

# 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



19 December 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

<b>Sunday School</b>	Mary Jo Canales
<b>Worship</b>	Lauren Alexander
	Paula Ea

# Reflection

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

— John 8:12

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

— John 1:4–5

An age is called Dark, not because the light fails to shine, but because people refuse to see it.

— James A. Michener

We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

— Plato

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

# 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: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. *Jude 2*

**All: Amen.**

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 146:1–4*

Minister: Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**All: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Minister: Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**All: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.**

✠ **Hymn 218**    Angels from the Realms of Glory

✠ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

# God Cleanses Us

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## Call to Confession of Sin

1 John 1:5–9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Great God, we acknowledge our sinfulness before you.

We have walked in darkness;

we have lied and not practiced the truth;

we have deceived ourselves into believing

that we have no sin and no need for a Savior.

Now, in humble contrition, we bow before you

and confess that we are indeed helpless and hopeless without you.

Forgive us for relying on our own works;

for ignoring and avoiding the convicting light of your holy word;

for failing to reflect the light of your gospel to others;

for yielding to the darkness of despair and anger.

Grant us repentance and cleansing, dear Lord.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,

that we may turn from our sins

and rejoice in the sufficiency of our Savior.

Through Christ our Light and our Salvation. Amen.

## ⬆ Declaration of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9–10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## ⬆ 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

Isaiah 60 (p. 619)

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;  
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;  
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,  
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

<sup>8</sup> Who are these that fly like a cloud,  
and like doves to their windows?

<sup>9</sup> For the coastlands shall hope for me,  
the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from afar,  
their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the LORD your God,  
and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has made you beautiful.

<sup>10</sup> Foreigners shall build up your walls,  
and their kings shall minister to you;  
for in my wrath I struck you,  
but in my favor I have had mercy on you.

<sup>11</sup> Your gates shall be open continually;  
day and night they shall not be shut,  
that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations,  
with their kings led in procession.

<sup>12</sup> For the nation and kingdom  
that will not serve you shall perish;  
those nations shall be utterly laid waste.

<sup>13</sup> The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,  
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,  
to beautify the place of my sanctuary,  
and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

<sup>14</sup> The sons of those who afflicted you  
shall come bending low to you,  
and all who despised you  
shall bow down at your feet;  
they shall call you the City of the LORD,  
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> Whereas you have been forsaken and hated,  
with no one passing through,



I will make you majestic forever,  
a joy from age to age.  
<sup>16</sup> You shall suck the milk of nations;  
you shall nurse at the breast of kings;  
and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior  
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

### ▲ **Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

*Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker*

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King;  
He the theme of heaven's praises robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness now the Light of Life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man;  
In his living, in his suffering never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man;  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery Christ the Lord upon the tree;  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold;  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery slain by death the God of life;  
But no grave could e'er restrain him. Praise the Lord! He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope;  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.  
*What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope;  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.*

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

## Prayer of Intercession and Hymn of Response

O Immanuel,  
child of promise and sign of hope,  
you come from a distance far beyond our reach,  
yet are closer to us than we can imagine:  
remain with us in our own days of expectation,  
that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful, and good—  
through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
abides with us, one God now and forever.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Wisdom,  
your words uttered in the beginning  
generated a world of beauty and goodness,  
giving purpose and value to each creature;  
instruct us in the way of prudence,  
that we may nurture the world with justice and joy.  
Help us to resist evil and to obey you,  
so that we may walk in your ways and  
the beauty of your creation may flourish—  
through the one whom we know as the Wisdom of the ages,  
even Christ, our Lord.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Lord of might,  
master of the universe and ruler of the house of Israel,  
your mighty acts have rescued remnants of your people  
from the midst of slavery, exile, war, and holocaust:  
raise your scepter over us, that your saving rule  
may be extended to all people in all places—  
for the sake of him who we know as Lord of all,  
even Jesus, the Christ.

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Root of Jesse,  
you reach deep down into the darkness of the earth  
and stir the world's longings for deliverance and hope:  
raise up within our own lives  
a spirit of courage and strength, of wisdom and insight,  
that we may do your work for the coming of your kingdom—  
through the merits of the one we know as the beginning of the ages,  
even Christ, our Lord.

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Key of David and throne of glory,  
you open the way to the future and no one closes;  
you close the way to the past and no one opens.  
Release us and all your people from the sufferings of the past,  
that we may face the future with boldness and purpose—  
through the merits of the Son of David, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Rising Dawn,  
you shine with warm brightness and clean freshness,  
chasing the fearsome shadows of the night away:  
enlighten the lives of your people with visions of shalom  
until you bring all things into the harmony of your kingdom—  
for the sake of him we call the light of the world, Christ, our Lord.

**O come, thou Day-spring from on high  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## 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

What child is this who lays to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.



Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the 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**

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### **The Collection of Alms and Tithes**

**Hymn 227**    On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

### **⬆ The Benediction**

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⬆ Congregation stands as able

# Sermon Notes

Luke 2:21–35

*The Lamb Praised*

HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS		
Group Leader	Contact	Meeting Day/Time
Leng Ea	817.412.8625	Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
John Canales	972.955.5255	Sundays 1:00 p.m.
Adam Grimes	214.226.1251	Saturdays 3:00 p.m.
Brandon Luter Teen Trek	469.441.6306	Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

# 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.



3410 Peters Colony Road • Flower Mound, Texas 75022 • 972-355-5892  
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Christ OPC on Twitter • Christ OPC on Instagram

### Staff

**Senior Pastor** – Rev. John Canales

**Chief Musician** – Sharon Miller

**Coordinator of Church Ministries** – Mary Jo Canales

**Elders:** Rod Alexander (Emeritus), Adam Grimes, Scott Peterson

**Deacons:** Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Brandon Luter, Rod Miller