

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



3 March 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 Mary Jo Canales
Worship	Susan Chaplin Mia Lawrenz Amanda Grimes

Reflection

Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude. But believers are not compared to bears or lions or other animals that wander alone. Those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people.

— Charles Spurgeon

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

— Martin Luther

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.

— A.W. Tozer

We must cherish one another, watch over one another, comfort one another, and gain instruction that we may all sit down in heaven together.

— Lucy Mack Smith

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

Psalm 1

O greatly bless-ed is the man
Who walketh not astray
In counsel of ungodly men,
Nor stands in sinners' way.

Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair,
But placeth his delight
Upon God's law, and meditates,
On His law day and night.

He shall be like a tree that grows
Set by the water side,
Which in its season yield its fruit,
And green its leaves abide;

And all he does shall prosper well.
The wicked are not so,
But are like chaff which by the wind
Is driven to and fro.

In judgment therefore shall not stand
Such as ungodly are,
Nor in th'assembly of the just
Shall wicked men appear.

Because the way of godly men
Is to Jehovah known,
Whereas the way of wicked men
Shall quite be overthrown.

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: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord! *1 Timothy 1:2b*

All: Amen.

Call to Worship Psalm 136:1–3

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**All: Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

⬆ **Psalm 119:57-64** 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.

⬆ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

⬆ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Ephesians 4:1–3

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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

Father in heaven,
 we have broken away from communion with you.
Having lost sight of who you are,
 we have failed to see
 your image in our fellow man.

Forgive us, we beg you,
 for turning a cold shoulder to each other,
 when we should have offered a warm embrace.

Let us again be forgiving,
 as we have been forgiven.

Let the Holy Spirit testify to Christ in our hearts,
 so that in him we might again be free
 to love you, to love each other,
 and to bring glory to his name. Amen.

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalms 103:10–12

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
 nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

▲ 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

Colossians 3:12–17 (p. 984)

▲ 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.

Preaching of the Word

Mr. Brandon Luter

Sermon Text: Philemon (p. 1000)

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Christ

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹²I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything,

charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²²At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Prayer of Intercession

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.**

God Commissions and Blesses Us

The Collection of Alms and Tithes

Hymn Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me
 (congregation stands on last verse)

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer;
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.

All the glory evermore to Him.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me! (Repeat)

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

⤴ The Benediction

Sermon Notes

Philemon

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Christ

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	CPC Sundays
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