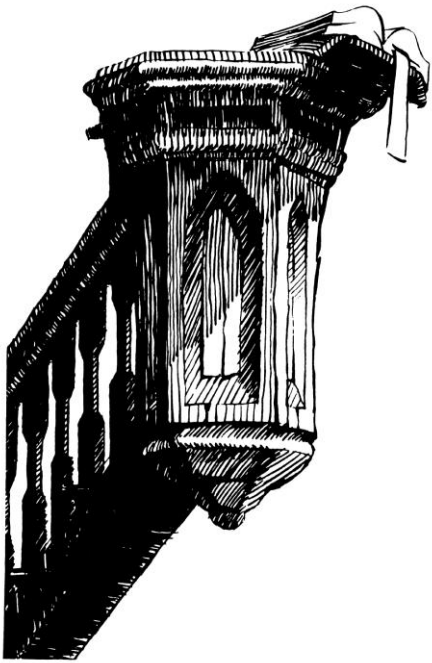
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

31 May 2015

Reflection

Anything that one imagines of God apart from
Christ is only useless thinking and vain idolatry.

— Martin Luther

The determining factor of my existence is no
longer my past. It is Christ's past.

— Sinclair Ferguson

Jesus Christ,
the condescension of divinity,
and the exaltation of humanity.

— Phillips Brooks
19th-century Episcopalian Bishop

By a man's reaction to Jesus Christ,
that man stands revealed.

— William Barclay
20th-century Scottish biblical commentator

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

He left his Father's throne above
(So free, so infinite his grace!),
Humbled himself (so great his love!),
And bled for all His chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! How can it be
That you, my God, should die for me?

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 Revelation 5

I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

and you have made them a kingdom
and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

↑ **Hymn 295** Crown Him with Many Crowns *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Matthew 23:12

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

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

Our God and Father, we repent of our many sins. We confess that, in our pride and blindness and corruption, we have sought to exalt ourselves. We are guilty of self–promotion, self–absorption, self–righteousness, and self–worship. We have been haughty, puffed up, lacking in humility and compassion. We have despised, mistreated, and mocked those around us. We have refused to be servants and sought our own pleasure above all else. Lord, we cry for mercy and ask that you cleanse our hearts and renew our minds. Make Christ our only boast; make the shame of his cross our only glory; make his redemptive work our only hope. Humble us, forgive us, and prepare us for your service. Through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness Titus 3:4–7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Romans 5:12–21

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man,
and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all
sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was
given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death
reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was
not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who
was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died
through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and
the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for
many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's
sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought
condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought
justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned
through that one man, much more will those who receive the
abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life
through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men,
so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all
men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made
sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made
righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but
where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin
reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness
leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

↑ **Hymn 163** At the Name of Jesus *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. Dr. Paul Fowler

Sermon Text: Philippians 2:5–11

5Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
9For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
10so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *NASB*

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 246** Man of Sorrows! What a Name *Trinity Hymnal*

God Communes with Us

↑ **Affirmation of Faith: Nicene 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

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
For my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down,
O my soul, O my soul,
When I was sinking down, O my soul,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
For my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

Scripture Reading Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.
As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
so shall he sprinkle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.
Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;

and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

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

Psalm 84 *Trinity Psalter*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

The Mind of Christ
Philippians 2:5–11

I. The Humiliation of the Son, vv. 6–8

A. His "regarding"

B. His "emptying"

C. His "self-humbling"

II. The Exaltation by the Father, vv.9–11

A. His "exaltation"

B. His "name"

C. His "position"

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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