

CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 8, 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] Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

[All] **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

[L] Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

[All] **For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 8-9 ESV

SONG

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE

GOD SANCTIFIES

[RENEWAL]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[All] **Word of God Incarnate, you came to this world to accomplish salvation. By your grace you call us to repent, to be crucified with you, that we might be raised as new creations. But we confess that often we do not live as renewed people. We confess that often we "go with the flow" instead of stemming sin's tide. Forgive us when we do not show evidence of renewal. Forgive us when we let the fruit of the Spirit be choked by the weeds of evil. You have made us your children, members of your kingdom. Help us to show evidence of that every day as we work to bring your justice, peace, gentleness, goodness, love, joy, and hope to all we meet. For Jesus' sake, Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

SONG

HAVE MERCY

Have mercy on me
Have mercy on me
O Lord have mercy
O Lord have mercy

Oh help my unbelief
Oh help my unbelief
O Lord have mercy
O Lord have mercy

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

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

SONG

LIVING HOPE

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

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E

Luke 21:25-33 ESV

Read by Sarah Cohen

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[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.**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Mar 8, 2026

Sermon Series:

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: FOLLOWING JESUS

Sermon:

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

Lead Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A's #1 & 52

[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] How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

[P] **In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me.**

Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Led by Elder Matt Reid

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

DOXOLOGY [OLD 100th]

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

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

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

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

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

[L] I bless you with the sure knowledge that you belong to the Alpha and the Omega.
 You are children of the one who is, and who was, and who is to come.
 He has called you to be his nation, and his royal priesthood.

Go out into the world as servants of the King, the Almighty. Amen.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

March 8, 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

INQUIRERS' CLASS

SUNDAYS - 9 AM | 61 Neal Street, Portland

Are you new to our church? If you're interested in learning more about CTR's history, vision, values, and practices, come join us for our upcoming Inquirers' Class. This is a great opportunity to learn more about who we are, to ask questions, and to meet and engage with other newcomers, as well as key leaders and staff. This class is also a prerequisite for church membership, for those interested.

The class takes place on Sunday mornings at 9 am -- before the service. It began on February 8.

Questions? Contact Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215-704-0132.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Our winter/spring Women's Bible Study has begun. Supper will be provided as we gather each week. Together we'll walk through God's Word and encourage one another in faith.

Questions? Contact Laura Wiersma at lwiersma@ctrportland.org or 603.566.7746.

📅 ON THE CALENDAR

🎨 LADIES ART NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 – 5:00 PM | 61 Neal Street, Portland

CTR Ladies, you're invited to a special **Art Night** on **Friday, March 13 from 5:00–8:00 pm** at the church!

We'll begin the evening with a **light potluck meal** — simple, relaxed, and shared around the table — and then move into **an art project**. No experience needed! All art supplies will be provided. This is about creativity, connection, and enjoying the process together.

Bring yourself (and a friend, if you'd like) and come ready to create, laugh, and be encouraged. There's something beautiful that happens when we gather our gifts in one room.

Please RSVP through the CTR app in the Arts & Creativity group, or text Holly Churchill Lane at 207-632-2120. We hope you'll join us!

🍽️ GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER EVENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 – 5:30 PM | Various Locations

Get ready for an evening of great food, warm fellowship, and a dash of mystery. Choose one of five cuisines, whip up a dish (main, side, or dessert) to match, and then head off to a surprise location to share the table with dining companions you won't know until you arrive!

The fun unfolds from **5:30–7:30 PM on Saturday, March 28**.

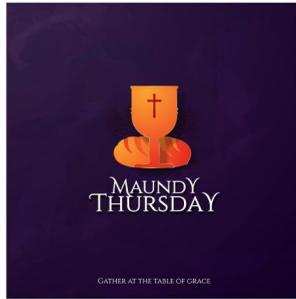
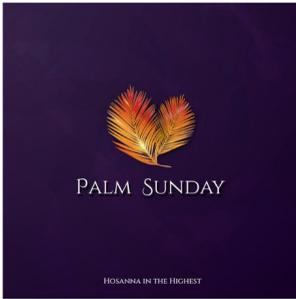
Childcare (with dinner provided) will be available at **61 Neal Street** from **5:15–7:45 PM** for children ages 0–8.

Fill out the survey @ this QR code to select your cuisine, tell us what you'll bring, and reserve childcare if needed. Let the guessing begin!



For more information, please contact Claire Roberts @ clerkus@gmail.com or 956.270.2565.

HOLY WEEK 2026



SUN, MAR 29

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP – 10 AM

Please make sure you join us as we begin Holy Week together in worship. We will be blessed during this service with both our Adult Choir and our Children's Choir!

THURS, APR 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES – 5:30-7:30 PM

Maundy Thursday is the Church's commemoration of the Last Supper. This year, our Community Groups will gather in four homes across Greater Portland to share a meal and participate in a simple liturgy led by one of our pastors.

We hope that gathering around the table, in the intimacy of one another's homes, will invite our minds and bodies more deeply into the story and experience of the Last Supper.

Meals will be potluck-style, so please RSVP. If you are not currently part of a Community Group, please let us know so that we can connect you with a gathering. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215-704-0132.

FRI, APR 3

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE – 6:30 PM

Join us on **Good Friday, April 3, at 6:30 PM** for a **Tenebrae Service**, a solemn and reflective time of Scripture, song, and silence as we remember Christ's journey to the cross.

Tenebrae, meaning "shadows" or "darkness," is an ancient service that invites us to sit in the weight of Good Friday. Through the gradual extinguishing of candles, we walk through the passion of Christ, experiencing the depth of His sacrifice for us.

Come and prepare your heart for Easter by entering into the story of Christ's love poured out. We invite you to join us in this sacred time of reflection and worship.

Childcare will be provided for crawlers – age 3.

HOLY WEEK 2026



SUN, APR 5

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE – 10 AM

Come and worship with us on **Easter Sunday at 10:00 AM** as we rejoice in the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through **Scripture, prayer, a musical selection by our Adult Choir and congregational singing**, we will proclaim the good news that **Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!** In his victory over sin and death, we find our hope, our salvation, and the promise of new life in him.

This is a day of great joy and reverence as we gather as Christ's body to lift our hearts in worship and gratitude. Come experience the power of Easter, the beauty of community, and the promise of new life in Christ.

All are welcome. Come and worship with us.



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.



TO
PLEDGE
ONLINE

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.

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.



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

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

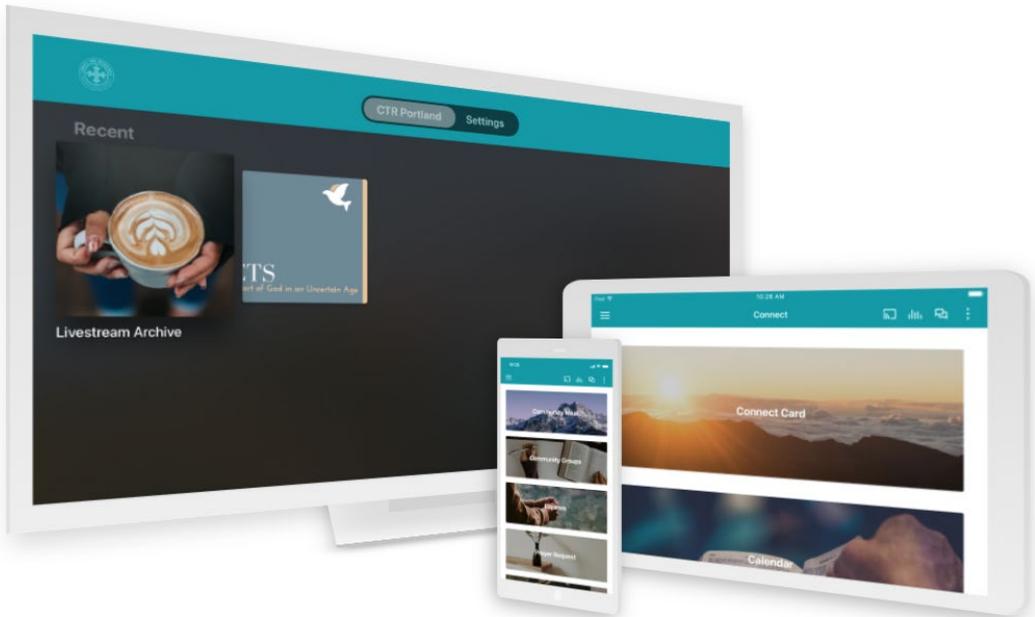
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

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. 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>