

# 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  

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Biblical Confessional Reformed

16 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 today:** Mary Jo Canales  
Emilie Miller

# Reflection

Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world. It is time, in the power of the Spirit, to take up our proper role, our fully human role, as agents, heralds, and stewards of the new day that is dawning. That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian, to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us.

— Tom Wright  
*Simply Christian*

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.

— Frank Houghton

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly cradle-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that cradle rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

# 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*

**All: 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*

**All: Amen.**

## Call to Worship

Based on Philippians 4:4–5 (*NIV*)

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord always.

**All: I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Minister: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

**All: The Lord is near.**

Minister: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.  
Let us worship God!

✦ **Hymn 214** Angels We Have Heard on High

✦ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

# God Cleanses Us

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## Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5–10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Great God,

we acknowledge our sinfulness before you.

We have walked in darkness;

we have lied and not practiced the truth;

we have deceived ourselves into believing

that we have no sin and no need for a Savior.

Now, in humble contrition,

we bow before you and confess

that we are indeed helpless and hopeless without you.

Forgive us for relying on our own works;

for ignoring and avoiding the convicting light of your holy word;

for failing to reflect the light of your gospel to others;

for yielding to the darkness of despair and anger.

Grant us repentance and cleansing, dear Lord.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

that we may turn from our sins

and rejoice in the sufficiency of our Savior.

Through Christ our Light we pray, Amen.

## ⤴ Declaration of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9–10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## ⤴ *The Doxology* (#731)

*Trinity Hymnal*

## God Consecrates Us

### Prayer for Illumination

### Reading of Scripture

Luke 1:26–56 (p. 855)

## ⤴ Hymn 211    God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

### Preaching of the Word

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 2:1–21 (p. 807)

Rev. John Canales

*A Tale of Two Kings*

### Prayer of Intercession

## ⤴ Hymn 213    What Child is This?

# 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



O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 1:4–5

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

### *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! The Lord is Come

### **▲ The Benediction**

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▲ Congregation stands as able

# **Sermon Notes**

Matthew 2:1–21

*A Tale of Two Kings*

# 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

**Senior Pastor** – Rev. John Canales  
**Pastor of Outreach** – Rev. Miller Ansell  
**Chief Musician** – Sharon Miller  
**Coordinator of Church Ministries** – Mary Jo Canales

**Elders:** Rod Alexander, Scott Peterson,  
**Deacons:** Leng Ea, Rod Miller  
**Diaconal Aides:** Doug Boswell, Adam Grimes,