# Christ Presbyterian Church

A Service of Thanksgiving
for Our Lord's Incarnation

Christmas Eve 2015

# 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*

**Prelude**

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## *Adoration of God*

### 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 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*

**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*

**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 221** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming *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** Rev. John Canales
*The Lord Will Provide* Genesis 22:1–19

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him,
"Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son,
your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah,
and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of
which I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning,
saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his
son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and
went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day
Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then
Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and
the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And
Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his
son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went
both of them together. 7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My
father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire
and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt
offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham
built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his
son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham
reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But
the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said,
"Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not
lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that
you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son,
from me." 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold,
behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And
Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering
instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The
LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the
LORD it shall be provided."

15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from
heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD,

because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, [18] and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." [19] So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

## *Response and Blessing*

**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.

↑ **Hymn204** Away in a Manger *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Hymn 208** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **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!

## ↑ The Benediction

# 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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