

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



17 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	Amanda Grimes Mary Jo Canales
Worship	Paula Ea Angela Padilla Tegan Thacke

Reflection

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

— Corrie Ten Boom

Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.

— George Whitefield

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, and our sorrow, and our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

— Charles H. Spurgeon

The Only Begotten Word of God has saved us by putting on our likeness. Suffering in the flesh, and rising from the dead, he revealed our nature as greater than death or corruption. What he achieved was beyond the ability of our condition, and what seemed to have been worked out in human weakness and by suffering was really stronger than men and a demonstration of the power that pertains to God.

— Cyril of Alexandria

You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.

— John R. Rice

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly cradle-bed,
there to bend the knee before
him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

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

Call to Worship Isaiah 55:1–3

Leader: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
**All: Come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price.**
Leader: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
**All: Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.**
Leader: Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
**All: and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.”**
Leader: Come, people of God, and let us feast on the free grace
that our God extends to us through his Son, Jesus Christ!

⬆ **Hymn 48** O Lord Most High with All My Heart *Trinity Hymnal*

⬆ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

⬆ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Hebrews 2:18; 4:15–16

Because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted ... For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 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*)

Our gracious God,
 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess our willingness to be loved,
 but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love,
 but also our refusal to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love,
 but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time,
 forgive us our failure to respond as we should.
O Jesus, our dear Savior,
 come to us anew,
and by your grace, assist us to receive you
 with joy, as the shepherds;
 with gratitude, as Simeon;
 with obedience, as Mary;
 with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

⬆ Declaration of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4–6

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned — every one — to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⬆ 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

Luke 1:57–80 (p. 856)

⬆ Hymn 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

²¹ 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.

²² 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 ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

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

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

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

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Prayer of Intercession

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.*

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

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's son, yet David's Lord;
By his Son God now has spoken:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Tell me, ye who hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends thro' fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress;
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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 208

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(congregation stands on last verse)

Trinity Hymnal

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Luke 2:21–35
Simeon'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	Resumes in January
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.



3410 Peters Colony Road • Flower Mound, Texas 75022 • 972-355-5892
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