

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**

23 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
Gray Canales

Reflection

The nativity and the passion of Christ are inseparably bound together in the story of the incarnation of our God in Jesus Christ. To look upon the manger without seeing the cross is Christmas sentimentality, not faith. The story of the one who was born and died as the King of the Jews, is the story of how much God loves us. And knowing this — like the Magi, we cannot go back the same way we came.

— Dr. David Wrinkle

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny:
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

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 Luke 1:46–50

Minister: Our souls magnify the Lord!

All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Minister: For he who is mighty has done great things for us!

All: Holy is God's name!

Minister: Let us worship God.

**All: His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.**

▲ **Hymn 208** O Come, All Ye Faithful

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Ezekiel 20:39

As for you, O house of Israel, thus says the Lord GOD: Go serve every one of you his idols, now and hereafter, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts and your idols.

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

Great Triune God,
we confess that we have sinned against you.
We are guilty of idolatry.
The gifts, the offerings, the worship that we have brought you
are tainted and negated by our corrupt motives,
by our persistent self-righteousness,
by our disobedient hearts and ears that refuse to listen to you.
Grant us repentance, dear Father.

Holy Spirit,
convict and cleanse us through your word.
May we see our Lord Jesus Christ
as our only King, God, and Savior.
May we see his sacrifice on our behalf as all-sufficient
for our redemption and for our sanctification.
May we adore him, and him alone,
with our lips and with our lives.

We pray these things in his holy name, Amen.

⬆ Declaration of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 20:40–41, 44

For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings. As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.

⬆ The Doxology (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Luke 2:1–21 (p. 857)

⬆ Hymn 228 Saw You Never, in the Twilight

Tune: EBENEZER O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:9–11 (p. 808)

Gifts of the Wise Men

Prayer of Intercession

We wise men of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O-- star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

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

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav’ns all-gracious King;”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their hea’v’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.
All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

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 203 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Matthew 2:9–11

Gifts of the Wise Men

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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