CHRIST THE REDEEMER

−PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH−

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 18, 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.

→ 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

CTRKids

Gospel-centered, Nurturing, Fun, Safe

Welcome to CTRKids!

We are glad you are here! At CTR, we believe that children are not just the future of the church but are integral members of our church family right now. Below is a quick guide to how you can expect to see children welcomed and invited to participate throughout our worship service.

For more information about our Children's Ministry, feel free to visit our CTRKids table in the foyer, visit our website at the QR code below, or email our CM Director, Abby Reid, at areid@ctrportland.org.

Where do my kids go?

Infants

We have an infant care area in the downstairs foyer with space for feeding, settling little ones, and changing babies in both restrooms.

Nursery

Babies who can crawl- 3 years old are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment where they experience the love of Christ through attentive care. Follow signs down the stairs to the lower level.

Children's Church

4 years old-1st grade children are dismissed during the sermon to learn about the Elements of Worship in age-appopriate ways. Visiting families should accompany children to check them in.

2nd Graders and up

Kids remain with their families for the entirety of the worship service. Kids may pick up a CTRKids Order of Worship and activity pages at our table in the foyer.

Kids in the worship service? Yes!

Worship is something we learn by doing *together*. Children are welcome here, and we want them to grow up knowing they have a place to worship God and fellowship with his church. **We expect wiggles, whispers, and questions!** All children are welcome to join us in our kids' programs, or families can choose to keep their children in the service- whatever works best for your family.

What are the graphics on the screen?

The simple graphics on the screen are visual cues to help children recognize the different parts of our worship service and liturgy. These are the symbols they encounter every Sunday in the Nursery and Children's Church. They give children (and adults!) an easy way to follow along and participate together. Worship graphics are adapted from Teach Us to Worship curriculum developed by the PCA, created to help congregations engage more fully in the rhythms of corporate worship.

Over time, these rhythms become familiar. Our hope is that children will not simply watch worship happen but will grow in confidence and a sense of belonging as they learn to worship God alongside our whole congregation.

GOD SUMMONS

[PRAISE]

CALL TO WORSHIP

[All] **Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

[L] Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

[All] **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Psalm 90:1-2

SONG

HOW GREAT THOU ART

GOD SANCTIFIES

[RENEWAL]

CONFESSION OF SIN

[P] **Out of the depths, we cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear our voice. Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy. Living in frailty and weakness with adversity in our path, we too often buckle in despair. We doubt your goodness. We seek crutches of our own design aimed at comfort and relief, but which do nothing to heal or restore. In our pain, we deny the greater story that has been told and is being told by the resurrection of our Lord. Though our bodies waste away, we will live by the power of the Spirit at work within us. Forgive us for our faltering faith in these momentary and fleeting troubles and forgetting the greater story of your resurrection life.**

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[L] Hear the good news of the boundless riches of Christ:

Our God has pity on the weak and delivers the needy when they call.

In Christ Jesus, our Lord, we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him, for in Christ, our sins are forgiven. The light of God's mercy has come, so arise, shine, and be at peace.

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

SONG

HIS MERCY IS MORE

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
THE WONDERFUL CROSS

GOD SPEAKS
[WORD]

SCRIPTURE
[found on **page 929** in the pew Bible]

Ephesians 3:1-14 ESV

Read by Fran Rodenburg

The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed

3 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— 2 assuming that
you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery
was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can
perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men
in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of
the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me
by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was
given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for
everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that
through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and
authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized
in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our
faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your
glory.

Prayer for Spiritual Strength

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

[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:
A MATURING CHURCH: PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Sermon:
NEW SOCIETY: THE MYSTERY REVEALED

Austin Watson
Pastoral Ministry Resident

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

[L] Christian, what do you believe?

[P] **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

DOXOLOGY [OLD 100TH]

GOD STRENGTHENS

[TABLE]

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

<u>A Word about Communion</u>: 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

ANOTHER LIKE YOU

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.

GOD SENDS

[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
IN CHRIST ALONE

BENEDICTION and SENDING

[L] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

phesians 3:20-21

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

[L] Go now, and be a diverse people, who having gathered around the table of God's grace, extend his grace to others.

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

October 18, 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 in The Commons

Interested in learning more about CTR or considering church membership? Our Inquirers' Class has begun, but we'd still love to hear from you. Reach out to us if you'd like to join the current class or be contacted when the next one is offered.

CONTACT US HERE

The class is a chance to learn about CTR's heart and history, meet our leaders and other newcomers, and ask your questions. Attending does not commit you to membership, but the class is required if you decide to join.

Questions? Contact Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215.704.0132.

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS – In The Commons

Do you desire to go deeper in God's word in community with others? Join us for a weekly bible study at the church. This fall, we will begin going through the book of Galatians, diving into Scripture together as we learn what it means to experience freedom through our identity in Christ. Be sure to sign up so we can make sure we have materials and discussion table placements for all.

Men's Study **Saturdays, 6:45 AM** in The Commons
Women's Study **Thursdays, 6:15 PM** in The Commons

Questions? Contact Pastor Sean Roberts (SRoberts@CTRPortland.org) or Director of Community Development, Amanda McKrell (AMcKrell@CTRPortland.org).

SIGN UP HERE

TRUNK OR TREAT @ CTR

SATURDAY, OCT 31 – 4 – 5:15 PM | 61 Neal Street, Portland

Join us for our very first **Trunk or Treat!**

We're looking for people to decorate and fill their trunks with treats for families to enjoy as they make their way through the parking lot on October 31. Go big, keep it simple, get creative — we just want a parking lot full of fun and welcoming faces!

This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbors, friends, and families to come hang out, enjoy some treats, and experience a little of what makes our church community special.

Want to host a trunk? Sign up using this QR code!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING

SUNDAY, NOV 15 – 11:45 AM | 61 Neal Street, Portland

Please note a date change! Our Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting is moving from December to Sunday, November 15, immediately following the worship service.

The meeting will include reports from the Elders and Deacons, a Financial Report, and the election of Trustees for 2027.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us as we reflect on the past year and look ahead together.

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY, NOV 18 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

Join us for Books & Bubbly on Wednesday, November 18, at 7 PM! We'll discuss *The Blackout Book Club* by Amy Lynn Green. Set in small-town Maine during World War II, this novel follows an unlikely group of women who form a book club to save their local library—and discover friendship, courage, and hope along the way. Come enjoy an evening of conversation and good company!

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

FEED OUR YOUTH

WEDNESDAYS (2X/MONTH) – 5:30 PM | 61 Neal Street, Portland

Help care for CTR Youth by providing a meal! We meet every other Wednesday with about 10 students and 2 adult leaders. Simple, hearty, kid-friendly meals are welcome—please note any common allergens. Meals should arrive at church by 5:30 PM. You're welcome to stay for dinner, get to know our students, and join a game afterward!

Sign up for one meal or several throughout the year. Use this QR code.

Sharing a meal is a meaningful way to show our students the love and hospitality of their church family. Thank you for helping them feel valued and cared for!

CTR KIDS

Our ***Christian Formation classes*** use The Gospel Project curriculum, helping kids of every age see how the whole Bible points to Jesus. With age-appropriate lessons and **resources to help parents continue the conversation at home**, we will grow together in knowing and loving God and his great story of redemption!

Please reach out to Abby Reid if you have questions about anything CTRKids!
Phone: 404.723.4448 E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

CF Classes

Sundays from 9:00-9:45

Ram Island	Potty Trained-Kindergarten	Nursery	The Gospel Project
Bug Light	1st-2nd grade	The Corner Room (old nursery)	The Gospel Project
Two Lights	3rd-5th grade	The Meeting Room	The Gospel Project
Head Light	6th grade+	Downstairs Foyer	The Gospel Project

CTR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Groups are launching this month. If you have not asked to be added to a group, reach out today! We'd love to reserve a place for you!

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community Groups are smaller, regular gatherings in one another's homes — a place to share meals, open Scripture, and pray for each other as we learn to follow Christ in our everyday lives: our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and friendships.

HOW DO I RESPOND?

It's simple: **Fill out the form** (use the QR code)**:** We'll be in touch soon!

- Or email Amanda McKrell, Director of Community Development, at amckrell@ctrportland.org.

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.

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

WELCOME TEAM 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

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 15 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.

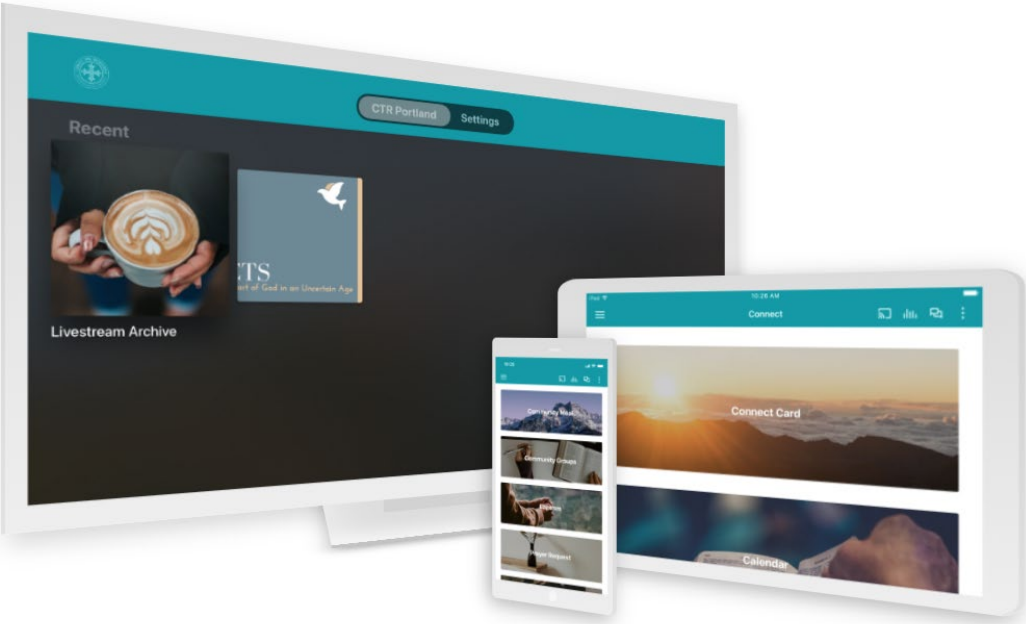
   The CTR Website [ctrportland.org] is designed to be our front door– a welcoming place for new people to discover and learn about our church. It is minimal in announcements and church life information.

   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!

SCAN ME



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

Austin Watson, Pastoral Ministry Resident
E-mail: AustinWatson@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 850.728.8853

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
[E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator
[E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

Abby Watson
Ministry Resident
[E-Mail: AbbyWatson@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