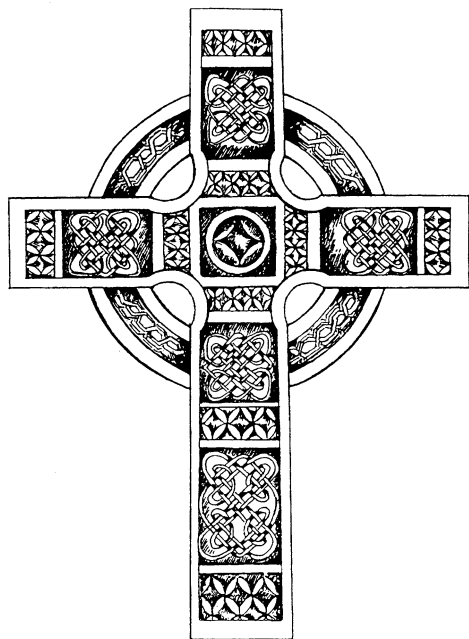


Christ Presbyterian Church

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



A Service of Thanksgiving
for Our Lord's Incarnation

24 December 2023

Reflection

When we celebrate Christmas we are celebrating that amazing time when the Word that shouted all the galaxies into being, limited all power, and for love of us came to us in the powerless body of a human baby.

— Madeleine L'Engle

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

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

— J. Sidlow Baxter

I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need.

— Charles H. Spurgeon

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding:
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light.
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Adoration of God

Trinitarian Confession and Salutation

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

Call to Worship

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
All: We have beheld his glory. Alleluia! *John 1:14*
Leader: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
All: Alleluia! *Luke 2:14*

✠ **Hymn 208** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Trinity Hymnal*

✠ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession of Sin

Romans 5:8

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 4:16

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*)

Holy God, you sent a star
to guide the Magi to the child Jesus.
We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have failed to praise your Son's birth
and refused his peace on earth.
We have expected little and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt
and renew in us all fine desires,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Matthew 1:21

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

✠ 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.

Consecration Through the Word

Reading of Scripture

John 1:14–18

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

1 John 1:1–4

Leader: We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life —

All: **this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life
that was with the Father and was revealed to us —**

Leader: we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

All: **We are writing these things
so that our joy may be complete**

✠ **Hymn 213** What Child Is This

Trinity Hymnal

⬆ Affirmation of Faith:

Leader: Why is he called God's "only Son"
when we also are God's children?

All: Because Christ alone is the eternal,
natural Son of God.
We, however, are adopted children of God —
adopted by grace through Christ.

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 33

Leader: What does it mean that he
"was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary"?

All: That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains true and eternal God,
took to himself, through the working
of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
so that he might become David's true descendant,
in all things like us except for sin.

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35

Leader: How does the holy conception
and birth of Christ benefit you?

All: He is our mediator,
and with his innocence and perfect holiness
he removes from God's sight my sin —
mine since I was conceived.

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 36

⬆ **Hymn 230** Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor *Trinity Hymnal*

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall

possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Response and Blessing

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

God of mystery and might,
 we praise and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
 to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
 born of your handmaid Mary.
In his face we behold your glory,
 for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
We praise you for your grace-filled love.
Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ,
 Lord of lords, and King of kings,
 now and forever. Amen.

- ▲ **Hymn 195** Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come *Trinity Hymnal*
- ▲ **Hymn 227** On Christmas Night All Christians Sing *Trinity Hymnal*
- ▲ **The Benediction**

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- Someone will light candles at the beginning of each row.
 - Use your candle to light your neighbor's candle.
 - Remain in your space, holding your lit candle, while we sing the next hymn together.
-

▲ **Hymn 210** Silent Night

[candlelit]

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!

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

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