

4 December 2016



*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.

As instituted by our Lord, wine is the element 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). If, however, for reasons of conscience, you are not able to participate using wine, grape juice is provided in the center of the tray. Also, gluten-free crackers are available for those who cannot eat bread.

**Nursery today:** Arlys Wydner  
Lucia Abuhl

**Next Sunday:** Ann Cantú  
Jack Canales

# Reflection

In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; ... down to the very roots and sea-bed of the Nature he has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.

— C.S. Lewis  
*Miracles*

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.

— C.S. Lewis  
*Mere Christianity*

“It seems then,” said Tirian, smiling himself, “that the Stable seen from within and the Stable seen from without are two different places.”

“Yes,” said the Lord Digory. “Its inside is bigger than its outside.”

“Yes,” said Queen Lucy. “In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.”

— C.S. Lewis  
*The Last Battle*

The entire Gospel stands or falls on the virgin birth.

— David Cloud

# *We Prepare to Meet with God*

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## **Prelude**

## I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor orn'ry sinners like you and like I:  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall  
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,  
And high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing  
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
He surely could have it 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor orn'ry sinners like you and like I:  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

# God Calls Us

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## 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

Based on Luke 1:46–50

Minister: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Minister: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**People: Holy is God's name!**

Minister: Let us worship God.

**People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;  
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

▲ Hymn 208

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Trinity Hymnal*

▲ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

# God Cleanses Us

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## Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 30:15, 18

In repentance and rest is your salvation,  
in quietness and trust is your strength,  
but you would have none of it.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;  
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

For the LORD is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him! <sup>NIV</sup>

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

Lord Christ,

we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as you have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. *Amen.*

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Isaiah 40:1–2

“Comfort my people,” says our God. “Comfort them! Encourage the people of Jerusalem. Tell them they have suffered long enough and their sins are now forgiven. I have punished them in full for all their sins.” <sup>GNT</sup>

# *God Consecrates Us*

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## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Reading of Scripture**

Isaiah 11:1–10 (p. 575)

- <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the  
peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place  
shall be glorious.



## Preaching of the Word

**Sermon Text:** Luke 1:26–38 (p. 855)

Rev. John Canales

*The Lamb Prepared*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## Prayer of Intercession

▲ Hymn 232

O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild

*Trinity Hymnal*

## *God Communes with Us*

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▲ **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*

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*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful,  
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

Here, O Lord, your grateful people  
Join the saints' and angels' cry,  
Singing to the Son of David,  
Lord of life who came to die:  
"Worthy is the Lamb who saves us;  
Alleluia, Lord Most High."

You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
that you might comfort me.

“Behold, God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the LORD God is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,  
call upon his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

## *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*

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#### **The Collection of Alms and Tithes**

**Hymn 195**

**Joy to the World**

*Trinity Hymnal*

#### **▲ The Benediction**

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▲ Congregation stands as able

# **Sermon Notes**

Luke 1:26–38

*The Lamb Prepared*



# 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** – Mary Jo Canales

**Elders:** Daniel Beal, Sam Bridgeman, Ray White  
**Deacons:** Leng Ea (sabbatical), Rod Miller  
**Diaconal Aide:** Adam Grimes