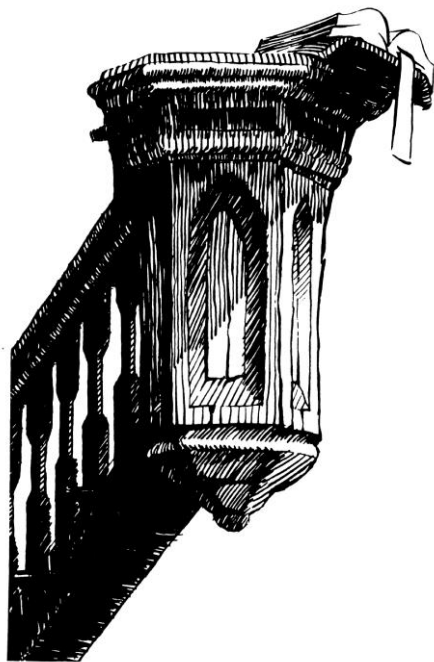


Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

17 December 2017

*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: Lauren Alexander
Gray Canales
Next Sunday: Amanda Grimes
Jack Canales

Reflection

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

— Corrie Ten Boom

Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.

— George Whitefield

You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.

— John R. Rice

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Psalm 24

The earth and the riches with which it is stored,
The world and its dwellers belong to the Lord.
For He on the seas its foundation has laid,
And firm on the waters its pillars has stayed.

O who shall the mount of Jehovah ascend?
Or who in the place of His holiness stand?
The man of pure heart and of hands without stain.
Who has not sworn falsely nor loved what is vain.

He shall from Jehovah a blessing receive;
The God of salvation shall righteousness give.
Thus looking to Him is a whole bless-ed race,
All those who, like Jacob, are seeking Your face.

O gates, lift your heads! Ageless doors, lift them high!
The great King of glory to enter draws nigh!
O who is the King that in glory draws near?
The Lord, mighty Lord of the battle is here!

O gates, lift your heads! Ageless doors, lift them high!
The great King of glory to enter draws nigh!
This great King of glory, O Who can He be?
Jehovah of hosts, King of glory is He!

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

Isaiah 55:1–3

Minister: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

**People: Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.**

Minister: Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

**People: Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Minister: Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;

**People: and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.”**

Minister: Come, people of God, and let us feast on the free
grace that our God extends to us through his Son,
Jesus Christ!

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

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Isaiah 55:6–7

“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

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

Our gracious God,
Father of our Lord Jesus 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.
O Jesus, our dear Savior,
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 53:4–6

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

▲ *The Doxology* (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Luke 1:57–80 (p. 856)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the LORD had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the LORD was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the LORD to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the
wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

▲ **Hymn 233**

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

Trinity Hymnal

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Mark Sumpter

Sermon Text: Isaiah 51:1–11 (p. 611)

He Makes a Way

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;

but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

⁷“Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
the people in whose heart is my law;
fear not the reproach of man,
nor be dismayed at their revilings.

⁸For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool,
but my righteousness will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations.”

⁹Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD;
awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.

Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,
who pierced the dragon?

¹⁰Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to pass over?

¹¹And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Prayer of Intercession

▲ Hymn 32

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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

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

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh—
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied—
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay—
Light of the world by darkness slain!
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine:
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

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 199

See, amid the Winter Snow

Trinity Hymnal

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Isaiah 51:1–11

He Makes a Way

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

Pastoral Assistant for Hispanic Ministry – César Restrepo

Interim Chief Musician – Sharon Miller

Coordinator of Church Ministries – Mary Jo Canales

Elders: Daniel Beal (sabbatical), Scott Peterson

Deacons: Leng Ea, Rod Miller

Diaconal Aide: Adam Grimes