

Christ
Church OPC

Biblical Evangelical Reformed

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

Order for the Public Worship of God

29 July 2018

*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

Sam Ea

Next Sunday: Lorie Boswell

Greyson Ea

Reflection

Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is:

- *you are more flawed and lost than you ever dared believe, yet*
- *you can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope at the same time, because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place.*

Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9)

The irreligious don't repent at all. The religious only repent of sins. But Christians also repent of their righteousness. Moral and religious people are sorry for their sins, but they see sins as simply the failure to live up to standards by which they are saving themselves. They may go to Jesus for forgiveness—but only as a way to “cover over the gaps” in their project of self-salvation. But a Christian is someone who has adopted a whole new system of approach to God. They realize their entire reason for either irreligion or religion has been essentially the same and essentially wrong! Christians realize that both their sins and their best deeds have all really been ways of avoiding Jesus as Savior.

...the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin...

— Flannery O'Connor

A Christian says: “Though I have often failed to obey the law, the deeper problem is why I was ever trying to obey it! Even my effort to obey it is just a way of seeking to be my own savior. In that mindset, even if I obey or ask for forgiveness, I am really resisting the gospel and setting myself up as Savior.” To “get the gospel” is to turn from self-justification and rely on Jesus' record for a relationship with God. “Lay your deadly doing down, down at Jesus' feet. Stand in Him, in Him alone—gloriously complete.”

The Two “Thieves” of the Gospel—Legalism and Liberalism

Tertullian said, “Just as Christ was crucified between two thieves, so this doctrine of justification is ever crucified between two opposite errors.” These errors continue to “steal” the gospel from us. They are “legalism” and “liberalism.” On the one hand, “legalists” have a truth without grace, for they say or imply that we must obey the truth in order to be saved. On the other hand, “liberals” have a grace without truth, for they say or imply that we are all accepted by God regardless of what we decide is true for us. But those with a truth without grace do not really have the truth, and those with a grace without truth do not really have grace. In Jesus, we behold the glory of the one “full of grace and truth.” De-emphasize or lose one or the other of these truths, you fall somewhat into legalism or somewhat into license and you eliminate the joy and the “release” of the gospel. Without knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the gospel seems trivial and does not electrify or transform. But without knowledge of Christ’s completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin would crush us or move us to deny and repress it. Take away either the knowledge of sin or the knowledge of grace and people’s lives are not changed. They will be crushed by the moral law or run from it screaming and angry.

As Luther put it, the Christian is *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously accepted, yet a sinner). We are more sinful than we ever dared believe, but through Christ we are more accepted than we ever dared hope. When the gospel dawns on the soul, it becomes a transforming power (Romans 1:17). Instead of seeing the law of God as an abstract moral code, Christians see it as a way to know, serve, and resemble their Master. Instead of obeying to make God indebted to them, they obey because they are indebted to him. Instead of being driven by an anxious sense of being unacceptable, they are empowered by grateful joy. The difference between these two ways of morality could not be greater. Their spirits, goals, motivations and results are entirely different.

— from the teaching of Jack Miller

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

My Worth is Not In What I Own

My worth is not in what I own;
Not in the strength of flesh and bone.
But in the costly wounds of love
At the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name;
In win or lose; in pride and shame.
But in the blood of Christ that flowed
At the cross.

*I rejoice in my Redeemer-
Greatest treasure, Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

As summer fl'wers we fade and die;
Fame, youth, and beauty hurry by.
But life eternal calls to us
At the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might,
Or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ
At the cross.

*I rejoice in my Redeemer-
Greatest treasure, Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

Continues...

Two wonders here that I confess:
My worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed- my ransom paid
At the cross.

*I rejoice in my Redeemer-
Greatest treasure, Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

*I rejoice in my Redeemer-
Greatest treasure, Wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other;
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

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*

**All: 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*

All: Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1–3, 6–7

Minister: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore we will not fear
though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea,**

Minister: though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

**All: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

▲ Hymn 243

Praise the Savior Now and Ever

Trinity Hymnal

▲ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 119:25, 28

My soul clings to the dust;
 give me life according to your word!
My soul melts away for sorrow;
 strengthen me according to your word!

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

Almighty God, we confess that we are sinners.
We have sinned in our attitude toward your Word:
 we have failed to hear and obey it;
 we have been ashamed of it;
 we have twisted it for our own selfish ends;
 we have tried to replace it
 and improve it with our own man-made ideas;
 we have failed to proclaim it faithfully and clearly.
Forgive us, dear God, for our disobedience.
Give us life and strengthen us according to your Word.
Teach us to love and live your gospel of redeeming grace
 through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

▲ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Psalm 119:49, 50

Remember your word to your servant,
 in which you have made me hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction,
 that your promise gives me life.

▲ *The Doxology* (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 55 (p. 615)

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

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

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

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² “For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

▲ **Hymn 554** From Depths of Woe I Raise to Thee *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word

Mr. Miller Ansell

Sermon Text: Romans 1:16–17 (p. 939) *Esteeming the Gospel of God*

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn 505** I’m Not Ashamed to Own My Lord *Trinity Hymnal*
(TUNE: AZMON)

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

Hymn — During the bread Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore, let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah.
Hallelujah!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree
(so strong his love!) to save us.
See, his blood does mark our door;
Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Hallelujah!

So let us keep the festival
Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
By his grace he doth impart
Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended.
Hallelujah!

Then let us feast this joyful day
On Christ, the Bread of Heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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 141

God, in the Gospel of His Son

Trinity Hymnal

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Romans 1:16-17

Esteeming the Gospel of God

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 Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). 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

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Diaconal Aides: Adam Grimes, Doug Boswell