

Christ Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant Renewal Service

29 October 2023

Reformation Sunday

*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

Sunday School	MJ Canales Paula Ea
Worship	Susan Chaplin Amanda Grimes Mia Lawrenz

Reflection

Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is:

- you are more flawed and lost than you ever dared believe, yet
- you can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope at the same time, because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place.

Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9)

The irreligious don't repent at all. The religious only repent of sins. But Christians also repent of their righteousness. Moral and religious people are sorry for their sins, but they see sins as simply the failure to live up to standards by which they are saving themselves. They may go to Jesus for forgiveness — but only as a way to “cover over the gaps” in their project of self-salvation. But a Christian is someone who has adopted a whole new system of approach to God. They realize their entire reason for either irreligion or religion has been essentially the same and essentially wrong! Christians realize that both their sins and their best deeds have all really been ways of avoiding Jesus as Savior.

... the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin...

— Flannery O'Connor

A Christian says: “Though I have often failed to obey the law, the deeper problem is why I was ever trying to obey it! Even my effort to obey it is just a way of seeking to be my own savior. In that mindset, even if I obey or ask for forgiveness, I am really resisting the gospel and setting myself up as Savior.” To “get the gospel” is to turn from self-justification and rely on Jesus' record for a relationship with God. “Lay your deadly doing down, down at Jesus' feet. Stand in Him, in Him alone — gloriously complete.”

The Two “Thieves” of the Gospel: Legalism and Liberalism

Tertullian said, “Just as Christ was crucified between two thieves, so this doctrine of justification is ever crucified between two opposite errors.” These errors continue to “steal” the gospel from us. They are “legalism” and “liberalism.” On the one hand, “legalists” have a truth without grace, for they say or imply that we must obey the truth in order to be saved. On the other hand, “liberals” have a grace without truth, for they say or imply that we are all accepted by God regardless of what we decide is true for us. But those with a truth without grace do not really have the truth, and those with a grace without truth do not really have grace. In Jesus, we behold the glory of the one “full of grace and truth.” De-emphasize or lose one or the other of these truths, you fall somewhat into legalism or somewhat into license and you eliminate the joy and the “release” of the gospel. Without knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the gospel seems trivial and does not electrify or transform. But without knowledge of Christ’s completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin would crush us or move us to deny and repress it. Take away either the knowledge of sin or the knowledge of grace and people’s lives are not changed. They will be crushed by the moral law or run from it screaming and angry.

As Luther put it, the Christian is *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously accepted, yet a sinner). We are more sinful than we ever dared believe, but through Christ we are more accepted than we ever dared hope. When the gospel dawns on the soul, it becomes a transforming power (Romans 1:17). Instead of seeing the law of God as an abstract moral code, Christians see it as a way to know, serve, and resemble their Master. Instead of obeying to make God indebted to them, they obey because they are indebted to him. Instead of being driven by an anxious sense of being unacceptable, they are empowered by grateful joy. The difference between these two ways of morality could not be greater. Their spirits, goals, motivations and results are entirely different.

— drawn from the teaching of Jack Miller

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

You, Lord, Are the Portion

You, Lord, are the portion that I long for,
I have pledged obedience to your word.
I with all my heart have sought your favor;
Grant me grace, as you have promised, Lord.

When I search my ways and all my conduct,
Then I turn my footsteps to your way.
I make haste to follow your commandments;
I will hurry and will not delay.

Though the wicked tie me up with bindings,
I do not forget your holy law.
E'en at midnight I will rise to praise you,
For your rules are righteous, O my God.

Those who fear you are my best companions,
All who keep your precepts and your ways.
Lord, the earth is full of your great mercy,
Teach me all your righteous laws, I pray.

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!** *Psalms 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

Psalms 46

- Leader: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- All: though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**
- Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- All: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.**
- Leader: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- All: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- Leader: Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- All: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.**
- Leader: "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
- All: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

⬆ **Hymn 92** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Trinity Hymnal

⬆ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

⬆ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Galatians 3:1–6

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

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

Holy God, our mighty Fortress,
whose truth still abides and whose kingdom is forever,
we confess that we are sinners and that we have continued to sin.
In our hypocrisy, we have excused, ignored,
minimized, and denied our sin.
In our foolishness, we have imagined
that our own works can save us.
Even as we preach the precious gospel of salvation
through grace alone, we have scorned that grace
and relied on our own strength and wisdom
instead of submitting to you.
Now, Father, as we recognize that we are wholly incapable
of reforming or redeeming ourselves,
we repent of our sins
and cast ourselves on your sovereign mercy:
the boundless mercy that sent your perfect Son to the cross
as our Substitute and Savior.
Cleanse us, we pray,
make us hunger and thirst for righteousness,
enable us to live by faith,
and continue the sanctifying work
of your Holy Spirit in our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

⬆ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Romans 4:23–25

But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for [Abraham’s] sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

⬆ **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

Psalm 22 (p. 457)

⬆ **Hymn 519** Fountain of Never–Ceasing Grace

Trinity Hymnal

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Habakkuk 2:4 (p. 785) Romans 1:16–17 (p. 939);
Galatians 3:10–13 (p. 973)
506 Years Later, Luther Still Matters

Habakkuk 2:4

“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.”

Romans 1:16–17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Galatians 3:10–13

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

Prayer of Intercession

▲ Hymn 554 From Depths of Woe I Raise to Thee

From depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication:
If Thou iniquities dost mark, Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! are all in vain; in much the best life faileth:
No man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,
and live alone by mercy. (And live alone by mercy.)
and live alone by mercy. (And live alone by mercy.)

Therefore, my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On him my soul shall rest, his Word upholds my fainting spirit:
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience. (I wait for it with patience.)
I wait for it with patience. (I wait for it with patience.)

What though I wait the livelong night, and till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in his might; it doubteth not nor feareth:
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the spirit born indeed;
and wait till God appeareth. (And wait till God appeareth.)
and wait till God appeareth. (And wait till God appeareth.)

Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much more
aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free
from all their sin and sorrow. (From all their sin and sorrow.)
from all their sin and sorrow. (From all their sin and sorrow.)

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

Hymn — During the bread Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore, let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah.
Hallelujah!

It was a strange and dreadful strife
When life and death contended;
The victory remained with life,
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That death is swallowed up by death,
His sting is lost forever.
Hallelujah!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree
(so strong his love!) to save us.
See, his blood doth mark our door;
Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Hallelujah!

So let us keep the festival
Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
By his grace he doth impart
Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended.
Hallelujah!

Continues...

Then let us feast this joyful day
On Christ, the Bread of Heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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	Our God Will Go Before Us (congregation stands on last verse)
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⬆ The Benediction

⬆ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16–17; Galatians 3:10–13

506 Years Later, Luther Still Matters

HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS		
Group Leader	Contact	Meeting Day/Time
Leng Ea	817.412.8625	Ea's home Fridays at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Timothy Skaggs	209.403.6767	Canales' home 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Adam Grimes	214.226.1251	CPC Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Russ Lawrenz	940. 395-9413	SE Denton Saturdays at 4:00
Brandon Luter Teen Trek	469.441.6306	CPC Wednesdays at 6:30 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.



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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