

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**

22 December 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: Mary Jo Canales
Audrey Ansell

Next Sunday: Dawn O'Banion
Jacob Pixley

Reflection

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for Thee?
My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.
The pasture is Thy Word, the streams, Thy Grace
Enriching all the place.
Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Out-sing the daylight hours.

— George Herbert

When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating that amazing time when the Word that shouted all the galaxies into being, limited all power, and for love of us came to us in the powerless body of a human baby.

— Madeleine L'Engle

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Teach, O teach us, holy child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

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 130:5-7

Minister: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**All: more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

Minister: O Israel, hope in the LORD!

**All: For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

✠ **Hymn 219** All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord

✠ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14–15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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

All: **Our great and gracious God,
your Word shows us that your Son Jesus Christ
came into this world to bring us peace in abundance.**

Minister: Hear us now, as we confess to you the ways
in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

All: **God of peace, hear our prayer:**

Minister: The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

All: **we confess to you, O God of peace.**

Minister: The worry about the little details,

All: **we confess to you, O God of peace.**

Minister: The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

All: **we confess to you, O God of peace.**

Minister: The impatience and irritability we feel
and take out on one another,

All: **we confess to you, O God of peace.**

Minister: The bickering and quarreling we get into
because we are too busy,

All: **we confess to you, O God of peace.**

Minister: Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time
of the year, your peace is always there for us.

All: **Instill within us your peace, O God.**

Minister: When we feel overwhelmed,

All: **instill within us your peace, O God.**

Minister: When we are filled with worry,

All: **instill within us your peace, O God.**

Minister: When we become irritable,

All: **instill within us your peace, O God.**

Minister: When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,

All: help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Minister: Instill within us your peace, O God,
and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.

**All: Help us to be more peaceful
so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.**

Minister: We ask this through the merit of Christ alone.

All: Amen.

⬆ Declaration of Forgiveness

Jeremiah 33:14–16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will fulfill the promise I made
to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause
a righteous Branch to spring up for David,
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

And this is the name by which it will be called:

“The LORD is our righteousness.”

Minister: People of God, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whose coming we announce this day,
is our righteousness.

In Christ, we are made right with God.

All: Thanks be to God!

⬆ The Doxology (#731)

Trinity Hymnal

God Consecrates Us

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 7 (p. 571)

▲ **Hymn 230** Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Measure

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Matthew 1:18–25 (p. 807) *God With Us*

Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn 247** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain:
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest Friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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.

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 227 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Matthew 1:18–25

God With Us

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
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Deacons: Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Rod Miller
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