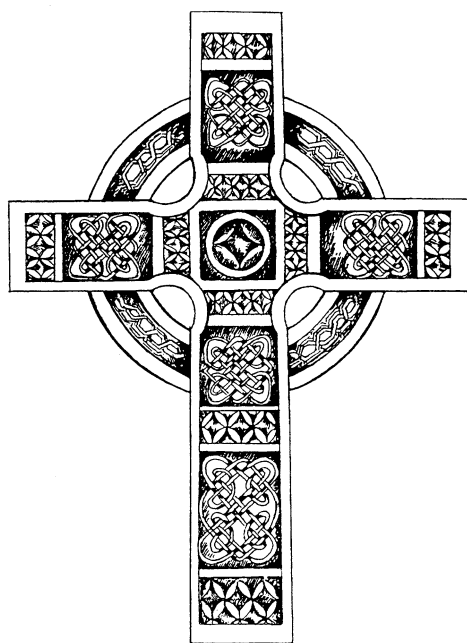


Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

31 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: Brit Osterling
Mary Jo Canales
Next Sunday: Laurie Boswell
Greyson Ea

Reflection

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.

— J. I. Packer

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

He became what we are that he might make us what he is.

— Athanasius of Alexandria

The Word introduced Himself into that which He was not, in order that the nature of man also might become what it was not, resplendent, by its union, with the grandeur of divine majesty, which has been raised beyond nature rather than that it has cast the unchangeable God beneath its nature.

— Cyril of Alexandria

Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.

— J. Sidlow Baxter

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r with fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

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

Minister: The Word was made flesh,

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Minister: and dwelt among us,

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Minister: Jesus, Son of the living God,
splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness,
born of the virgin Mary:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God,
Everlasting Father:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls,
perfect in holiness:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor,
Treasure of the faithful:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

▲ **Hymn 100**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Trinity Hymnal

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14–15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness,
bringing the good news of joy
that mankind is reconciled to God through Jesus.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted the good news.

We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst,
and have ignored your presence
in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And, barely acknowledging in our lives Jesus’ first coming,
we have not watched diligently
for the final coming of our Savior and Judge.

Forgive our sin, and renew our hope in the gospel,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray, *Amen*.

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

1 John 4:9–10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Minister: In Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

▲ *The Doxology* (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Luke 2:22–40 (p. 857)

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

▲ **Hymn 248** Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: John 1:14 (p. 886), Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (p. 613)

Why the Incarnation Matters: We Can Be Redeemed

John 1:14

¹⁴ And 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.

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations.
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

^{53:1} Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Prayer of Intercession

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give His only Son
To make a wretch his treasure!

How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders!
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished!
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should his suffering be my gain?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom!

God Communes with Us

▲ **Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed**

p. 846, *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

Man of Sorrows! What a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood,
Sealed my pardon with his blood:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was he;
Full atonement! Can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die,
“It is finished!” was his cry;
Now in heaven exalted high:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Scripture Reading — During the cup Philippians 2:5–11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 John 5:11–12

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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 195 Joy to the World! The Lord is Come *Trinity Hymnal*

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

John 1:14 (p. 886), Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (p. 613)

Why the Incarnation Matters: We Can Be Redeemed

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