

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



3 January 2021

*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

Worship

Chelsea Schleifer
Mary Jo Canales

Reflection

In the end that Face which is the delight or the terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us either with one expression or with the other, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised. I read in a periodical the other day that the fundamental thing is how we think of God. By God Himself, it is not! How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important. Indeed, how we think of Him is of no importance except in so far as it is related to how He thinks of us. It is written that we shall “stand before” Him, shall appear, shall be inspected. The promise of glory is the promise, almost incredible and only possible by the work of Christ, that some of us, that any of us who really chooses, shall actually survive that examination, shall find approval, shall please God. To please God... to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness... to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son — it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is.

— C. S. Lewis
“The Weight of Glory”

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

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 118:1–4

**All: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Minister: Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

**All: Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Minister: Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

▲ **Hymn 30** O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll'wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:
Be thou our God while life shall last, and our eternal home.

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Hosea 14:1–3

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
Take with you words
and return to the LORD;
say to him,
“Take away all iniquity;
accept what is good,
and we will pay with bulls
the vows of our lips.
Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride on horses;
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy.”

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

Our God, our help in ages past and our only hope eternally,
we turn to you today, confessing our iniquity.
We have stumbled in so many ways.
We have been engulfed by mighty waters;
we have been overcome by sin;
we have yielded to temptation, crumbled in adversity,
faltered and failed and fallen.
We have worshiped the work of our own hands.
We have relied on our own righteousness
and strength and wisdom, and these have proven
to be wholly insufficient to save us in our fallen state.
Forgive us, Father.
Heal and cleanse and renew us
through your Spirit for the sake of your dear Son,
who turned your anger from us
by dying as the propitiation for our sins.
Teach us to dwell beneath your shadow,
living gospel-centered lives,
showing fruits of repentance,
availing ourselves of the means of grace you have given us.
Through Christ our Savior, *Amen*.

⤴ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hosea 14:4-7

I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.
They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

⤴ **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

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Ephesians 1:1–10; Romans 8:31–39

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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.

▲ Hymn 517 I've Found a Friend, O Such a Friend!

I've found a friend, O such a Friend!
He loved me ere I knew him;
He drew me with the cords of love,
and thus he bound me to him;
And round my heart still closely twine
those ties which naught can sever,
For I am his, and he is mine,
forever and forever.

I've found a friend, O such a Friend!
He bled, he died to save me;
And not alone the gift of life,
but his own self he gave me!
Naught that I have my own I'll call,
I'll hold it for the Giver,
My heart, my strength, my life,
my all are his, and his forever.

I've found a friend, O such a Friend!
All pow'r to him is given,
To guard me on my onward course,
and bring me safe to heaven:
Eternal glory gleams afar,
to nerve my faint endeavor:
So now to watch, to work,
to war: and then to rest forever.

I've found a friend, O such a Friend!
So kind and true and tender,
So wise a Counselor and guide,
so mighty a defender!
From him who loves me now
so well what pow'r my soul can sever?
Shall life or death, shall earth or hell?
No! I am his forever.

Sermon Text: Psalm 90

Security, Stability and Satisfaction in Christ

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- 3 You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- 7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
- 8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- 11 Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

- and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- ¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Prayer of Intercession

▲ Hymn 535 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

God Communes with Us

▲ **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

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, O my soul, O my soul,
When I was sinking down, O my soul!
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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 580

Forever Jesus Music by Stuart Townend and Matt Papa

My hymn of praise shall be forever Jesus:
My firm foundation in shifting sands.
My strength and hope through many fears and failures,
The disappointments of the past;
His constant love has held me fast.

*So for all my days I will sing my praise
to the King, forever Jesus.
Though the storms may rage he is strong to save.
He's the King, forever Jesus.*

My song of joy shall be forever Jesus
Who bore my suffering, who made a way.
His life a gift, His death a precious ransom
That wipes the sinner's guilt away,
And turns our night to glorious day.

*So for all my days I will sing my praise
to the King, forever Jesus.
Though the storms may rage he is strong to save.
He's the King, forever Jesus.*

My final breath shall be forever Jesus
When shadows lengthen before my eyes.
My Lord and Friend, Companion through the valley
When dearest ones are left behind,
His hand will lead me to the light.

*So for all my days I will sing my praise
to the King, forever Jesus.
Though the storms may rage he is strong to save.
He's the King, forever Jesus.*

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Psalm 90

Security, Stability and Satisfaction in Christ

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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