

Christ Presbyterian Church

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



27 October 2023
Reformation Sunday

*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	Mary Jo Canales Paula Ea
Worship	Lauren Alexander Allie Carpenter Pam Mayo

Reflection

Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is:

- you are more flawed and lost than you ever dared believe, yet
- you can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope at the same time, because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place.

Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9)

The irreligious don't repent at all. The religious only repent of sins. But Christians also repent of their righteousness. Moral and religious people are sorry for their sins, but they see sins as simply the failure to live up to standards by which they are saving themselves. They may go to Jesus for forgiveness — but only as a way to “cover over the gaps” in their project of self-salvation. But a Christian is someone who has adopted a whole new system of approach to God. They realize their entire reason for either irreligion or religion has been essentially the same and essentially wrong! Christians realize that both their sins and their best deeds have all really been ways of avoiding Jesus as Savior.

... the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin...

— Flannery O'Connor

A Christian says: “Though I have often failed to obey the law, the deeper problem is why I was ever trying to obey it! Even my effort to obey it is just a way of seeking to be my own savior. In that mindset, even if I obey or ask for forgiveness, I am really resisting the gospel and setting myself up as Savior.” To “get the gospel” is to turn from self-justification and rely on Jesus' record for a relationship with God. “Lay your deadly doing down, down at Jesus' feet. Stand in Him, in Him alone — gloriously complete.”

The Two “Thieves” of the Gospel: Legalism and Liberalism

Tertullian said, “Just as Christ was crucified between two thieves, so this doctrine of justification is ever crucified between two opposite errors.” These errors continue to “steal” the gospel from us. They are “legalism” and “liberalism.” On the one hand, “legalists” have a truth without grace, for they say or imply that we must obey the truth in order to be saved. On the other hand, “liberals” have a grace without truth, for they say or imply that we are all accepted by God regardless of what we decide is true for us. But those with a truth without grace do not really have the truth, and those with a grace without truth do not really have grace. In Jesus, we behold the glory of the one “full of grace and truth.” De-emphasize or lose one or the other of these truths, you fall somewhat into legalism or somewhat into license and you eliminate the joy and the “release” of the gospel. Without knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the gospel seems trivial and does not electrify or transform. But without knowledge of Christ’s completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin would crush us or move us to deny and repress it. Take away either the knowledge of sin or the knowledge of grace and people’s lives are not changed. They will be crushed by the moral law or run from it screaming and angry.

As Luther put it, the Christian is *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously accepted, yet a sinner). We are more sinful than we ever dared believe, but through Christ we are more accepted than we ever dared hope. When the gospel dawns on the soul, it becomes a transforming power (Romans 1:17). Instead of seeing the law of God as an abstract moral code, Christians see it as a way to know, serve, and resemble their Master. Instead of obeying to make God indebted to them, they obey because they are indebted to him. Instead of being driven by an anxious sense of being unacceptable, they are empowered by grateful joy. The difference between these two ways of morality could not be greater. Their spirits, goals, motivations and results are entirely different.

— drawn from the teaching of Jack Miller

We Prepare to Meet with God

Prelude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll'wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come:
Be thou our God while life shall last, and our eternal home.

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 46:1–3, 6–7

Minister: God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

Minister: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters his voice, the earth melts

**All: The LORD of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

▲ **Hymn 92** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Trinity Hymnal*

▲ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

▲ Congregation stands as able

God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession of Sin

Psalm 119:25, 28

My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to your word!
My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word.

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

Almighty God, we confess that we are sinners.
We have sinned in our attitude toward your Word:
we have failed to hear and obey it;
we have been ashamed of it;
we have twisted it for our own selfish ends;
we have failed to proclaim it faithfully and clearly;
we have tried to replace it and improve it
with our own man-made ideas.

Forgive us, dear God, for our disobedience.
Give us life and strengthen us according to your Word.
Teach us to love and live your gospel of redeeming grace
through Christ Jesus our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalm 119:49, 50

Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.

▲ 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

Isaiah 55 (p. 615)

▲ **Hymn 140** O Word of God Incarnate

Trinity Hymnal

Preaching of the Word

Rev. John Canales

Sermon Text: Romans 1:16–17 (p. 939)

Reformation Today

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

2 Timothy 1:12b–14 (p. 995)

^{12b} But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Prayer of Intercession

▲ **Hymn 505** I’m Not Ashamed to Own My Lord

Trinity Hymnal

God Communes with Us

▲ Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed

p. 846, *Trinity Hymnal*

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

From depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication:
If Thou iniquities dost mark, Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee? (Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! are all in vain; in much the best life faileth:
No man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,
and live alone by mercy. (And live alone by mercy.)
and live alone by mercy. (And live alone by mercy.)

Therefore, my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
On him my soul shall rest, his Word upholds my fainting spirit:
His promised mercy is my fort,
 my comfort, and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience. (I wait for it with patience.)
I wait for it with patience. (I wait for it with patience.)

What though I wait the livelong night,
 and till the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in his might; it doubteth not nor feareth:
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the spirit born indeed;
and wait till God appeareth. (And wait till God appeareth.)
and wait till God appeareth. (And wait till God appeareth.)

Though great our sins and sore our woes,
 his grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free
from all their sin and sorrow. (From all their sin and sorrow.)
from all their sin and sorrow. (From all their sin and sorrow.)

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

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

In Christ Alone

(congregation stands on last verse)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh—
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied—
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay—
Light of the world by darkness slain!
Then, bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine:
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Continues...

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

▲ The Benediction

Sermon Notes

Romans 1:16–17
2 Timothy 1:12b–14
Reformation Today

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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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