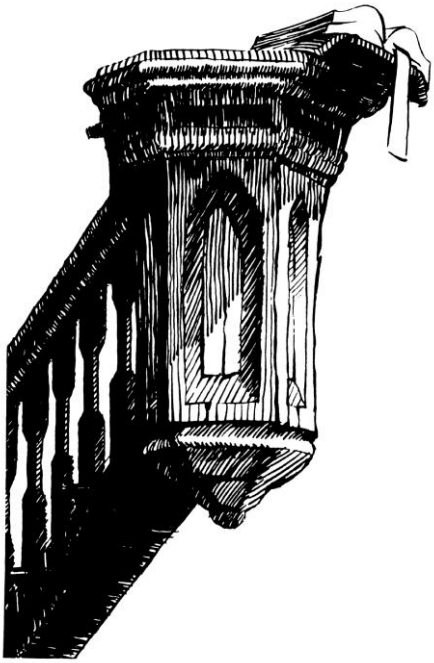
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

13 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:	Lauren Alexander Amanda Rooney
Next Sunday:	Paula Ea Gray Canales

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

Reflection

To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult every year.

—E.B. White,
author of *Charlotte's Web*

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.

—Madeline L'Engle

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

—J. Sidlow Baxter

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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 50:1–6

The Mighty One, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
Our God comes; he does not keep silence;
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge!

↑ **Hymn 203** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Matthew 22:41–46

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

> " 'The Lord said to my Lord,
> Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies
> under your feet'?

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Great God and Father, we confess our sinfulness before you today. We have failed to honor Christ our Lord as holy. We have failed to ascribe to him the honor and glory that are due his name. Like the Pharisees, we have lived as if we were self–sufficient, as if our own works could secure your favor. Through sins intentional and unintentional—through sins of commission and omission—in thought, word, and deed—out of carelessness, thoughtlessness, ingratitude, and selfishness—in our approach to you and in our dealings with those around us—we have trampled the Son of God underfoot, minimizing the depth of our corruption and failing to view rightly the magnitude of his awesome sacrifice on our behalf. Forgive us, we pray, for his sake, and make us humble and devoted followers of him who rules us righteously and mercifully, whose banner over us is love. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness 1 Peter 3:18

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Revelation 5

1 Then 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. 2 And I
saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to
open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth
or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I
began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the
scroll or to look into it. 5 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."

6 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. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand
of him who was seated on the throne. 8 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. 9 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,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

11 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, 12 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!"

[13] 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!"

[14] And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

↑ **Psalm 110** *Trinity Psalter*

Preaching of the Word Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:1–7

[1] There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2] The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
[3] You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
[4] For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
[5] For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
[6] For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 233** To Us A Child of Hope Is Born *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 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 Ah, Holy Jesus

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 — During the cup Mark 15:16–39

The soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. And it was the third hour when they crucified

him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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 198, Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

Isaiah 9:1–7

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 – Karen Brown

Elders: Daniel Beal
Sam Bridgeman
Ray White
Deacons: Leng Ea
Rod Miller
Diaconal Aide: Adam Grimes