

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



8 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

Sunday School	MJ Canales Paula Ea
Worship	Lauren Alexander MJ Canales Paula Ea

Reflection

To himself everyone is immortal; he may know that he is going to die,
but he can never know that he is dead.

— Samuel Butler

In any man who dies there dies with him
his first snow and kiss and fight...
Not people die but worlds die in them.

— Yevgeny Yevtushenko
Russian dissident poet, “People”

Gaily I lived as ease and nature taught,
And spent my little life without a thought,
And am amazed that Death, that tyrant grim,
Should think of me, who never thought of him.

— René Francois Regnier

On a large enough time line, the survival rate for everyone will drop
to zero.

— Chuck Palahniuk
Fight Club

And they die an equal death —the idler and the man of mighty deeds.

— Homer
Iliad

Life is better than death, I believe, if only because it is less boring, and
because it has fresh peaches in it.

— Alice Walker

Our birth is nothing but our death begun.

— Edward Young
Night Thoughts

The death of someone we know always reminds us that we are still alive
— perhaps for some purpose which we ought to re-examine.

— Mignon McLaughlin
The Neurotic's Notebook (1960)

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That he should give His only Son
To make a wretch his treasure!

How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon his shoulders!
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished!
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should his suffering be my gain?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom!

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

All: Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 104:1, 33

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul!

All: O LORD my God, you are very great!

Leader: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

All: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

♣ Psalm 100

Trinity Psalter
Tune: DUKE STREET

♣ Prayer of Petition and Adoration

♣ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Ephesians 4:17–24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of their heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

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

Our Lord God,
 we are your people,
 the sheep of your pasture;
yet we have sinned,
 and we pause today to confess and repent of our sins.
We have lived as those who do not know you.
 We have walked in the futility of our minds.
We have been callous, jaded, hard-hearted,
 greedy, and impure.
Our understanding has been darkened,
 and we have been alienated from the true life and joy
 that are only in you.

Forgive us, Father,
 for exhibiting the works of the flesh
 and failing to walk by the Spirit;
 for failing to put off our old self, to be renewed,
 to put on your likeness,
 to seek after true righteousness and holiness.

Continues...

God of grace,
we repent of our sins and cast ourselves on your mercy.
Make us see
that life has purpose and fulfillment in Christ alone;
that through your Son you have redeemed us
and given us new life;
that his death on our behalf is truly efficacious;
that you hold us in your loving and gracious hand.
We pray this in the name of Jesus and through his merit. Amen.

▲ **Declaration of Forgiveness**

1 Peter 1:18b–19

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

▲ **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

Romans 8:1–11; 31–39 (p. 944)

▲ **Hymn 645** Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Trinity Hymnal

Sermon Text: Ecclesiastes 9:1–10 (p. 557)

Finding Meaning

in a Seemingly Meaningless World

¹ But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. ² It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. ³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴ But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

⁹ Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn 298** The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

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

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in me thine all in all.”

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone,
Can change the leper’s spots
And melt the heart of stone.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

For nothing good have I
Whereby thy grace to claim;
I’ll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calvary’s Lamb.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,”
My lips shall still repeat.

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

If we have been united with [Christ] in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 And Can It Be That I Should Gain
(*congregation stands on last verse*)

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain—
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
*Amazing love! How can it be,
That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
*'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
Let angel minds inquire no more.*

He left his Father's throne above
So free, so infinite his grace—
Emptied himself (so great his love!)
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
*'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!*

Continues...

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
*My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
*Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

▲ The Benediction

Sermon Notes

Ecclesiastes 9:1–10

Finding Meaning in a Seemingly Meaningless World

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 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.



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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,
Russ Lawrenz, Scott Peterson

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