

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**

12 May 2019

*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: Amanda Grimes
Jack Canales

Next Sunday: Lauren Alexander
Sam Ea

Reflection

You have enemies; for who can live on this earth without having them? Take heed to yourselves: love them. In no way can your enemy so hurt you by his violence, as you will hurt yourself if you do not love him.

— Augustine of Hippo

He heeded not reviling tones
Nor sold his heart to idle moans,
Tho 'cursed and scorned and bruised with stones.
But looking upward, full of grace,
He prayed, and from a happy place
God's glory smote him on the face.

— Alfred Lord Tennyson
"The Two Voices"

in regard to Stephen, the first martyr of the Church

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

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 95:6–7

Minister: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

All: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Minister: For he is our God,

**All: and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

▲ **Hymn 2** O Worship the King

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Hebrews 4:14–16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

from The Piety of John Calvin

O Lord, you are our Creator,
and we are the work of your hands.
You are our Shepherd;
we are your flock.
You are our Redeemer;
we are the people you have bought back.
You are our God;
we are your inheritance.

Therefore, be not angry against us,
to correct us in your wrath.
Recall not our iniquity to punish it,
but chastise us gently in your kindness.
Be mindful that your name is called upon among us
and that we bear your mark and badge.

Undertake rather the work
you have already begun in us by your grace,
in order that the whole earth may recognize
that you are our God and our Savior.
We ask it in Jesus' name. *Amen..*

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Acts 10:43

All the prophets testify about Christ that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”^{NIV}

▲ *The Doxology* (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture Daniel 7 (p. 744); Mark 14:60–64 (p. 850)

▲ **Hymn 668** Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Acts 7:54–8:1a (p. 916)

Enemies of the Gospel and You

Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn** Stephen *An original composition by Dawn O'Banion*

He was chosen by the brothers just to oversee the food.
Do the simple task, so others would be freed for other good.
A man who did the work at hand, with nothing else in view,
Was the man the Lord could trust when there were greater things to do.

*And has God changed since then,
Since Stephen did a job with no great end?
Does he need heroes now,
Or would he really rather trust a friend?*

The people of the day believed the lies that suited them.
They gathered stones and dragged the servant through the city gate.
And as he died, he pleaded, “Lord, don’t hold this against them.”
And faithfulness and grace had won a battle against hate.

*And have things changed since then,
Since Stephen did the task that was at hand?
Does God need heroes now,
Or would he rather use a faithful man?*

A God who opens Heaven for his dying child to see
And rises from his throne as faith is driven to its knees
The God who walked with Stephen and who showed him how to live
Can guide me where I’ll go and give me what I’ll need to give.

He has not changed since then,
Since Stephen closed his eyes and went to sleep.
Through grace and faithfulness,
The ones he has been given he will keep.

He has not changed since then:
The ones he has been given he will keep.

God Communes with Us

▲ **Affirmation of Faith: Hymn 742** The Apostles' Creed *Trinity Hymnal*
Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN

▲ **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

Abide with me: fast falls the even tide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour,
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thy self my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Scripture Reading — During the cup

Romans 8:31–39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 600 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Acts 7:54–8:1a

Enemies of the Gospel and You

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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