

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



24 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

Worship

Lauren Alexander
Mary Jo Canales
Allie Carpenter

Reflection

The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.

— J. I. Packer

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

He became what we are that he might make us what he is.

— Athanasius of Alexandria

The Word introduced Himself into that which He was not, in order that the nature of man also might become what it was not, resplendent, by its union, with the grandeur of divine majesty, which has been raised beyond nature rather than that it has cast the unchangeable God beneath its nature.

— Cyril of Alexandria

Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.

— J. Sidlow Baxter

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

Leader: The Word was made flesh,
All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader: and dwelt among us,
All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader: Jesus, Son of the living God,
splendor of the Father, Light eternal:
All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness,
born of the virgin Mary:
All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God,
Everlasting Father:
All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls,
perfect in holiness:
All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor,
Treasure of the faithful:
All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom,
our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Leader: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Minister: Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

▲ **Hymn 203** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald-angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumphs of the skies,
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

Christ by highest heav’n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”*

Continues...

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born, that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."*

Come, desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home:
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head:
Adam's likeness now efface,
Stamp thine image in its place;
Second Adam from above,
Re-instate us in thy Love.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."*

⬆ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

⬆ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Mark 1:14–15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

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

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness,
bringing the good news of joy
that mankind is reconciled to God through Jesus.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted the good news.
We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst,
and have ignored your presence
in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.
And, barely acknowledging in our lives Jesus’ first coming,
we have not watched diligently
for the final coming of our Savior and Judge.

Forgive our sin,
and renew our hope in the gospel,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

⬆ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

1 John 4:9–10

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.

Minister: In Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

⬆ **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 2:1–40 (p. 857)

⬆ **Hymn 217** All This Heart This Night Rejoices *Trinity Hymnal*

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Galatians 4:4–7 (p. 974) *The Joy of Sonship*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Prayer of Intercession

⬆ **Hymn 199** See Amid the Winter’s Snow *Trinity Hymnal*

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

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

This flow'r with fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 John 5:11–12

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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 195 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come *Trinity Hymnal*
(congregation stands on last verse)

▲ The Benediction

▲ Congregation stands as able

Sermon Notes

Galatians 4:4-7
The Joy of Sonship

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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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