

TRINITY CHURCH OF PORTLAND

MARCH 8, 2026

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Please stand as we hear the Call to Worship.*

—Psalm 36:5–9; Proverbs 2:1–6

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do

we see light.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Brief Prayer.*

WE RESPOND IN CONFESSION

In Response To: Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.; Ephesians 4:17–18 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.; Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Gracious Father, we confess that we have not sought to be filled with the knowledge of your will.

We have trusted our own wisdom rather than yours, pursued our own understanding rather than your truth.

We have not walked worthy of you — our lives bear little fruit, our works do not reflect your goodness, and we have grown cold rather than increasing in the knowledge of you.

We forget the rescue you have accomplished: that you delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.

We live as though we remain in the dark.

Forgive us through Christ, in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

Fill us afresh with your Spirit, that we might walk in a manner worthy of you, bearing fruit and giving thanks with joy.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Ephesians 4:17–18 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

GOD GRANTS US PARDON

—Ephesians 1:7–8, Colossians 1:13–14

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON TEXT

—Colossians 1:9-14

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

COVENANT RENEWAL

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Christian, what do you believe?

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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into 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.

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the One, Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

BENEDICTION

—Colossians 1:10–12

...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.