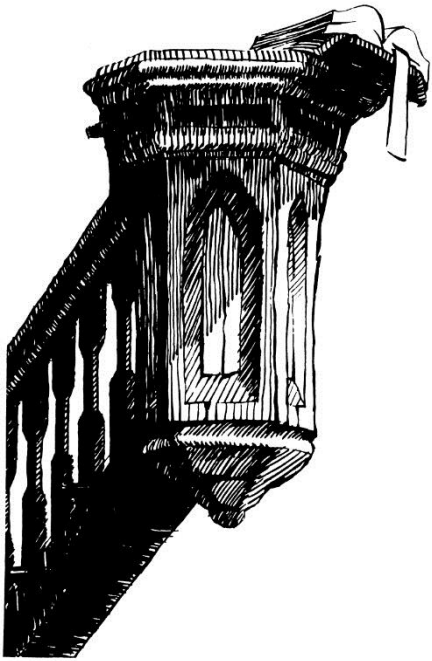
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

17 May 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:	Lauren Alexander, Kirsti Anderson, Emma Rooney
Next Sunday:	Ivy Munson, Curtis Moore, Sissel Anderson

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

Reflection

To be in Christ is the source of the Christian's life; to be like Christ is the sum of his excellence; to be with Christ is the fulness of his joy.

— Charles Hodge

Realize that you must lead a dying life; the more a man dies to himself, the more he begins to live unto God.

— Thomas à Kempis

We have been adopted as sons by the Lord with this one condition: that our life express Christ, the bond of our adoption. Accordingly, unless we give and devote ourselves to righteousness, we not only revolt from our Creator with wicked perfidy, but we also abjure our Savior himself.

— John Calvin

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

They who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let them in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make them once relent
Their first avowed intent: to be a pilgrim.

Who so besets them round with dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound—their strength the more is.
No foes shall stay their might; though they with giants fight,
God will make good their right to be His pilgrims.

Since, Lord, You do defend us with Your Spirit,
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! We'll fear not what men say;
We'll labor night and day to be Your pilgrims!

Lord, we confess we walk in human weakness;
but Christ, our solid rock, shepherd of meekness,
Shed His own blood to save and, risen from the grave,
Eternal strength He gave to us, His pilgrims!

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 62:1–8

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse.
For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.
Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

↑ **Psalm 62:1-7** *Trinity Psalter*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin 1 Corinthians 10:1–12

For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty–three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

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

Holy God, our Rock and our Refuge, we confess our sinfulness before you. We fall daily; we fail to stand firm even as we pride ourselves on our ability to stand in our own strength; we make pathetic and fruitless attempts to hide our weakness and inadequacy. We acknowledge and bemoan our idolatry, our immorality, our grumbling, our double–mindedness, our cowardice, and our lukewarmness. Lord, forgive us for our pride and our infinite capacity to excuse and delude ourselves. We ask that you strengthen us through the comforting truth of your glorious gospel, that your power be made perfect in our weakness, that we become more and more aware that your grace is sufficient for us. We thank you for the steadfast love and unchanging mercy you have lavished on us through your precious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered willingly on the cross to save us from our sins. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness 1 Corinthians 15:56–58

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.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Psalm 73

A Psalm of Asaph

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
3 For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.
5 They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
11 And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
14 For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of your children.
16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.
18 Truly you set them in slippery places;

you make them fall to ruin.
[19] How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
[20] Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord,
when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.
[21] When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,
[22] I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.
[23] Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
[24] You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
[25] Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
[26] My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. [27]
For behold, those who are far from you shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.
[28] But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

↑ **Hymn 521** My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Paul Fowler

Sermon Text: Philippians 1:27–30

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of
Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I
may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with
one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28
and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a
clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation,
and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for
the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also
suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you
saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 156** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You *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

Invitation and Guarding 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

Communion Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
That man to judge you has in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty who brought this upon you?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone you.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;
I crucified you!

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
For sinners' guilt the righteous Son has suffered:
For man's atonement, while no man is heeding,
God's interceding!

For me, kind Jesus, was your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and your bitter passion–
For my salvation!!

Scripture Reading **Acts 4:5–13, 18–21; 5:27–32, 40–42**

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high–priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are

witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

And when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

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 94 How Firm a Foundation *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

A Call to Live Worthy of the Gospel
Philippians 1:27-30

I. A Stirring Call, 27a

II. A Persistent Stand, 27b-28

III. An Awesome Privilege, 29-30

Welcome to Christ Presbyterian Church!

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us this Lord's Day for the worship of the Triune God! 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.

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.

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 do not hesitate to let us know. We count it a privilege to serve our community in the name of Christ!

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