Christ Presbyterian Church

Covenant Renewal Service

21 December 2014

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.

Wine is 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). **Grape juice** is provided in the center of the tray for those who, for reasons of conscience, are not able to participate using wine.
Gluten-free crackers are available for those who cannot eat bread.

Hearing Assistance is available at the audio desk in the sanctuary.

Nursery today:	Susan Miller
	Shaz Beal, Elisabeth Miller
Next Sunday:	Lauri Boswell
	Sumner Munson, Alyssa Sands

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

Reflection

Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incomplete-ness of the present world. It is time, in the power of the Spirit, to take up our proper role, our fully human role, as agents, heralds, and stewards of the new day that is dawning. That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian, to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us.

—Tom Wright
Simply Christian

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
all for love's sake becamest poor.

—Frank Houghton

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding light behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright:
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly cradle-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy
Now our hearts and lips employ
As to thee our praise we bring,
Jesus, Lord, Redeemer, King.

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

Minister: The Word was made flesh,
People: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Minister: and dwelt among us,
People: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Minister: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the virgin Mary:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!
Minister: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:
People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

↑ **Hymn 214** Angels We Have Heard on High *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness, bringing the good news of joy that mankind is reconciled to God through Jesus. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, and have ignored your presence in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, barely acknowledging in our lives Jesus' first coming, we have not watched diligently for the final coming of our Savior and Judge. Forgive our sin, and renew our hope in the gospel, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness Matthew 1:21

"[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Philippians 2:5–11

↑ **Hymn 211** God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1–21 *Our Response to Jesus*

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of
Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we
saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When
Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with
him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people,
he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the
prophet:

6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means
least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained
from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and
when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come
and worship him." 9 After listening to the king, they went on their
way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went
before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.
10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his
mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening
their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and
myrrh. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed to their own country by another way.

[13] Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and
his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for
Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." [14] And he
rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to
Egypt [15] and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to
fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I
called my son."

[16] Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise
men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in
Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.
[17] Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

[18] "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more."

[19] But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a
dream to Joseph in Egypt, [20] saying, "Rise, take the child and his
mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the
child's life are dead." [21] And he rose and took the child and his
mother and went to the land of Israel.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 213** What Child is This? *Trinity Hymnal*

God Communes with Us

↑ **Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**, p. 845 *Trinity Hymnal*

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Wine is used for the communion,
but grape juice is also available in the center of each tray.

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

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us,
Redeems us by his blood.

O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who all our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day!

Scripture Reading — During the cup John 14:1–27

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and

manifest myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

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 O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark is shining the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his Heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

How lovingly, how lovingly, he lays his glory by
And for our sake the cross does take, for sinful man to die.
We sing the boundless mercy that brings our Savior here
His life to give, that we might live redeemed from sin and fear.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

Our Response to Jesus

Matthew 2:1–21

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 – Christopher Oglesby
Office Manager – Dawn O'Banion

Elders: Daniel Beal, Ray White, Stephen Dubberly (on sabbatical)
Deacons: Leng Ea, Rod Miller