP-IN

TUES, AUG 12 – 5-6:30 PM | Foundation Brewing, 1 Industrial Way, #7, Portland

Sometimes you just need a casual space to unwind, catch up, and connect. Join us for our next Men's Drop-In at Foundation Brewing—no agenda, just good conversation, great local brews, and a chance to build community. Come when you can, and bring a friend!



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.

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 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

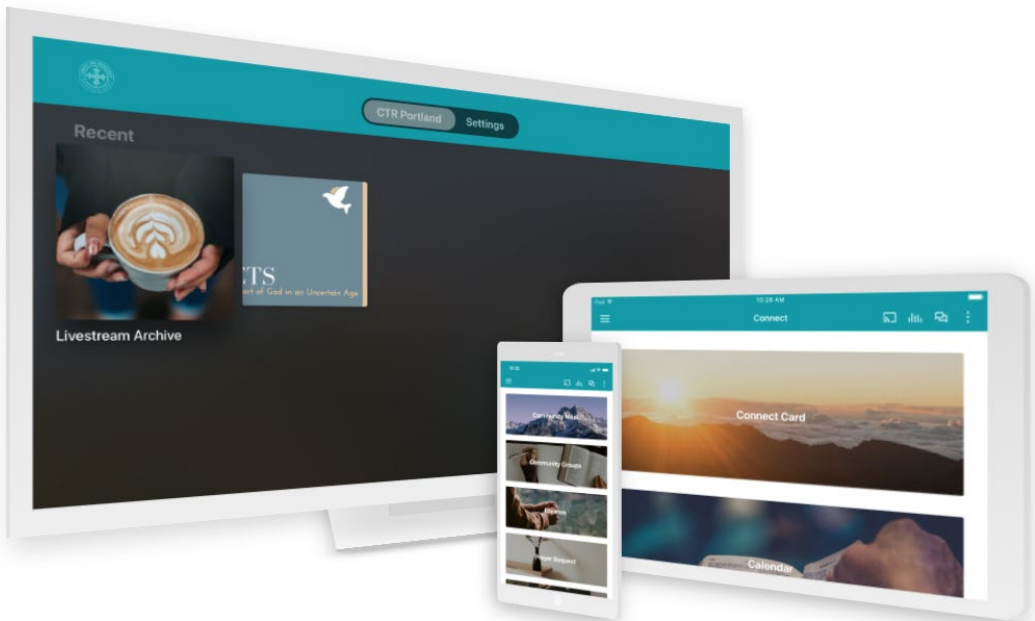
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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, 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>