

Christmas Eve 2016



## Reflection Quotes

When we celebrate Christmas we are celebrating that amazing time when the Word that shouted all the galaxies into being, limited all power, and for love of us came to us in the powerless body of a human baby.

—Madeleine L'Engle

He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.

—Augustine of Hippo

Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.

—J. Sidlow Baxter

## *Preparation for Worship*

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Prelude

Oh Holy Night

## *Adoration of God*

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### 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: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. *Jude 2*

People: **Amen!**

### Call to Worship

Minister: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and truth.

People: **We have beheld his glory. Alleluia!** *John 1:14*

Minister: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

People: **Alleluia!** *Luke 2:14*

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

▲ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

## *Confession of Sin*

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### **Call to Confession of Sin**

Romans 5:8

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Holy God, you sent a star  
to guide the Magi to the child Jesus.  
We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.  
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world  
or trusted your good news to be good.  
We have failed to praise your Son's birth  
and refused his peace on earth.  
We have expected little and hoped for less.  
Forgive our doubt  
and renew in us all fine desires,  
that we may watch and wait  
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,  
Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Matthew 1:21

“She 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*

## *Consecration Through The Word*

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### Reading of Scripture

John 1:14–18

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

1 John 1:1–4

Minister: We declare to you what was from the beginning,  
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,  
concerning the word of life —

**People: this life was revealed,  
and we have seen it and testify to it,  
and declare to you the eternal life  
that was with the Father and was revealed to us —**

Minister: we declare to you what we have seen and heard  
so that you also may have fellowship with us;  
and truly our fellowship is with the Father  
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**People: We are writing these things  
so that our joy may be complete.**

▲ **Hymn 227**     On Christmas Night All Christians Sing     *Trinity Hymnal*

## ▲ Affirmation of Faith

Minister: Why is he called God’s “only Son”  
when we also are God’s children?

**People: Because Christ alone is the eternal,  
natural Son of God.  
We, however, are adopted children of God —  
adopted by grace through Christ.**

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 33

Minister: What does it mean that he  
“was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary”?

**People: That the eternal Son of God,  
who is and remains true and eternal God,  
took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,  
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,  
a truly human nature  
so that he might become David’s true descendant,  
in all things like us except for sin.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35

Minister: How does the holy conception  
and birth of Christ benefit you?

**People: He is our mediator,  
and with his innocence and perfect holiness  
he removes from God’s sight my sin —  
mine since I was conceived.**

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 36

## ▲ Hymn 257

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

*Trinity Hymnal*

## Preaching from the Word

**Sermon Text:** Genesis 1:1–28 (p. 1)

Rev. John Canales

*The Lord Will Provide*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plant<sup>l</sup> yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And



God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

<sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

## *Response and Blessing*

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### **Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)**

God of mystery and might,  
we praise and worship you,  
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,  
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.  
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,  
born of your handmaid Mary.  
In his face we behold your glory,  
for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.  
We praise you for your grace-filled love.  
Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ,  
Lord of lords, and King of kings,  
now and forever. Amen.

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| ▲ <b>Hymn 204</b>        | Away in a Manger        | <i>Trinity Hymnal</i> |
| ▲ <b>Hymn 208</b>        | O Come, All Ye Faithful | <i>Trinity Hymnal</i> |
| ▲ <b>The Benediction</b> |                         |                       |

▲ **Hymn 210**      Silent Night! Holy Night!      *[candlelit]*

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

# 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** – Mary Jo Canales

**Elders:** Daniel Beal, Sam Bridgeman, Ray White

**Deacons:** Leng Ea (sabbatical), Rod Miller

**Diaconal Aide:** David Abuhl, Adam Grimes