

CHRIST  
THE REDEEMER  
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
November 30, 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*

## W E L C O M E

## G O D S U M M O N S

[ P R A I S E ]

SONG

COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

A D V E N T C A N D L E R E A D I N G

Readers: Baxter & Devon Miatke

Reader 1: Today we light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope. As we begin this season of waiting, we listen to the ancient words of Hannah, a woman who cried out to God in her longing and was met with surprising mercy.

Reader 2: Hannah prayed: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high...There is no Rock like our God.” [1 Samuel 2:1-2]

Reader 1: Hannah knew what it meant to hope when nothing seemed to change, to trust when her hands were empty, to believe in a God who works in hidden places before his work is seen in the open.

Reader 2: Her song reminds us that hope is not wishful thinking-- Hope is rooted in the character of God: the One who raises the poor from the dust, sets the needy among princes, and guards the feet of his faithful servants. [1 Samuel 2:8-9]

Reader 1: During Advent, we join Hannah in this kind of hope. We hope not because the world is stable, but because God is faithful. We hope not because we see clearly, but because God sees what we cannot. We hope not because we are strong, but because God lifts up the humble.

Reader 2: As we light this candle, we remember that the same God who heard Hannah’s cry also hears ours. The same God who brought life from barrenness brings light into our darkness. And the same God who began his salvation story long ago has come to us in Jesus—the hope of the world.

*[Light the candle of Hope.]*

All: **Lord, as we light this candle, renew our hope in you. Teach us to wait with trust, to rejoice with Hannah, and to rest in your unshakable promises. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

[L] In you alone, we put our hope - God the Father, Creator and Sustainer,

[P] **who gives all good things, seen and unseen.**

[L] In you alone, we put our hope - God the Son, Savior and Redeemer,

[P] **who died for our sins and rose again.**

[L] In you alone, we put our hope - God the Spirit, Intercessor, and Comforter,

[P] **who moves us to sing, pray and praise.**

[L] In you alone, we put our hope.

[P] **Amen.**

SONG

COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

**G O D S A N C T I F I E S**

[ R E N E W A L ]

CONFESSIO N O F S I N

[All] **Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

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

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.**

*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

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

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

[ W O R D ]

## S C R I P T U R E

1 Samuel 1:1-18, 2:1-10 ESV

Read by Sarah Cohen

*The Birth of Samuel*

1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. <sup>2</sup> He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

<sup>3</sup> Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup> So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

<sup>9</sup> After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

<sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken

woman. <sup>14</sup> And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” <sup>15</sup> But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. <sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” <sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” <sup>18</sup> And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

### *Hannah's Prayer*

2 And Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my horn is exalted in the Lord.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

2 “There is none holy like the Lord:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble bind on strength.

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low and he exalts.

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap

to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.  
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,  
and on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup> “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,  
for not by might shall a man prevail.

<sup>10</sup> The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;  
against them he will thunder in heaven.  
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

[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.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Nov 30, 2025

Sermon Series:

THE SONGS AND STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Sermon:

THE HOPE OF A MOTHER

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

*Lead Pastor*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q's and A's 35 & 36

35. Q: What do you confess when you say:  
*He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary?*

**A: The eternal Son of God,  
who is and remains true and eternal God,  
took upon himself true human nature  
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,  
through the working of the Holy Spirit.  
Thus he is also the true seed of David,  
and like his brothers in every respect,  
yet without sin.**

36. Q: What benefit do you receive  
from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

**A: He is our Mediator,  
and with his innocence and perfect holiness  
covers, in the sight of God,  
my sin, in which I was conceived and born.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Jane Powers-Odenbach

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

ADVENT DOXOLOGY #1

**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 & INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

SONG

JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE

## **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]

RESPONSES OF JOY

## 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

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] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

# HIGHLIGHTS

November 30, 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

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*MONDAYS – 6:00 PM | 29 Lilac Lane, New Gloucester*

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Our fall Women's Bible Study has begun. Supper will be provided as we gather each week. Together we'll walk through 1 Samuel using *At His Feet Studies*—a rich and accessible guide to help us grow in God's Word and encourage one another in faith.

**Questions?** Contact Laura Wiersma at [lwiersma@ctrportland.org](mailto:lwiersma@ctrportland.org) or 603.566.7746.

### BOOKS & BUBBLY

*WEDNESDAY, DEC 3 | 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland*

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Ladies, as winter approaches, join us for a refreshing night at **Books & Bubbly** on **Wednesday, December 3 at 7 pm**. We'll be talking through Rosamunde Pilcher's *Winter Solstice*—a perfect read for this season. Your presence will make the evening complete!

**Questions?** Contact Claire Roberts at [clerkus@gmail.com](mailto:clerkus@gmail.com) or 956.270.2565.

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*SUNDAY, DEC 14 – 11:45 AM | 61 Neal St, Portland*

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Mark your calendars! This is an opportunity for members of CTR to learn about the ministry from CTR leadership both looking back at the last year and looking forward to 2026. This meeting is packed with information, and two votes of the members so please plan to stay! [There will be childcare provided for this meeting.]

## On the December Calendar at CTR:

**Sunday, Dec. 21 – Longest Night Service**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service** – Childcare will be provided for our youngest attenders.



**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.

# 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

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 17 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

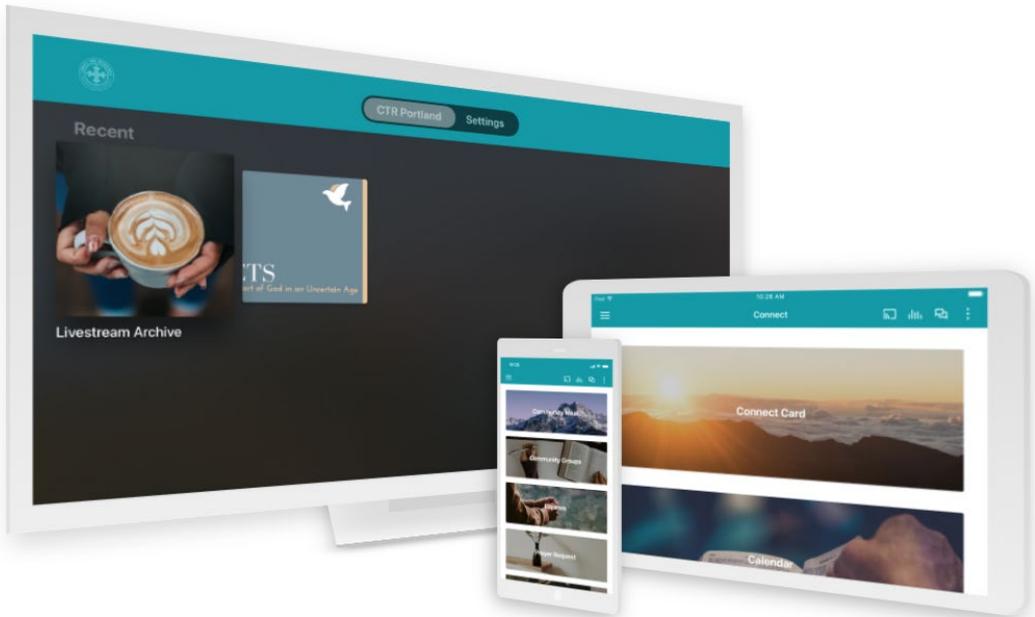
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

**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>