

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**

Biblical Confessional Reformed

3 December 2023

*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	Paula Ea Pam Mayo
Worship	Susan Chaplin Mia Lawrenz Amanda Grimes

Reflection

[Regarding the incarnation:] If this thing happened, it was the central event in the history of the earth.

— C. S. Lewis
Miracles

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

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

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.

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 based on Romans 13:11–12

Leader: The hour has come for us to wake from sleep.
All: For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we first believed.
Leader: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
All: So then let us cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.
Leader: Let us walk in the light, as we worship the Light

⬆ Psalm 34:1–14 Trinity Psalter

⬆ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

⬆ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Luke 3:2b-9

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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

O God,
you give us your good news
and call us into a new covenant relationship with you.
Help us to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Let the valleys be lifted up!
**Draw us away from degrading thoughts and actions,
and lift from us depressions and worry.**

Through humble people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the mountains be leveled off!
**End our pride and take away our arrogance:
save us from false hope and unwarranted presumption**
Through faithful people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the crooked be made straight!
**Forgive our sin, and pardon our wrongdoing;
defeat evil and overcome the power of death.**

Through saved people, prepare your world, O God.
Let the rough be made smooth!
**Help us grow in understanding,
and give us wisdom to discern that which is good and true.**

Through sanctified people, prepare your world, O God.
Let all people see the salvation of our God.
**Redeem your world, and make all things new,
and bring us into your holy and perfect presence,
now and for all eternity.**

Keep us humble and faithful.
Save us and sanctify us, O God.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Luke 1:68–70

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.”

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

Luke 1:1–25 (p. 855)

▲ **Hymn** Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
my spirit doth rejoice in God,
for he, my Savior, did in grace
his servant's humble state regard.

Behold, all generations hence
my blessedness will e'er proclaim.
The Mighty One hath done great things
for me, and holy is his name.

For generations, fearing him,
his mercy will on them abide.
His mighty arm displays his strength;
he scatters those who dwell in pride.

He cast the mighty from their thrones,
and lifted those of low estate.
The hungry he hath filled with good;
the rich he empty sent away.

He helped his servant Israel,
in mem'ry of his mercy sure,
as told our father Abraham,
and to his seed forevermore.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Prayer of Intercession

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

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending he
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

This is he whom heaven-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long expected,
Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

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

His Mercy Is More
(congregation stands on last verse)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done;
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam;
What Father, so tender, is calling us home.
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

*Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.*

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Luke 1:39–56

Mary's Song

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	Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Resumes January 7
Adam Grimes	214.226.1251	CPC Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Russ Lawrenz	940. 395-9413	SE Denton Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.
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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www.ChristPresbyterian.org • email@ChristPresbyterian.org
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