

The Celtic Cross is an ancient Christian symbol. The cross proper recalls the death of Christ for the sins of his people, while the circle is a historic symbol of God's eternal nature. Jesus' name is at the center, depicted by the Greek letters "ΙηςϞ" and is surrounded by the vine and branches, representing our relationship to Him. At the bottom, CHRISTUS VICTOR, "Christ is Victorious," testifies to his triumph over sin and death on the cross. This Celtic cross is used by permission of Saint Paul's Presbyterian Church in Orlando, Florida. Each of the five panels represents a significant event in Christ's life.

Exalting Christ through Worship, Renewal, Community, and Partnership



HIS REIGN

The wounded lamb as Christ reclining on the book of seven seals is a historic symbol of the reigning Christ. The three-rayed nimbus is an ancient symbol of deity. (Revelation 5:9-12)

HIS RESURRECTION

Lilies traditionally represent the resurrection; the trumpet heralds Christ's certain and triumphal return. (1 Corinthians 15:54; Matthew 24:31; Luke 12:27)



HIS ATONEMENT

The crown of thorns and nails testify to Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. (Hebrews 2:17; John 19:2; 20:27)

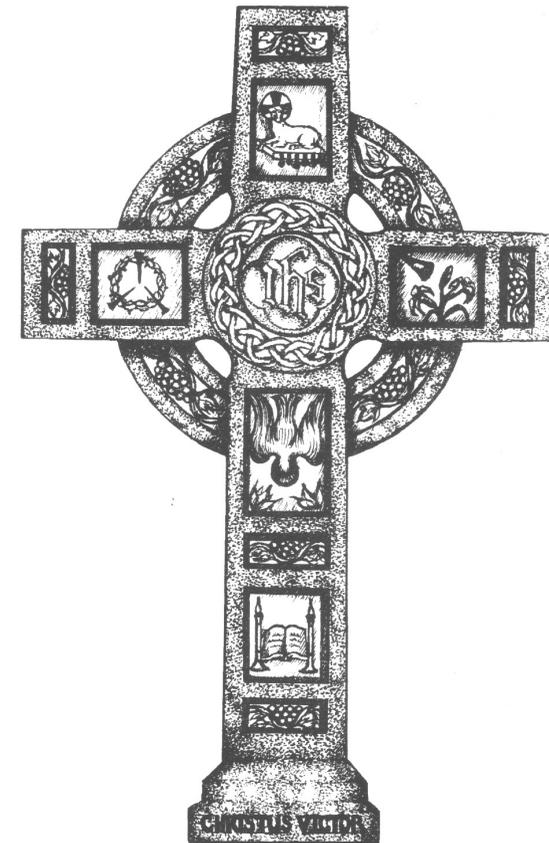
HIS BAPTISM

The dove and tongues of fire symbolically portray the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:10; Acts 2:3)



HIS INCARNATION

The open Bible is the Word of God. The double lighted candlesticks represent the dual nature of Christ—his deity and his humanity. (John 1:1-14)



CHRIST CHURCH VENTURA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for home; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come; this church offers a genuine welcome in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS OUR MESSAGE?

The great good news is that God has taken it upon Himself to do something for us that we are powerless to do for ourselves. The Gospel is simply this: sinners are forgiven and accepted by God because of the work of Jesus Christ. Trust in Christ's finished work is not just the beginning of the Christian life, but the means and end as well. The Gospel is what must be applied more and more deeply in order to live as a Christian. The power of the Gospel is not merely about forgiveness and improvement, but renewal and wholeness.

A GOSPEL-SHAPED MINISTRY

- **The Gospel changes people** — Through the continual application of the Gospel we become more like Christ.
- **The Gospel produces joy** — Grace frees us from both condemnation and self-righteousness to enjoy God fully.
- **The Gospel defines community** — In union with Christ, we become God's sons and daughters—His new people.
- **The Gospel points outward** — Grace disengages approval seeking, engenders authenticity, and curbs pride.
- **The Gospel informs attitudes** — As Christians, we desire the peace and wellbeing of our communities and cities.
- **The Gospel removes barriers** — Reconciliation humbles us so that we may become agents to reconcile others.
- **The Gospel renews culture** — All of life matters to God and we are to pursue all vocations with excellence.
- **The Gospel builds momentum** — Church planting is the result of and the means to fulfilling the great commission.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

We embrace the **historic Christian faith** — believing the timeless truths held in common by the church in all ages and places. We wholeheartedly affirm the classic doctrines defined by the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.

- **The Trinity** — There is only one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **The Incarnation** — The person Jesus Christ is the only Son of God who is both fully God and fully human.
- **The Atonement** — Jesus died on a cross and was raised from the dead in order to redeem us from our sins.

We also embrace the **Reformed Christian faith** — believing the biblical teachings that were restated during the Protestant Reformation. This great renewal of the church in the 16th century has given us a common heritage in the classic "solas".

- **Scripture Alone** — The Bible is the one source of divine revelation and the only completely reliable guide for faith and life.
- **Christ Alone** — Salvation is accomplished by the substitutionary atonement of the historical and sinless Christ alone.
- **Grace Alone** — We are rescued from God's anger, freed from sin's bondage and lifted to new life by His grace alone.
- **Faith Alone** — Christ's righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's justice by faith alone.
- **God Alone** — The sole purpose of our creation and redemption is to enjoy God's presence and live for His glory.

**CHRIST CHURCH VENTURA IS A CONGREGATION
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Alive by God's grace, we aim to know, love, and follow Jesus through historic worship, gospel renewal, genuine community, and global partnership to the end that God's people are gathered and Christ's Kingdom is extended throughout Ventura County and beyond.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Teaching Elder Roy R. Bennett (ojairoyb@gmail.com)
Ruling Elder David Sveiven (dsevend@yahoo.com)
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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WORSHIP LOCATION

Christ Church Ventura has resumed public worship services outside on the back lawn on Sundays at 1:30pm (196 North Ashwood Ave) Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, blankets, play pens, snacks, etc. Christ Church Ventura continues to stream services live on YouTube.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S ED (ages 2-18) — Classes dismissed indefinitely
MEN'S STUDY GROUP — Summer Break, (Contact Brad Durant)
WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP — Summer Break, (Contact Rebecca Durant)
WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP — Meets online (Contact Karen Rivas)

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Order for the Celebration & Worship of God

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 26, 2021, 1:30 pm

* Congregation standing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Down to the River to Pray"
Alison Krauss © 2002

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 31:9-11 (ESV)

INVITATORY

Minister: In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

**People: *Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!
Be a strong fortress to save me!***

Minister: For you are my rock of strength. and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

**People: *You take me out of the net hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.***

Minister: Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** (*Lyrics on page 2*)

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
Fernando Ortega © 2005

* **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Unison: *O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord
the almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise him
For he is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to his temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under his wings yes so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been
Granted in what he ordaineth

Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the almighty can do
If with his love he befriend thee

Praise to the Lord
Oh, let all that is in me adore him
All that hath life and breath come
now with praises before him
Let the amen sound from his people again
Gladly for aye we adore him

* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Unison: *Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And O Lord, grant us this other benefit: that you will never allow us to forget these things, but having them imprinted on our hearts, we may grow and increase daily in the faith which is at work in every good deed. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

* BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)

Minister: "The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up the light of his countenance
and give you peace."

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus!
People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"In the Palm of Your Hand"
Alison Krause and the Cox Family ©1994

COME YE SOULS BY SIN AFFLICTED

Come ye souls by sin afflicted
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down
By the broken law convicted
Through the cross behold the crown
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus
Mercy flows through him alone

Take his easy yoke and wear it
Love will make your obedience sweet
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While his grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory
Where his ransomed captives meet

Blessed are the eyes that see him
Blest the ears that hear his voice
Blessed are the souls that trust him
And in him, alone rejoice his commandments
His commandments, his commandments
Then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Light to newly opened eyes
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus, look to Jesus
Mercy flows through him alone

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Confession XV.1-6

Minister: What do we believe concerning repentance unto life?
Unison: Repentance which leads to life is the blessed product of the gospel working in believers' lives. Along with the doctrine of faith in Christ it is a doctrine to be preached by every minister of the gospel.

In this repentance the sinner is able to see his sins as God sees them, as filthy and hateful, and as involving great danger to the sinner, because they are completely contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God. Understanding that God in Christ is merciful to those who repent, the sinner suffers deep sorrow for and hates his sins, and so he determines to turn away from all of them. And turning to God, he tries to walk with him according to all his commandments.

Although repentance is not any satisfaction for sin and does not cause the forgiveness of sins (since forgiveness is an act of God's voluntary grace in Christ), yet it is necessary to all sinners, and no one may be expected to be forgiven without it. Just as there is no sin so small that it does not deserve damnation, so there is no sin so great that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent. Believers should not be satisfied with general repentance. Rather it is everyone's duty to try to repent of every individual sin individually.

Everyone is also bound to confess privately his sins to God and to pray for forgiveness for them. Confession, prayer for forgiveness, and the forsaking of sins which have been forgiven will find God's mercy. Similarly, anyone who sins against his spiritual brother or the church should be willing to confess, privately or publicly, to demonstrate sorrow for sin and openly state his repentance to those whom he has hurt. They in turn are to be reconciled to him and to receive him in love.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Samuel 16:5-14 (ESV)

16:⁵ When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. ⁶ And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. ⁷ And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man!" ⁸ The Lord has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood." ⁹ Then Abishai the son of Zeruah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." ¹⁰ But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' " ¹¹ And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. ¹² It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today." ¹³ So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. ¹⁴ And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(The congregation is encouraged to participate both verbally and in silence.)

Unison: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Grant us your grace and blessing, as we are assembled to offer up our common supplications; for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

COME TO THE TABLE

Come to the table and savor the sight
The wine and the bread that was broken
And all have been welcomed to come if they might
Accept as their own these two tokens
The bread is his body, the wine is the blood
And the one who provides them is true
He freely offers, we freely receive
To accept and believe him is all we must do

Come to the table and taste of the glory
And savor the sorrow, he's dying tomorrow
The hand that is breaking the bread soon will be broken
And here at the table, sit those who have loved you
One is a traitor and one will deny
But he's lived his life for them all and for all be crucified
Come to the table he's prepared for you
The bread of forgiveness, the wine of release

Come to the table and sit down beside him
The savior wants you to join in the feast
Come to the table and see in his eyes
The love that the Father has spoken
And know you are welcome, whatever your crime
For every commandment you've broken
For he's come to love you and not to condemn
And he offers a pardon of peace
If you'll come to the table, you'll feel in your heart
The greatest forgiveness, the greatest release

Come to the table and sit down beside him
The savior wants you to join in the feast
Come to the table he's prepared for you
The bread of forgiveness, the wine of release
Come to the table and sit down beside him
The Savior wants you to join in the feast

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

Minister: "Jesus is God's Lamb, who takes away the world's sin!"

People: *Have mercy on us, O Lord and grant us your peace.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Minister: Christ our Passover, sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore, let us keep the feast!*

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to the Lord!*

* Regarding participation the Lord's Supper

- *Those who have publicly professed faith in Jesus Christ, have been baptized, and are committed to a Gospel proclaiming church, are welcome to celebrate in the Lord's Supper with us. If these particular facts do not describe you, we respectfully ask you to refrain from participating in the sacrament.*
- *Please come forward to receive the sacrament at the table. You are encouraged to repent, rest, and rejoice in the finished work of Christ as the Lord's Supper is observed. The consecrated bread and wine are served in separate cups. After you have partaken, please dispose of empty cups in the white collection containers at the table.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

(Lyrics on page 13)

"Come to the Table"
Michael Card © 1994

(Lyrics on Page 14)

"Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted"
Sandra McCracken ©2016

Minister: O Creator God, we humbly ask that you would be pleased to make your ways known to people of every description and bring your saving grace to all nations. We especially pray for your Church that it may be guided and governed by your good and Holy Spirit.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: O Everlasting Lord, we pray for all who profess faith in Christ that they may be led continually in the way of truth, and hold the apostolic faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: O Heavenly Father, we commend to your goodness and care all those who are in any affliction or distress, in mind, body, or circumstance. We ask that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their need, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy result out of all their troubles.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: O Gracious God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace. Grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be nurtured by the goodness of your creation.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: O Sovereign King, as we anticipate your promised return to restore all things and to reign over the new heavens and earth, fill us with awe and joy to worship you and stir our souls with compassion for those who are lost and enslaved by sin.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)

***Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be thy 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.***

* HYMN OF TRUST *(Lyrics on page 7)*

"Before the Throne of God Above"
Go Fish © 2010

PSALTER LESSON

Psalms 4:1-8 (ESV)

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*
- 3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
the Lord hears when I call to him.
- 4 Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- 5 Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"
- 7 You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Minister: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:26 (ESV)

Minister: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

**People: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
We bless you from the house of the Lord."**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

Minister: "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Minister: Therefore, we proclaim the faith!

Unison: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Unison: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy; grant us therefore, gracious Lord, that we may so partake of this bread and wine that our sinful bodies may be made clean by Christ's body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Unison: *Gracious God, our sins are more abundant than we care to admit and the resulting fear, doubt, and grief cling to us like a shadow. Receive our prayers with love and mercy. Look to the cross of your beloved Son and remember his atoning blood. Listen to his intercession and cleanse us from all iniquity. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his faithfulness for our rebellion, his obedience for our lawlessness, his glory for our shame, his humility for our pride, his holiness for our uncleanness, his love for our hatred, his fullness for our emptiness, his death for my life. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 16:1-10 (ESV)

Minister: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: *And also with you!*

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord!

People: *It is good and right so to do.*

Minister: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should always give you thanks, O Lord; therefore, with the angels, we exalt and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you.

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great high priest, whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God, the just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me
To look on him and pardon me

Behold him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace
One in himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ, my Savior and my God

One in himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ, my Savior and my God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Reverend Roy R. Bennett
"Resting When Falsely Accused"

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Be Still My Soul"
Phil Keaggy © 2002

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SERMON NOTES