

Order for the Public Worship of God

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

Christ
Church OPC

Biblical Confessional Reformed

9 December 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

Paula Ea, Gray Canales

Reflection

He cannot have God for his Father who refuses to have the church for his mother.

— Augustine of Hippo

Purity of doctrine is the soul of the church.

— John Calvin

When we take God for our God, we take his people for our people.

— Matthew Henry

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him, and we are most satisfied in him in worship.

— John Piper

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou would'st have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.

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

Based on Romans 13:11–12

Minister: The hour has come for us to wake from sleep.

**All: For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we first believed.**

Minister: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

**All: So then let us cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.**

Minister: Let us walk in the light, as we worship the Light.

▲ **Hymn 156** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Luke 3:2b-9

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Corporate Confession of Sin and Supplication for Mercy

Minister: O God,
you give us your good news
and call us into a new covenant relationship with you.
Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let the valleys be lifted up!

**All: Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,
and lift from us depressions and worry.**

Minister: Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the mountains be leveled off!

**All: End our pride and take away our arrogance:
save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption.**

Minister: Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the crooked be made straight!

**All: Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Minister: Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the rough be made smooth!

**All: Help us grow in understanding,
and give us wisdom to discern
that which is good and true.**

Minister: Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.
Let all people see the salvation of our God.

**All: Redeem your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**

Minister: Keep us humble and faithful.
Save us and sanctify us, O God.

All: For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, Amen.

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68–70

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.”

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Luke 1:1–25 (p. 855)

▲ Psalm 87 Zion, Founded on the Mountains

Zion, founded on the mountains,
God, thy Maker, loves thee well;
He has chosen thee, most precious,
He delights in thee to dwell;
*God's own city, God's own city,
Who can all thy glory tell?
God's own city, God's own city,
Who can all thy glory tell.*

Heathen lands and hostile peoples
Soon shall come the Lord to know;
Nations born again in Zion
Shall the Lord's salvation show.
*God Almighty, God Almighty,
Shall on Zion strength bestow;
God Almighty, God Almighty,
Shall on Zion strength bestow.*

When the Lord shall count the nations,
Sons and daughters he shall see,
Born to endless life in Zion,
And their joyful song shall be:
*"Blessed Zion, Blessed Zion,
All our fountains are in thee;
Blessed Zion, Blessed Zion,
All our fountains are in thee."*

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Acts 2:42–47 (p. 911)

Our New Life in the Spirit-filled Church

Prayer of Intercession

Reception of New Member

Mrs. Bette Morgan

✦ **Hymn 355** We Are God's People

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

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from His piercèd side;
praise we Him whose love divine
gives His sacred blood for wine,
gives His body for the feast,
Christ the Victim, Christ the Priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Him, whose blood was shed,
Paschal Victim, Paschal Bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

Mighty Victim from the sky,
pow'rs of hell beneath Thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight,
Thou hast brought us life and light;
hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to Thee we raise;
Holy Father, praise to Thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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's Snow

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Acts 2:42–47

Our New Life in the Spirit-filled Church

Welcome to Christ Church OPC

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 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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