

# 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



15 December 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

<b>Sunday School</b>	Paula Ea MJ Canales
<b>Worship</b>	Paula Ea Amanda Grimes Mikaelan Martinez

# Reflection

But once the Son of God, drawn hither not by our merits but by our unworthiness, has put on human nature, then our species (whatever it may have been before) does become in one sense the central fact in all Nature: our species, rising after its long descent, will drag all Nature up with it because in our species the Lord of Nature is now included.

— C. S. Lewis  
*Miracles*

God never undoes anything but evil, never does good to undo it again. The union between God and Nature in the Person of Christ admits no divorce. He will not go out of Nature again and she must be glorified in all ways which this miraculous union demands.

— C. S. Lewis  
*Miracles*

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

## What Child Is This?

What child is this who lays to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

# 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!** *Psalm 124:8*

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

**All: Amen.**

## Call to Worship

based on Philippians 4:4–5

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always.

**All: I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all.

**All: The Lord is near.**

Leader: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.  
Let us worship God!

▲ **Hymn 218** Angels, from the Realms of Glory *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

John 1:5–10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Great God,  
    we acknowledge our sinfulness before you.  
We have walked in darkness;  
    we have lied and not practiced the truth;  
    we have deceived ourselves into believing  
    that we have no sin and no need for a Savior.  
Now, in humble contrition,  
    we bow before you and confess  
    that we are indeed helpless and hopeless without you.

Forgive us for relying on our own works;  
    for ignoring and avoiding the convicting light of your holy word;  
    or failing to reflect the light of your gospel to others;  
    for yielding to the darkness of despair and anger.  
Grant us repentance and cleansing, dear Lord.  
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
    that we may turn from our sins  
    and rejoice in the sufficiency of our Savior.  
Through Christ our Light we pray. Amen.

## ▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

1 Peter 2:9–10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## ▲ *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

Luke 1:57–80 (p. 856)

## ▲ Hymn 196    Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus    *Trinity Hymnal*

<sup>1</sup> Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? <sup>2</sup> Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. <sup>7</sup> And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! <sup>9</sup> He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. <sup>12</sup> And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”



<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” <sup>15</sup> And he said, “Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. <sup>16</sup> And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did you fare, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her, <sup>17</sup> saying, “These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, ‘You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’” <sup>18</sup> She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.”

### **Prayer of Intercession**

▲ **Hymn 226** As with Gladness Men of Old

*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

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
in the dawning of the King;  
He the theme of heaven's praises  
robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness  
now the Light of Life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended,  
took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery:  
He the perfect Son of Man;  
In his living, in his suffering  
never trace nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam  
come to save the hell-bound man;  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
of the law; in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
Christ the Lord upon the tree;  
In the stead of ruined sinners  
hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption,  
see the Father's plan unfold;  
Bringing many sons to glory,  
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery  
slain by death the God of life;  
But no grave could e'er restrain him.  
Praise the Lord! He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance,  
how unwavering our hope;  
Christ in power resurrected,  
as we will be when he comes.  
*What a foretaste of deliverance,  
how unwavering our hope;  
Christ in power resurrected,  
as we will be when he comes.*

Scripture Reading — During the cup

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 1:4–5

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

***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

**Hymn 227** On Christmas Night All Christians Sing *Trinity Hymnal*  
(congregation stands on last verse)

## ⤴ The Benediction

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# Sermon Notes

Ruth 3

*Covered in Grace*

<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 Resumes in January
Adam Grimes	214.226.1251	CPC Resumes in January
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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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