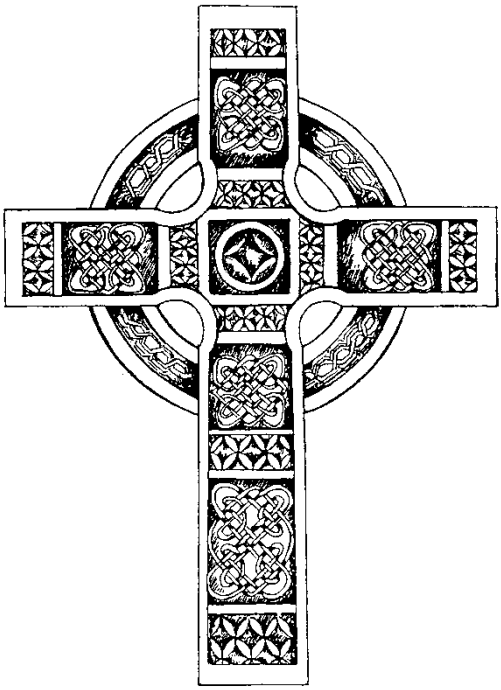
Christ Presbyterian Church

I have kept back nothing, but have declared to you
the whole counsel of God. —Acts 20:27



Covenant Renewal Service

5 April 2015

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent;
for here we meet with a holy God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord;
during the service, let the Lord speak to you;
after the service, speak to one another.

About Receiving Communion

All who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, are baptized members in good standing of congregations that proclaim the gospel, are repentant of their sin and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel.

A Word to Parents: Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and have been received as communing members by the church to which their parents belong.

As instituted by our Lord, wine is the element used in the Lord's Supper to show forth his blood shed on our behalf (Mark 14:23–25; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:20–21, 25; 1 Tim 4:3–4). If, however, for reasons of conscience, you are not able to participate using wine, grape juice is provided in the center of the tray. Also, gluten-free crackers are available for those who cannot eat bread.

Nursery today:	Laurie Boswell
	Sharon Miller or Ronda Sands, Naomi Dykstra
Next Sunday:	Wendy Powell
	David Kirkland, Emilie Miller

Helpers, please be in the nursery by 10:20 to receive children.

Reflection

Then we come to the strangest story of all, the story of the Resurrection. It is very necessary to get the story clear. I heard a man say, 'The importance of the Resurrection is that it gives evidence of survival, evidence that the human personality survives death.' On that view what happened to Christ would be what had always happened to all men, the difference being that in Christ's case we were privileged to see it happening. This is certainly not what the earliest Christian writers thought. Something perfectly new in the history of the Universe had happened. Christ had defeated death. The door which had always been locked had for the very first time been forced open. This is something quite distinct from mere ghost-survival. I don't mean that they disbelieved in ghost-survival. On the contrary, they believed in it so firmly that, on more than one occasion, Christ had had to assure them that He was *not* a ghost. The point is that while believing in survival they yet regarded the Resurrection as something totally different and new. The Resurrection narratives are not a picture of survival after death; they record how a totally new mode of being has arisen in the Universe. Something new had appeared in the Universe: as new as the first coming of organic life. This Man, after death, does not get divided into 'ghost' and 'corpse'. A new mode of being has arisen. That is the story. What are we going to make of it?

— C.S. Lewis
"What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ"
God in the Dock

If Paul calls death the "last enemy" (1 Cor 15:26), then the opposite is also true: that the risen Christ, and with him the resurrection hope, must be declared to be the enemy of death and of a world that puts up with death. That is why faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience… Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is.

— Jürgen Moltmann
Theology of Hope

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah. *Hallelujah*!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree
(So strong his love!) to save us.
See, his blood does mark our door;
Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. *Hallelujah!*

Then let us feast this joyful day
on Christ, the Bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
the old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
he is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other. *Hallelujah*!

God Calls Us

Trinitarian Confession and Salutation

Minister: We are gathered in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*
People: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth! *Psalm 124:8*
Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord! *1 Timothy 1:2b*
People: Amen.

Call to Worship Psalm 57:8–11

Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth. NRSV

Minister: Allelulia! Christ is risen! Luke 24:34
People: The Lord is risen indeed! Allelulia!
Minister: Allelulia! Christ our Passover Lamb 1 Cor 5:7–8
is sacrificed for us;
People: therefore let us keep the feast. Allelulia!

↑ **Hymn 277** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Corporate Confession of Sin and Supplication for Mercy *(unison)*

Almighty God, you raised Jesus from the grave,
shattered the power of sin and death
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the way of the world
and failed to give him glory.
Forgive us and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world and is head of the Church, his body. *Amen.*

Declaration of Forgiveness 1 Corinthians 15:54b–57

"Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

↑ ***The Doxology*** (#731) *Trinity Hymnal*

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Acts 13:26–41

26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who
fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those
who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize
him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read
every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they
found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him
executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him,
they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God
raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those
who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his
witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what
God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children
by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,
"'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.'
34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to
return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,
"'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'
35 Therefore he says also in another psalm,
"'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'36 For David, after he
had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and
was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God
raised up did not see corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore,
brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to
you, 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed[a] from everything
from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. 40 Beware,
therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:
41 "'Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.'"

↑ **Hymn 243** Praise the Savior Now and Ever *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Mark 5:1–20

[1] [Jesus and the disciples] came to the other side of the sea, to
the country of the Gerasenes. [2] And when Jesus had stepped
out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a
man with an unclean spirit. [3] He lived among the tombs. And
no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, [4] for
he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he
wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in
pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. [5] Night and
day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always
crying out and bruising himself with stones. [6] And when he
saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. [7] And
crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do
with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by
God, do not torment me." [8] For he was saying to him, "Come
out of the man, you unclean spirit!" [9] And Jesus asked him,
"What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we
are many." [10] And he begged him earnestly not to send them
out of the country. [11] Now a great herd of pigs was feeding
there on the hillside, [12] and they begged him, saying, "Send us
to the pigs; let us enter them." [13] So he gave them permission.
And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and
the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the
steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.
[14]The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country.
And people came to see what it was that had happened. [15]
And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man,
the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in
his right mind, and they were afraid. [16] And those who had
seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-
possessed man and to the pigs. [17] And they began to beg Jesus
to depart from their region. [18] As he was getting into the boat,
the man who had been possessed with demons begged him
that he might be with him. [19] And he did not permit him but
said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how
much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy
on you." [20] And he went away and began to proclaim in the

Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Prayer of Intercession

God Communes with Us

↑ **Affirmation of Faith: Hymn 742** The Apostles' Creed *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ ***The Gloria Patri*** (#735) *Trinity Hymnal*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation and Supervision of the Table 1 Corinthians 11:23–29

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration
The minister will lead the congregation in prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer in unison:

People: Our Father 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 and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution *Matt 26:26–28; Mk 14:22–24; Lk 22:17–20*

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Hymn — During the bread

In Christ Alone
Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Scripture Reading — During the cup *Isaiah 25:1–9*

O LORD, you are my God;
I WILL exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the foreigners' palace is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a stronghold to the poor,
a stronghold to the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,
like heat in a dry place.
You subdue the noise of the foreigners;
as heat by the shade of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is put down.
On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God;
we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Now may your servant, Lord,
according to your word,
depart in exultation.
My rest shall be serene,
for now my eyes have seen
your wonderful salvation.

You did for all prepare
this Gift, so great, so rare,
fulfilling prophets' story;
A Light to show the way
to Gentiles gone astray,
and unto Israel's glory.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

God Commissions and Blesses Us

The Collection of Alms and Tithes

Hymn 265 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **The Benediction**

↑ Congregation stands as able

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotes are from the ESV Bible ©2001.

Sermon Notes

Mark 5:1–20

Welcome to Christ Presbyterian Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship! It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will know and experience the love, power, and presence of our King and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting, please take a moment to fill out one of our visitor cards and place it in the collection plate. If you desire any additional information, or if there are ways in which we can pray for you or be of service to you, please let us know. We count it a privilege to serve our community in the name of Christ!

About our Church

Standing in the great biblical and evangelical tradition of the Protestant Reformation, Christ Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). We are committed to the Bible as the Word of God, the Reformed Faith, and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

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Staff
Pastor – Rev. John Canales
Associate Pastor – Rev. Jahaziel Cantú
Chief Musician – Dr. Stephen Dubberly
Office Manager – Karen Brown

Elders: Daniel Beal, Ray White
Deacons: Leng Ea, Rod Miller,