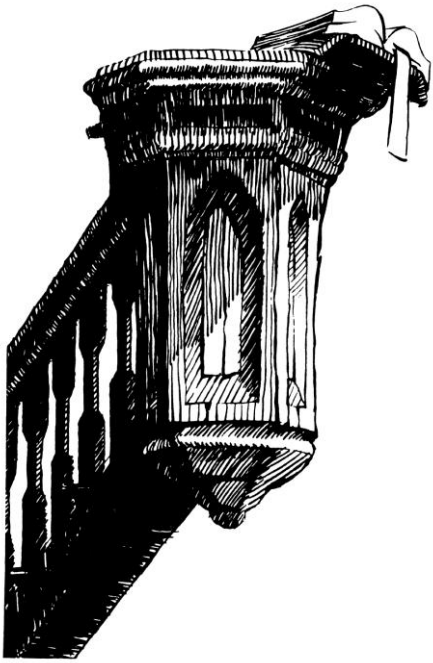
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

4 January 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:	Wendy Powell
	Amanda Rooney, Nick Kirkland
Next Sunday:	Mary Jo Canales
	Kirsti Anderson, Emilie Miller

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

Reflection

All worry is atheism, because it is want of trust of God.

— Bishop Fulton Sheen

Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?

— Martin Luther

In all trouble you should seek God. You should not set him over against your troubles, but within them. God can only relieve your troubles if you in your anxiety cling to him. Trouble should not really be thought of as this thing or that in particular, for our whole life on earth involves trouble; and through the troubles of our earthly pilgrimage we find God.

— Augustine of Hippo

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned;
I only know at his right hand
Is one who is my Savior!

I take him at his word indeed:
"Christ died for sinners," this I read;
And in my heart I find the need
Of him to be my Savior!

That he should leave his place on high
And come for sinful man to die,
You count it strange? So once did I,
Before I knew my Savior!

Yes, living, dying, let me bring
My strength, my solace from this spring:
That he who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior!

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 66:1–9, 16, 20

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name."

Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There did we rejoice in him,
who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.
Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.
Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

↑ **Psalm 46 (*1st version*)** *Trinity Psalter*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Hebrews 10:1–4

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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

Holy and merciful and great God, we are reminded of our sins every hour, every day, every week, every year. It is impossible for our sins to be taken away by the blood of bulls and goats, by our own good works, by offerings or vows or self–mortification or any effort on our part to be reconciled to you, by all the sacrifices we can make or bring. Only the Lord Jesus, our great High Priest who is also the spotless Lamb, can take away our sins by his perfect life and substitutionary death on our behalf. Forgive us, Father, for our lack of faith, our paralyzing fear, our failure to trust your covenant promises, our sinful attempts to provide our own certainty and righteousness and salvation. Cleanse us, we pray, and keep us moving forward by your grace, in your strength, for your glory. Through Christ our Savior, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness Hebrews 10:12–14

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture 2 Timothy 1:1–2:13

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self–control.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for

me earnestly and found me— may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard–working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

> If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
> if we endure, we will also reign with him;
> if we deny him, he also will deny us;
> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
> for he cannot deny himself.

↑ **Hymn 705** I Know Whom I have Believed *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word Rev. John Canales
Sermon Text: Exodus 14 *Up Against a Wall*

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Tell the people of Israel to turn back
and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in
front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. 3 For
Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the
land; the wilderness has shut them in.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's
heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all
his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord." And they
did so.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind
of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they
said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from
serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him,
7 and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of
Egypt with officers over all of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart
of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while
the people of Israel were going out defiantly. 9 The Egyptians pursued
them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army,
and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of
Baal-zephon.

10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes,
and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared
greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to
Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken
us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing
us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us
alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better
for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." 13 And
Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation
of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians
whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The Lord will fight
for you, and you have only to be silent."

15 The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of
Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand
over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the
sea on dry ground. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so

that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all
his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. [18] And the Egyptians shall
know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his
chariots, and his horsemen."

[19] Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel
moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from
before them and stood behind them, [20] coming between the host of
Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness.
And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

[21] Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove
the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land,
and the waters were divided. [22] And the people of Israel went into the
midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their
right hand and on their left. [23] The Egyptians pursued and went in after
them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and
his horsemen. [24] And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire
and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the
Egyptian forces into a panic, [25] clogging their chariot wheels so that
they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before
Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

[26] Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea,
that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots,
and upon their horsemen." [27] So Moses stretched out his hand over the
sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning
appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the
Egyptians into the midst of the sea. [28] The waters returned and covered
the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had
followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. [29] But the
people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters
being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

[30] Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians,
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. [31] Israel saw the great
power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the
Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 94** How Firm a Foundation *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

Wine is used for the communion,
but grape juice is also available in the center of each tray.

Invitation and Supervision of 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

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his piercéd side;
Praise we him whose love divine
Gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from the sky,
Pow'rs of hell beneath you lie;
Death is conquered in the fight;
You have brought us life and light!
Hymns of glory and of praise,
Risen Lord, to you we raise,
Holy Father, Spirit, Son,
Blessed, glorious Three in One!

Scripture Reading — During the cup Revelation 7:9–17

I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white
robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a
loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!" [11] And all the angels were standing around the
throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they
fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] saying,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!
Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these,
clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" [14] I said
to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones
coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[15] "Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.
[16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
[17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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
Life Change Offering *for ONEChild, the PCA ministry to street children*

Hymn 263	Lift High the Cross	*Trinity Hymnal*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

Up Against a Wall

Exodus 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
Pastor – Rev. John Canales
Associate Pastor – Rev. Jahaziel Cantú
Chief Musician – Christopher Oglesby
Office Manager – Paula Ea

Elders: Daniel Beal, Ray White
Deacons: Leng Ea, Rod Miller