

# WELCOME TO PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH

At Portland Mennonite Church we are striving to take seriously the challenge of the prophet Jeremiah to “seek the peace of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7)



## PASTORS & STAFF

**Rod Stafford***Lead Pastor*[rod@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:rod@portlandmennonite.org)**Curt Weaver***Pastor of Children and Youth*[curt@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:curt@portlandmennonite.org)**Britt Carlson***Pastor of Community Life*[britt@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:britt@portlandmennonite.org)**Rachel Joy***Administrator*[office@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:office@portlandmennonite.org)



# WELCOME!

I am glad you could join us for our on-line worship service. I wish I could greet all of you in-person. I wish we could sing our gratitude and thanksgiving together. I wish I could hear the energy of kids as they race down front to Children's Time. But even in these disrupted and socially-distanced times, we trust that the love of God continues to bind us together, that the way of Jesus continues to guide our way, and that the Spirit will continue to grant us the hope and strength we need. Peace to you,

Rod Stafford

*On Sunday please join us via **Facebook Live** [www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite/](http://www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite/) or on **Zoom** and follow along with scriptures and songs in the following pages. **Today is the first day of fall schedule worship at 10:45 am.** The Zoom link is in the weekly update email.*

## THE LORD'S DAY

### FACILITATORS

**Prelude:**

Crystal Miller

**Song Leader:**

Bruce Kuhns

**Musicians:**

Paula Brunk Kuhns

Crystal Miller

Jim Wenger

Mary Wenger

Cheryl Wideman

Gerry Leatherman

May Wang

Rachel Yoder

**Children's Time:**

Britt Carlson

**Sermon:**

Rod Stafford

**Prayers:**

Britt Carlson

**Technical Support:**

Curt Weaver

Rachel Joy

Prelude

Greeting

John 1:1-5

♪ 'Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah' — *Hymnal, A Worship Book*, 50

Children's Time

Offering

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; 3:1-8

♪ 'When long before time' — *Sing the Journey*, 25

Sermon: "Creation: Grounding Our Faith"

Prayers

Introducing Widerstand Anti-Racism Training: Tobin Miller Schearer

Sending Words

♪ 'As tranquil streams' — *Sing the Journey*, 51

Benediction

Sharing Time

# Today's Worship

## Prelude

## Greeting

### John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

### ♪ 'Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah' — *Worship Book*, 50

1. Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah,  
from the heavens praise his name;  
praise the Lord, our great Creator;  
all his angels, praise proclaim.  
All his hosts, together praise him,  
sun and moon and stars on high;  
praise the Lord, O heavens of heavens,  
and the floods above the sky.

#### Refrain:

Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah,  
for his name alone is high,  
and his glory is exalted,  
and his glory is exalted,  
and his glory is exalted,  
far above the earth and sky.

2. Let them praise the Lord their Maker:  
they were made at his command.  
God established them forever;  
his decree shall ever stand.  
Let the earth sing hallelujah:  
raging seas, you monsters all,  
fire and hail and snow and vapors,  
stormy winds that hear his call. [*Refrain*]

3. All you fruitful trees and cedars,  
every hill and mountain high,  
creeping things and beasts and cattle,  
birds that in the heavens fly,  
kings of earth and all you people,  
princes great, earth's judges all;  
praise his name, young men and maidens,  
aged men, and children small. [*Refrain*]

## Children's Time

### Offering

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)

#### Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; 3:1-8

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

♪ 'When long before time' —*Sing the Journey*, 25

1. When long before time and the worlds were begun,  
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,  
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,  
and even our Maker had only a dream...
2. ...the silence was broken when God sang the song,  
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,  
and with its first birthcries creation was born,  
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.
3. The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,  
their harmonies sweet and befitting the word;  
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the song;  
the choir of the creatures reechoed it long.
4. Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,  
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,  
the Singer comes to us to sing it again:  
our God is with us in the world now as then.
5. The Light has returned as it came once before;  
the song of the Lord is our own song once more;  
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice  
the song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.
6. To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise;  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise;  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text & Music: Peter Davison © 1981. *Permission to stream this music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #M-734252. All rights reserved.*

**Sermon**

“Creation: Grounding Our Faith”

## Prayer (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

### Please Pray For...

*Have a prayer request? Let us know: [prayer@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:prayer@portlandmennonite.org)*

- All of those who have had to evacuate their homes because of the fires;
- The firefighters and other first responders who are working at great risk;
- The mayors and the Governor who are facing difficult decisions.

## Introducing Widerstand Anti-Racism Training Tobin Miller Scheerer

### Sending Words

#### ♪ 'As tranquil streams' — *Sing the Journey*, 51

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. As tranquil streams that meet and merge<br>and flow as one to seek the sea,<br>our kindred hearts and minds unite<br>to build a church that shall be free— | 3. A freedom that reveres the past,<br>but trusts the dawning future more;<br>and bids the soul, in search of truth,<br>adventure boldly and explore. |
| 2. Free from the bonds that bind the mind<br>to narrow thought and lifeless creed;<br>free from a social code that fails<br>to serve the cause of human need: | 4. Prophetic church, the future waits<br>the liberating ministry;<br>go forward in the power of love,<br>proclaim the truth that makes us free.       |

Text: Marion Franklin Ham, 1933

Music: *Musicalisch Handbuch*... 1690, arr. William Havergal, 1847

### Benediction

### Sharing Time

(Not streamed to Facebook)

## Announcements

### **Changing Seasons**      Today, Sep 13

On Sunday morning, September 13, our worship services will change slightly. No, unfortunately, we still won't be able to gather in-person. But we will **shift our start time to 10:45 am** to create space for Sunday School classes which will begin later in September. Look for more information about classes below. We will also be using Zoom meetings so that we may see each other as we worship. You may choose to join us in Zoom (the link will be in the [weekly update](#) each week), or you may continue watching live on Facebook.

### **Narrative Lectionary**

Gathering around the Word is a central part of our worship services. Each week we listen to the scriptures. Each week the sermon draws from the texts to guide us in our lives of faith. This fall, the Bible passages from week-to-week will come from the Narrative Lectionary. From Sunday-to-Sunday the texts will follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. Beginning in September and running into Advent, the main readings will come from the Older Testament. In a time as unsettled as this, the story the Bible is telling grounds us in the love and hope and future of God. Next week (September 20), the main reading will be Genesis 15:1-6 (the story of God promising Abraham and Sarah descendants as numerous as the stars).

### **Transitions**      Tue, Sep 15 / 10:00 am on Zoom

Transitions is a group for older adults that meets on the third Tuesday of the month. During the pandemic we are meeting on-line. The Zoom link will be on the PMC website Tuesday. Everyone is welcome to join us for conversations about faith and life and the ways we can continue to link ourselves as we age to the work of God in the world. To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87666740974?pwd=SmNzME1vMEJjQXR5YmJPZ2hKeDFLUT09>

### **Children's Sunday School Begins Online September 20**

Sunday school is going to look very different this fall. The Children's Christian Education Committee realizes that one of the primary strengths of our Sunday School program at PMC is our TEACHERS. The interaction our kids have in the classroom with their teacher is almost impossible to replace during this time of separation. However, we also realize that some connection is better than no connection. We also realize that many of our children are already sitting in front of a screen too much, so Sunday School will be short and sweet this fall. From 10:00 AM until 10:30 we have invited storytellers from our congregation to read their favorite children's story or tell a story from their life. This 1/2 hour offers you and your child an opportunity to see the faces of other children and their parents, to hear a story, and participate in a short prayer. Look for more information coming on the website. We hope you will join us!

### **SMMS Update: Now Enrolling**

After months of planning and assessment, Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School has started off this school year with a robust, age-appropriate Distance Learning program. It includes Zoom sessions, At-Home Activity Boxes, Outdoor Park Gatherings, and more. If you know families who are reluctant to send their preschool child to school in-person, but would like to support their child's learning and social connections, we have room for more children to join us! We are offering all of this at a discounted tuition rate to ensure that it is affordable for families. Please see [smmspx.com](http://smmspx.com) for more details.

### **SMMS Pie Sale Fundraiser! Sep 13-Oct 10**

This fall, SMMS is selling pies! We are partnering with Willamette Valley Pies to sell a delicious range of fruit pies, cream pies, mini-pies, cobblers, and frozen fruit. Orders are due by Saturday, 10/10, and will be delivered on Monday, October 26. Pies are delivered frozen, so plan to stock up your freezer in preparation for the holidays! For more details or to place an order, go to: [www.smmspx.com/fundraisers.html](http://www.smmspx.com/fundraisers.html). Ordering information will be available online by Sunday, September 13.

## Adult Ed

### Widerstand Congregational Anti-Racism Training Sep 20-Oct 25

At PMC we are committed to the work of racial justice. Our commitment is ongoing, multifaceted and ever-growing. The events of this past summer have been a clarion call for us. We know that Black lives matter to God, and it's been amazing to watch how the Holy Spirit has compelled us, our children and our church to learn, speak, act, work and hope for racial justice. As we continue to get ourselves involved, we are going to begin our fall with learning. Tobin Miller Scheerer, cofounder of the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Training, has just put out an online training for congregations through Widerstand Consulting. With informative videos and reflective questions all via an online tutorial, this training will allow us as a congregation to grow together in "the same mind" and have "the same love." Even if you have been a part of other anti-racism classes or trainings, we encourage you to join us as we journey as a whole congregation through this six-week training. We are on a journey. These steps seem small, but we trust that God uses the foolish things of this world, the small things of this world, and turns them into trees where birds can come and find rest. Join us as we move towards the kingdom of God and justice for black and indigenous people of color. To allow as many people as possible to do this training, there are TWO different ways you can participate:

**Adult Education Class on Sunday Morning:** Gather online on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom. This class will go through the online tutorial TOGETHER with large group discussions.

**Discussion Trios (Self Scheduling):** As an alternative to our Adult Ed class, we are offering small groups of three for deeper conversation and flexibility in scheduling. If you choose this option, on Monday, September 21st you will receive the names of your two discussion partners. You will INDIVIDUALLY go through the online tutorial (i.e. watch the videos and answer Tobin's questions) and meet once a week for 40 min. with your trio to talk through what you've been learning, questions you have, and emotions that have arisen.

### Nonviolent Communication Class Wednesdays @ 7 pm, beginning Sep 30

Join us as we work at putting our Anabaptist beliefs into the everyday use of building and maintaining relationships that embrace our differences as a source of health and joy. The intent of nonviolent communication--i.e. compassionate communication--is to retrain our brains such that we remove our assumptions and judgements as we listen to our inner voices and to others, we identify and feel our feelings with empathy so that we can have empathy for the other, we identify our needs that give rise to our feelings, and we learn to request authentic and concrete actions in order to enrich ours and others' lives. This is a sixteen-week class meeting over a period of 6 months. The sixteen weeks will be 25% teaching and 75% practice where we will be working with each other. We will be taking full advantage of having to be on Zoom with a unique class format:

- The class will meet Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm beginning September 30 for six weeks of directed online teaching by experienced NVC teachers based on Marshall Rosenberg's book "Nonviolent Communication."
- After this first six weeks, we will be meeting alternating weeks, same day and time, for practice & catchup sessions that will include small group breakout rooms.
- In the "off" weeks, we will have chosen or been assigned an NVC buddy who we will be required to check in with for at least one hour to share our frustrations, learnings and joy.
- The total number of weeks will be sixteen over the course of six months.

This is a unique opportunity, but hard work! Because we are bringing in experienced NVC teachers, the class will cost \$160 (\$10/session). Don't let the cost hold you back, however. There are scholarship if needed. Because we are bringing in experienced NVC teachers, the class will cost \$160 (\$10/session). Contact Chuck Fondse or Britt Carlson for more information. Signup via Chuck or Britt, or on the church website at [www.portlandmennonite.org/nvc-class](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/nvc-class)

## Announcements, continued

### "PMC Kids' Craft Exchange \*NEW DATES\*

Let's Trade Crafts! Will you join Aurora in signing up to trade a craft with another child from PMC? All you have to do is sign up below *by end of the day on September 20th*. Then you will get an email telling you who you are trading with. You will have about two weeks to make your craft and arrange with your partner for how you will make the exchange. It will be fun. We hope you will join the Craft Exchange!! To sign up: [www.portlandmennonite.org/kids-crafts](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/kids-crafts)

### New Address for Dale Stitt

Dale has moved to Kansas for health reasons. He is living with his daughter, Betty. His new address is: 3357 N Porter, Wichita, KS 67204. He has a birthday coming up on October 14 and would be glad to hear from his friends at PMC.

### My Coins Count COVID-style

Families of 2nd graders and younger, expect a package! Usually during September we would be hearing the sounds of dimes and quarters plinking in metal cups as the kids collect coins for Mennonite Central Committee. We want to continue to support MCC's work of relief, development and peace around the world, so this year we are sending out packets for kids to collect coins at home. If you are not a 2nd grader or younger but are young at heart and would like to collect coins along with the kids, email Britt and she will send you a packet as well.

### MCC School Kits

Tis the season! It's time for school kits! Even though we're in the middle of a pandemic, we're still going to gather school supplies for Mennonite Central Committee to send around the world to families facing disaster or crisis. We will gather the supplies at our meetinghouse through mid-September, so after you purchase them either arrange a time with Britt to drop them off or if you order them online have them sent directly to the church building (1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland OR 97214). You may also make a donation for school kits to PMC or directly to MCC if you prefer to send money. More information about MCC's school kits can be found online at: [mcc.org/get-involved/kits/school](http://mcc.org/get-involved/kits/school). Thanks and happy shopping!

### MDS Weekly Volunteer

Mennonite Disaster Service has put into place new guidelines for projects operating under the current pandemic conditions, and currently have projects in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alaska, West Virginia and Puerto Rico (more information at: [mds.mennonite.net/current-projects/](https://mds.mennonite.net/current-projects/)). If you would like to volunteer a week or two or three on one of these projects, look for the information and calendar online at <https://mds.volunteermatrix.com/> and sign up! If you want to talk with someone at PMC about MDS, contact Maurice Imhoff. Sign up to receive MDS news at: <https://mds.mennonite.net/stay-connected/>

## Staying Connected This Week

### Monday Morning Pastor “Coffee Time” Monday / 9:00 am

On Mondays, 9:00-9:30 am, Britt (occasionally Rod or Curt) hosts a “coffee time” via Zoom for anyone who would like to check in together as the week begins. Look for the link in the weekly update, and on our website. To join: [zoom.us/j/368828512](https://zoom.us/j/368828512)

### Tuesday Transitions

Transitions, a group of older adults, will meet on Zoom this Tuesday. The Zoom link will be posted on the PMC web site. Everyone is welcome to join us for conversations about faith and life and the ways we can continue to link ourselves as we age to the work of God in the world.

To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87666740974?pwd=SmNzME1vMEJxQXR5YmJPZ2hKeDFLUT09>

### Friday Morning Coffee Group Fridays / 10:00 am

A group of PMCs continues to meet, now via Zoom, every Friday morning for an informal social time. If you'd like to join, contact Linda Rush or the church office for more information.

### COVID Chronicles Podcast

The PMC podcast COVID Chronicles is a good way to stay connected with your PMC friends. New episodes drop every few days. Find it on the PMC website by simply scrolling down the home page, or look for it on PodBean. When you'd like to get in on the fun, contact host Gloria Nussbaum, 503-645-0616, for more information, or to set up an interview session.

You can also find most of these links on our website at: [www.portlandmennonite.org/online-church](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/online-church)

### Where do I send my offering?

#### Portland Mennonite Church

1312 SE 35th Ave  
Portland OR 97214

Or use the online method: [CLICK HERE](#)

## PMC and COVID-19

Join us on FB Live Sunday Morning at 10:45 am, or check our page for updates throughout the week [www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite](https://www.facebook.com/portlandmennonite). To join our Zoom meeting for worship, sign up for our [weekly update](#).

Check out our website [www.portlandmennonite.org](http://www.portlandmennonite.org) for news, sermons, event information, and ways to stay connected with each other including sharing prayer requests and video greetings.

PMC Staff are minimizing time in the office. Please email us for fastest response. We also check voicemail remotely.

### Electronic Giving

We have a variety of options for financial contributions, including by credit card, or direct debit from your bank account. Checks may be mailed to the church office at 1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland OR 97214. Rachel opens the mail once a week. For details and forms, go to [www.portlandmennonite.org/give](http://www.portlandmennonite.org/give). You can also check with your bank about sending electronic payments. Contact Rachel Joy ([office@portlandmennonite.org](mailto:office@portlandmennonite.org)) if you have any questions.