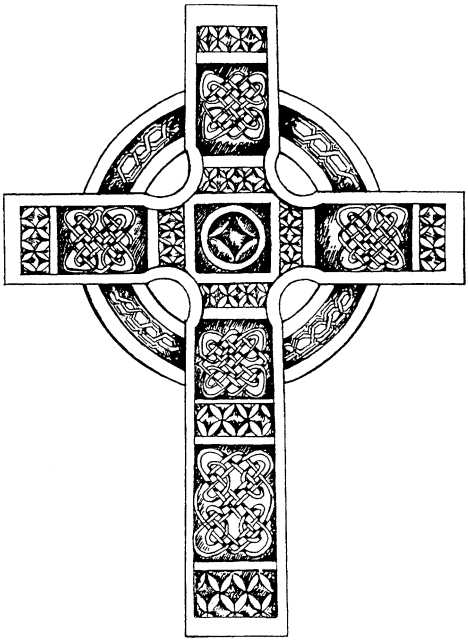
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

27 December 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.

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:	Mary Jo Canales Claire Jones
Next Sunday:	Mary Jo Canales Emma Rooney

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

Reflection

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

The Only Begotten Word of God has saved us by putting on our likeness. Suffering in the flesh, and rising from the dead, he revealed our nature as greater than death or corruption. What he achieved was beyond the ability of our condition, and what seemed to have been worked out in human weakness and by suffering was really stronger than men and a demonstration of the power that pertains to God.

— Cyril of Alexandria

The Word introduced Himself into that which He was not, in order that the nature of man also might become what it was not, resplendent, by its union, with the grandeur of divine majesty, which has been raised beyond nature rather than that it has cast the unchangeable God beneath its nature.

— Cyril of Alexandria

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, and our sorrow, and our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

— Charles Spurgeon

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say:
Hell today is vanquished, Heav'n is won today!
Lo! the dead is living, God forevermore!
Him, their true Creator, all His works adore!

Maker and Redeemer, life and health of all,
Thou from heaven beholding human nature's fall,
Of the Father's Godhead true and only Son,
Mankind to deliver, manhood didst put on.

Thou, of life the Author, death didst undergo,
Tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;
Come, then True and Faithful, now fulfill Thy Word;
'Tis Thine own third morning; rise, O buried Lord!

Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
All that now is fallen raise to life again;
Show Thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
Bring again our daylight: day returns with Thee!

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

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Mark 1:14–15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

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 1 John 4:9–10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Minister: In Christ, we are forgiven!
People: Thanks be to God!

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Luke 2:1–21

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the
world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when
Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each
to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the
town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called
Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be
registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while
they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and
laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

[8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord
appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and
they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, "Fear
not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all
the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you
will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
[13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God and saying,

[14] "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing
that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16] And
they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying
in a manger. [17] And when they saw it, they made known the saying
that had been told them concerning this child. [18] And all who heard it
wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured up
all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

[21] And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

↑ **Hymn 200** It Came upon a Midnight Clear *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. John Canales
Sermon Text: Titus 2:11–14 *How Messiah Changes Us*

[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 226** As With Gladness Men of Old *Trinity Hymnal*

God Communes with Us

↑ **Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed** p. 846 *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

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 Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Let thy blood in mercy poured,
Let thy gracious body broken,
Be to me, O gracious Lord,
Of thy boundless love the token.

Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

Thou didst die that I might live;
Blessèd Lord, thou cam'st to save me:
All that love of God could give
Jesus by his sorrows gave me.

Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

By the thorns that crowned thy brow,
By the spear wound and the nailing,
By the pain and death, I now
Claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.

Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

Wilt thou own the gift I bring?
All my penitence I give thee;
Thou art my exalted King,
Of thy matchless love forgive me.

Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

"Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
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.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
    it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
    and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

"For you shall go out in joy
    and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
    shall break forth into singing,
    and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
    instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
    an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

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 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

How Messiah Changes Us

Titus 2:11–14

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
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Associate Pastor – Rev. Jahaziel Cantú
Chief Musician – Christopher Oglesby
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Elders: Daniel Beal, Sam Bridgeman, Ray White
Deacons: Leng Ea, Rod Miller
Diaconal Aide: Adam Grimes