

# 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



1 September 2024

*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**

Mia Lawrenz  
Chelsea Schleifer  
Tegan Thacker

# Reflection

Foolish men imagine that because judgment for an evil thing is delayed, there is no justice; but only accident here below. Judgment for an evil thing is many times delayed some day or two, some century or two, but it is sure as life, it is sure as death.

— Thomas Carlyle  
19<sup>th</sup>-c. Scottish essayist, historian

Justice delayed is justice denied.

— William E. Gladstone  
19<sup>th</sup>-c. British Prime Minister

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

## Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover,  
and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved his anger  
he no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day,  
now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance,  
since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token,  
that his word is never broken.

# God Calls Us

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## 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

*Isaiah 42:10–12*

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise from the end of the earth,  
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,  
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

**All: Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,  
the villages that Kedar inhabits;**

Leader: let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,  
let them shout from the top of the mountains.

**All: Let them give glory to the LORD,  
and declare his praise in the coastlands.**

▲ **Hymn 103** Holy God, We Praise Your Name *Trinity Hymnal*

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

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▲ Congregation stands as able

# God Cleanses Us

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## Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 73:2–3, 21–22

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,  
my steps had nearly slipped.  
For I was envious of the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
When my soul was embittered,  
when I was pricked in heart,  
I was brutish and ignorant;  
I was like a beast toward you.

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

Great God, Holy Ruler of the universe,  
perfect in wisdom and justice,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
When we have seen the evil around us,  
we have questioned your wisdom and doubted your justice.  
We have been envious, bitter, brutish, and ignorant,  
failing to recognize your sovereignty,  
assuming that you are ineffectual, blind, and arbitrary.  
Father, we acknowledge that our bitterness toward you  
and toward others stems from our blindness and hypocrisy;  
we have failed to recognize the depth of our own sinfulness  
and the glorious perfection of your covenant mercy.  
We have assumed that we somehow merit your blessings;  
we have condemned others to the punishment  
that we ourselves deserve.

Forgive us, Lord, and teach us to trust your goodness.  
Give us thankful hearts,  
rejoicing in your mercy and patience toward us,  
and compassionate hearts,  
rejoicing in your mercy and patience toward others.  
Through Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

▲ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Psalm 73:23–26

Nevertheless, I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will receive me to glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

▲ **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

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Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

2 Peter 3 (p. 1019)

▲ Hymn 660 O God beyond All Praising

*Trinity Hymnal*



## Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

**Sermon Text:** Ecclesiastes 8:10–17 (p. 557)

*If God is Sovereign, Why is There Injustice?*

<sup>10</sup> Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. <sup>11</sup> Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. <sup>12</sup> Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. <sup>13</sup> But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

<sup>14</sup> There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. <sup>15</sup> And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

<sup>16</sup> When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, <sup>17</sup> then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

## Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn 193**    Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Trinity Hymnal*

## God Communes with Us

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### ▲ **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

How sweet and awesome is the place  
with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays  
the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs  
join to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
“Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear your voice,  
and enter while there’s room,  
when thousands make a wretched choice,  
and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast  
that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste,  
and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,  
constrain the earth to come;  
send your victorious Word abroad,  
and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full,  
that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul,  
sing your redeeming grace.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## ***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**

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#### **The Collection of Alms and Tithes**

**Psalm 96**

*Trinity Psalter*

*(congregation stands on last verse)*

#### **⤴ The Benediction**

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# Sermon Notes

Ecclesiastes 8:10–17

*If God is Sovereign, Why is There Injustice?*

<b>HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS</b>		
<b>Group Leader</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Meeting Day/Time</b>
Leng Ea	817.412.8625	Ea's home Fridays at 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Timothy Skaggs	209.403.6767	CPC Sundays after worship
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.

# 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  
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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,  
Russ Lawrenz, Scott Peterson

**Deacons:** Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Brandon Luter, Rod Miller,  
Dennis O'Banion, Timothy Skaggs