

# 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



22 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>	MJ Canales Paula Ea
<b>Worship</b>	Amanda Grimnes Mia Lawrenz Tegan Thacker

# Reflection

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

— Corrie Ten Boom

Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.

— George Whitefield

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, and our sorrow, and our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor.

— Charles H. Spurgeon

The Only Begotten Word of God has saved us by putting on our likeness. Suffering in the flesh, and rising from the dead, he revealed our nature as greater than death or corruption. What he achieved was beyond the ability of our condition, and what seemed to have been worked out in human weakness and by suffering was really stronger than men and a demonstration of the power that pertains to God.

— Cyril of Alexandria

You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.

— John R. Rice

# We Prepare to Meet with God

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## Prelude

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.  
Christ the babe was born for you.

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

**All: Amen.**

## Call to Worship

*Isaiah 55:1-3*

Leader: “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

**All: Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.**

Leader: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

**All: Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Leader: Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;

**All: and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.”**

Leader: Come, people of God, and let us feast on the free grace  
that our God extends to us through his Son, Jesus Christ!

▲ **Hymn 208** O Come, All Ye Faithful *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

Hebrews 2:18; 4:15–16

Because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted ... For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Our gracious God,  
    Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved,  
    but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love,  
    but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love,  
    but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
In this Advent time,  
    forgive us our failure to respond as we should.  
O Jesus, our dear Savior,  
    come to us anew,  
and by your grace, assist us to receive you  
    with joy, as the shepherds;  
    with gratitude, as Simeon;  
    with obedience, as Mary;  
    with love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## ▲ Declaration of Forgiveness

Isaiah 53:4–6

Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned — every one — to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

## ▲ *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

Luke 2:1–40 (p. 857)

▲ **Hymn 200** It Came upon the Midnight Clear *Trinity Hymnal*



<sup>1</sup> Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down. <sup>2</sup> And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.” <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” <sup>6</sup> Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

<sup>7</sup> Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. <sup>8</sup> So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. <sup>9</sup> Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” <sup>11</sup> Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, <sup>12</sup> and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

## Prayer of Intercession

Reception of New Member  
Howard Hilliard

▲ **Hymn 230**    Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

*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

All my heart this night rejoices  
as I hear far and near sweetest angel voices.  
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing  
till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,  
soft and sweet, doth entreat: “Flee from woe and danger.  
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you,  
you are freed, all you need I will surely give you.”

Come, then, banish all your sadness,  
one and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness.  
Love him who with love is glowing;  
hail the star, near and far, light and joy bestowing.

Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.  
Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish,  
but with thee abide forever  
there on high, in that joy, which can vanish never.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### ***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

Christ the True and Better  
(congregation stands on last verse)

Christ, the true and better Adam; Son of God and Son of man.  
Who, when tempted in the garden, never yielded, never sinned.  
He, who makes the many righteous, brings us back to life again.  
Dying, He reversed the curse;  
then rising, crushed the serpent's head.

Christ, the true and better Isaac; Humble Son of sacrifice,  
Who would climb the fearful mountain, there to offer up his life.  
Laid with faith upon the altar, Father's joy and only son;  
There salvation was provided, oh what full and boundless love.

*Amen, amen, from beginning to end.  
Christ the story, His the glory, Alleluia, Amen!*

Christ, the true and better Moses, called to lead a people home;  
Standing bold to earthly powers, God's great glory to be known.  
With his arms stretched wide to heaven, see the waters part in two;  
See the veil is torn forever,  
cleansed with blood we now pass through.

*Amen, amen, from beginning to end.  
Christ the story, His the glory, Alleluia, Amen!*

Christ, the true and better David; lowly shepherd, mighty king.  
He the champion in the battle; where, O death, is now thy sting?  
In our place He bled and conquered; crown Him Lord of majesty.  
His shall be the throne forever; we shall e'er his people be.

## ▲ The Benediction

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# Sermon Notes

Ruth 4:1–12

*The Cost of Christmas*

## HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

<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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[www.ChristPresbyterian.org](http://www.ChristPresbyterian.org) • [email@ChristPresbyterian.org](mailto: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