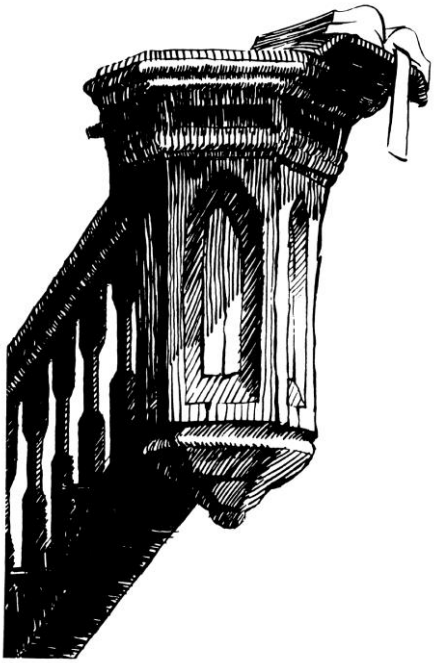
Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

8 November 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
	Linda Dykstra
Next Sunday:	Paula Ea
	Abby Jones

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

Reflection

Searcher of hearts! to thee are known
  The inmost secrets of my breast;
At home, abroad, in crowds, alone,
  Thou mark'st my rising and my rest,
My thoughts far off, through every maze,
  Source, stream, and issue – all my ways.

How from thy presence should I go,
  Or whither from thy Spirit flee,
Since all above, around, below,
  Exist in thine immensity?
If up to heaven I take my way,
  I meet thee in eternal day.

If in the grave I make my bed
  With worms and dust, lo! thou art there!
If, on the wings of morning sped,
  Beyond the ocean I repair,
I feel thine all-controlling will,
  And thy right hand upholds me still.

"Let darkness hide me," if I say,
  Darkness can no concealment be;
Night, on thy rising, shines like day;
  Darkness and light are one with thee:
For thou mine embryo-form didst view,
  Ere her own babe my mother knew.

In me thy workmanship display'd,
  A miracle of power I stand:
fearfully, wonderfully made,
  And framed in secret by thine hand;
I lived, ere into being brought,
  Through thine eternity of thought.

How precious are thy thoughts of peace,
  O God, to me! how great the sum!
New every morn, they never cease:
  They were, they are, and yet shall come,
In number and in compass more
  Than ocean's sands or ocean's shore.

Search me, O God! and know my heart;
  Try me, my inmost soul survey;
And warn thy servant to depart
  From every false and evil way:
So shall thy truth my guidance be
  To life and immortality.

James Montgomery

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Shepherd of tender youth, guiding in love and truth
Through winding ways; Christ our triumphant King,
We come Your Name to sing, our children here we bring
To shout Your praise.

You are our holy Lord, the all-subduing Word,
Healer of strife. You did Yourself abase
And from sin's deep disgrace You saved us by Your grace
And gave us life.

Forever be our guide, our shepherd and our pride,
Our staff and song; Jesus, O Christ of God,
By Your all-powerful Word renew and feed us, Lord,
Our faith make strong.

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: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. *Jude 2*
People: Amen.

Call to Worship Psalm 33:1-12

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

↑ **Hymn 92** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin Isaiah 30:9-11

For they are a rebellious people,
lying children,
children unwilling to hear
the instruction of the LORD;
who say to the seers, "Do not see,"
and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,
leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

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

Great God, Lord of all, Holy One of Israel, we confess our sins before you and each other today. We are a rebellious people, lying children, unwilling to hear your instruction. We have itching ears. We have spurned the Word of Life and preferred to listen to false prophets who speak smooth things and prophesy illusions. We have assured ourselves that we are OK, that there is no great gulf between your holiness and our sinfulness, that our own words and work are sufficient to save us from eternal judgment. Forgive us, Father, for our sinful blindness. Cleanse and renew us, we pray; sanctify and wash us by your word. Cause us to cling only to Christ, the Word of God, our true Prophet who has revealed you to us and opened a new and living way to you by the shedding of his blood on the cross. Through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness John 6:65-69

And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

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

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Isaiah 40:6-17

6 A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"
10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
[11] He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

[12] Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?
[13] Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
or what man shows him his counsel?
[14] Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?
[15] Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
[16] Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
[17] All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Isaiah 25-31

[25] To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
[26] Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,
by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

[27] Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
[28] Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
[29] He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
[30] Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
[31] but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

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

Preaching of the Word Paul Fowler
Sermon Text: Psalm 139 *The God We Know and Trust*
For the choir director. A Psalm of David

1. LORD, Thou hast searched me and known me.
2. Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up.
   Thou dost understand my thought from afar.
3. Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down,
   And art intimately acquainted with all my ways.
4. Even before there is a word on my tongue,
   Behold, O LORD, Thou does know it all.
5. Thou hast enclosed me behind and before,
   And laid Thy hand upon me.
6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
   It is too high, I cannot attain to it.

7. Where can I go from Thy Spirit?
   Or where can I flee from Thy presence?
8. If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there;
   If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there.
9. If I take the wings of the dawn,
   If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
10. Even there Thy hand will lead me,
    And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.
11. If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
    And the light around me will be night,
12. Even the darkness is not dark to Thee,
    And the night is as bright as the day.
    Darkness and light are alike to Thee.

13. For Thou didst form my inward parts;
    Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.
14. I will give thanks to Thee,
    For I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
    Wonderful are Thy works,
    And my soul knows it very well.
15. My frame was not hidden from Thee
    When I was made in secret,
    And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth.
16. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Thy book they were all written,
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
17. How precious also are Thy thoughts to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18. If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with Thee.

19. O that Thou wouldst slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.
20. For they speak against Thee wickedly,
And Thine enemies take Thy name in vain.
21. Do I not hate those who hate Thee, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against Thee?
22. I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.
23. Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
24. And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Prayer of Intercession

↑ **Hymn 36** Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me *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 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.

Scripture Reading — During the cup Colossians 1:3-23

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

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 295 Crown Him with Many Crowns *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ The Benediction

↑ Congregation stands as able

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

Sermon Notes

The God We Know and Trust
Psalm 139

I. God's Omniscience, 1-6

II. God's Omnipresence, 7-12

III. God's Oversight, 13-18

IV. God's Observations, 19-24

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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We are here to serve you.