

# 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

15 November 2020

*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.

### SERVING IN THE NURSERY TODAY

<b>Sunday School</b>	Mary Jo Canales Lori Peterson
<b>Worship</b>	Paula Ea Lori Peterson

# Reflection

The Christian message is for those who have done their best *and failed!*  
— Author unknown

The whole gospel is contained in Christ.  
— John Calvin

Christ's gospel is the scepter of his kingdom.  
— John Calvin

Religion is the story of what a sinful man tries to do for a holy God; the gospel is the story of what a holy God has done for sinful men.  
— Roy Gustafson

There are no incurable cases under the gospel. Any sinner may be healed if he will only come to Christ.  
— J. C. Ryle

In a God-centred gospel, grace is central — God is exalted at every point.  
— Will Metzger

The gospel does not abrogate God's law, but it makes men love it with all their hearts.  
— J. Gresham Machen

There are two things to do about the gospel — believe it and behave it.  
— Susannah Wesley

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

## Man of Sorrows! What a Name

Man of Sorrows! What a name  
For the Son of God, who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned he stood,  
Sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was he;  
Full atonement! Can it be?  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was he to die,  
“It is finished!” was his cry;  
Now in heaven exalted high:  
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When he comes, our glorious King,  
All his ransomed home to bring,  
Then anew this song we'll sing;  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

# 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

*Psalm 92:1–8*

Minister: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,**

Minister: to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

**All: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

Minister: How great are your works, O LORD!  
Your thoughts are very deep!

**All: The stupid man cannot know;  
the fool cannot understand this:**

Minister: that though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,

**All: they are doomed to destruction forever;  
but you, O LORD, are on high forever.**

▲ **Hymn 7**      From All That Dwell below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.

In every land begin the song;  
To every land the strains belong.  
In cheerful sound all voices raise  
And fill the world with joyful praise.

Eternal are your mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends your word.  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

# God Cleanses Us

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## Call to Confession of Sin

Matthew 5:17–20

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Loving God, you call us to be the salt of the earth,  
but too often we consider your way to be bland,  
and we miss the delight of life  
filled with the flavor of your grace  
that spreads from us to those around us.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

You call us to be the light of the world,  
but too often our actions do not bring praise to you.  
We make choices that help us blend into our culture  
rather than stand out as your people.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

You call us to settle matters quickly,  
but too often we nurse grudges  
and look for ways to settle scores on our own terms.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

You call us to go the second mile,  
but too often we consider our own convenience first,  
passing up opportunities to show love to our neighbor.  
Forgive us, Lord, and help us be more like Jesus.

We ask this through the merit of his atoning death. Amen.

⬆ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

1 Peter 2:24–25

[Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

⬆ **The Doxology (#731)**

*Trinity Hymnal*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



# God Consecrates Us

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## Prayer for Illumination

### Reading of Scripture

Mark 4:1–23

<sup>1</sup> Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup> And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup> And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>10</sup> And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, <sup>12</sup> so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,  
and may indeed hear but not understand,  
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup> And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones

who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

<sup>21</sup> And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? <sup>22</sup> For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. <sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

▲ **Hymn 473**    Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

“Jesus sinners doth receive”:  
Word of surest consolation;  
Word all sorrow to relieve,  
Word of pardon, peace, salvation!  
Naught like this can comfort give:  
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

On God’s grace we have no claim,  
Yet to us his pledge is given;  
He hath sworn by his own name,  
Open are the gates of heaven.  
Take to heart this word and live:  
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

When a helpless lamb doth stray,  
After it, the Shepherd, pressing  
Through each dark and dang’rous way,  
Brings it back, his own possessing.  
Jesus seeks thee, O believe:  
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe:  
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

Now my conscience is at peace,  
From the Law I stand acquitted;  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my every sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve—  
“Jesus sinners doth receive.”

## Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

**Sermon Text:** Acts 28:23–31 *It's All About the Gospel*

<sup>23</sup>When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup>And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. <sup>25</sup>And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>26</sup> ““Go to this people, and say,  
“You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

<sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed;  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

<sup>28</sup>Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

<sup>30</sup> He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

## Prayer of Intercession

▲ Hymn 452 Macedonia

The vision of a dying world is vast before our eyes;  
We feel the heartbeat of its need, we hear its feeble cries:  
Lord Jesus Christ, revive thy church in this, her crucial hour!  
Lord Jesus Christ, awake thy church with Spirit given power.

The savage hugs his god of stone and fears descent of night;  
The city dweller cringes lone amid the garish light:  
Lord Jesus Christ, arouse thy church to see their mute distress!  
Lord Jesus Christ, equip thy church with love and tenderness.

Today, as understanding's bounds are stretched on every hand,  
O clothe thy Word in bright, new sounds, and speed it o'er the land;  
Lord Jesus Christ, empower us to preach by every means!  
Lord Jesus Christ, embolden us in new and distant scenes.

The warning bell of judgment tolls, above us looms the cross;  
Around are ever-dying souls—how great, how great the loss!  
O Lord, constrain and move thy church the glad news to impart!  
And Lord, as thou dost stir thy church, begin within my heart.

# God Communes with Us

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## ▲ **Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

p. 845, *Trinity Hymnal*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## ▲ **The Gloria Patri (#735)**

*Trinity Hymnal*

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

# 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

Not what my hands have done  
Can save my guilty soul;  
Not what my toiling flesh has borne  
Can make my spirit whole.  
Not what I feel or do  
Can give me peace with God;  
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears  
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,  
Can ease this weight of sin;  
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,  
Can give me peace within.  
Thy love to me, O God,  
Not mine, O Lord to thee,  
Can rid me of this dark unrest  
And set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God,  
To me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,  
Can this sore bondage break.  
No other work, save thine,  
No other blood will do;  
No strength, save that which is divine,  
Can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God;  
I rest on love divine;  
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart  
I call this Saviour mine.  
This cross dispels each doubt;  
I bury in his tomb  
Each thought of unbelief and fear,  
Each ling'ring shade of gloom.

*Continues...*

I praise the God of grace;  
I trust his truth and might;  
He calls me his, I call him mine,  
My God, my joy, my light.  
'Tis he who saveth me,  
And freely pardon gives;  
I love because he loveth me,  
I live because he lives.

*Scripture Reading — During the cup*

Jeremiah 31:31–34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

### ***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**    O Church, Arise

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;  
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth,  
We'll stand against the devil's lies;  
An army bold, whose battle-cry is love,  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war- to love the captive soul,  
But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,  
We will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on every side,  
We know the outcome is secure,  
And Christ will have the prize for which he died-  
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away  
And Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

*Continues...*

So Spirit come, put strength in every stride,  
Give grace for every hurdle,  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way,  
Retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in glory.

## ⤴ **The Benediction**

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⤴ Congregation stands as able

# **Sermon Notes**

Acts 28:30–31

*It's All About the Gospel*

# 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:** Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Rod Miller  
**Diaconal Aide:** Adam Grimes