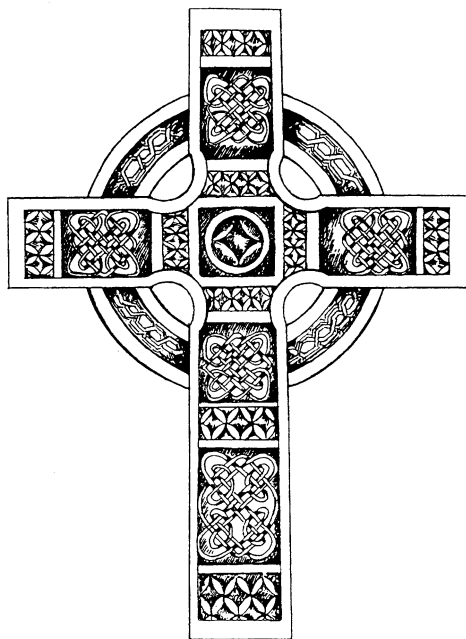


Christ Presbyterian Church

I have kept back nothing, but have declared to you
the whole counsel of God. —Acts 20:27



A Service of Thanksgiving
for Our Lord's Incarnation

24 December 2020

Reflection

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

He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.

— Augustine of Hippo

Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.

— J. Sidlow Baxter

I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need.

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Adoration of God

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

Minister: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

All: We have beheld his glory. Alleluia! *John 1:14*

Minister: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

All: Alleluia! *Luke 2:14*

▲ Hymn 208 O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet you born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, late in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

▲ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 5:8

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 4:16

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*)

Holy God, you sent a star
to guide the Magi to the child Jesus.
We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have failed to praise your Son's birth
and refused his peace on earth.
We have expected little and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt
and renew in us all fine desires,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

✠ 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.

Consecration Through the Word

Reading of Scripture

John 1:14–18

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

1 John 1:1–4

Minister: We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life —

**All: this life was revealed,
 and we have seen it and testify to it,
 and declare to you the eternal life
 that was with the Father and was revealed to us —**

Minister: we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**All: We are writing these things
 so that our joy may be complete**

▲ **Hymns 216** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

⤴ Affirmation of Faith:

Minister: Why is he called God’s “only Son”
when we also are God’s children?

**All: Because Christ alone is the eternal,
natural Son of God.
We, however, are adopted children of God —
adopted by grace through Christ.**

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 33

Minister: What does it mean that he
“was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary”?

**All: That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains true and eternal God,
took to himself, through the working
of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
so that he might become David’s true descendant,
in all things like us except for sin.**

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35

Minister: How does the holy conception
and birth of Christ benefit you?

**All: He is our mediator,
and with his innocence and perfect holiness
he removes from God’s sight my sin —
mine since I was conceived.**

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 36

▲ Hymns 203 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Response and Blessing

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

God of mystery and might,
 we praise and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
 to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
 born of your handmaid Mary.
In his face we behold your glory,
 for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
We praise you for your grace-filled love.
Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ,
 Lord of lords, and King of kings,
 now and forever. Amen.

▲ Hymns 195 195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n, and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonder of his love.

▲ **Hymns 204** Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

▲ **Hymns 210** Silent Night

[candlelit]

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

▲ **The Benediction**

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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Elders: Scott Peterson, Rod Alexander

Deacons: Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Rod Miller

Diaconal Aides: Adam Grimes