

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 “Ιης” 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.



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

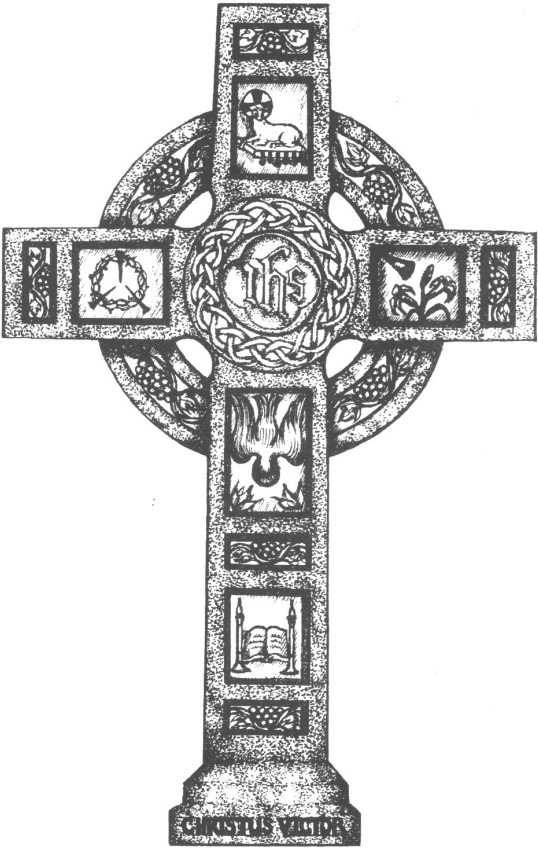
The dove and tongues of fire symbolically portray the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:10; Acts 2:3)



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)

***Exalting Christ through Worship,
Renewal, Community, and Partnership***



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.

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)
Ruling Elder David Blank (cosmos.psa19@rocketmail.com)
Deacon Ernie Rivas (abodigital@mac.com)

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 Avenue).
Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, blankets, and play pens.
Christ Church Ventura will continue to stream services live on YouTube.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY (Available for parents with young children)

MEN'S STUDY GROUP — The Book of Job, (Contact David Blank)

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP — Westminster Shorter Catechism (Online)
(Contact Rebecca Durant)

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP — Meets online (Contact Karen Rivas)

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Order for the Celebration and Worship of God

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: November 7, 2021 1:30pm

* Congregation standing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (*Lyrics on page 2*)

"Too Much I Love"
Chris Rice © 2019

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:1-3 (ESV)

Minister: "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

INVITATORY

Minister: Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,

People: A leader and commander for the peoples.

Minister: Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,

People: A nation that did not know you shall run to you,

Minister: Seek the Lord while he may be found;

People: Call upon him while he is near;

Minister: Let the wicked forsake his way,

People: And return to the Lord, that he may receive mercy.

Minister: For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

TOO MUCH I LOVE

Too much I love this world you made, her colors sting like death

Her shapes and movements drown my heart, her beauties halt my breath

Her vistas, music, flavors and smells, my frailties overrun

I often swoon when shines her moon, nor dare outstare her sun

I live on brinks of sweet-sickness, so much a boy should bear

If rumored heaven betters this, I beg for new eyes there

New ears to listen, more supple tongue to mimic holy tunes

And simpler nose to fill my lung with long-forgot perfumes

But if you choose to change me not, please offer mercy's cover

Lest I should die where death is not and spoil new eden's lovers

Too much I love this world you made, she echoes better places

And homesicks me 'til we shall see direct with unveiled faces

* 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

"May the Mind of Christ My Savior"
Ordinary Time © 2008

SWEET COMFORT

Whatever my God ordains is right
His holy will abides
I will be still whatever he does
And follow where he guides

Chorus: Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, sorrow shall depart

Whatever my God ordains is right
He makes my feet to stand
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine
He holds me in his hand

Chorus: Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, sorrow shall depart

This bitter cup, I take it
My fainting heart restored
So here I stand, unshaken
I trust upon the Lord

Chorus: Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, sorrow shall depart

He is my God though dark my road
He holds me, I shall not fall
Whatever my God ordains is right
To him I leave it all

Chorus: Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort, sorrow shall depart

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Matthew Smith @ 2006

Come thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by thy help I come
And I hope by thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

*** PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Unison: O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure so that when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Westminster Confession XIX:1-4

Unison: God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience, promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

This law, after his fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness; and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables: the first four commandments containing our duty towards God; and the other six, our duty to man.

Beside this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly, holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated, under the new testament.

To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people; not obliging any other now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

FOR THE BREAD

For the bread which you have broken

For the wine which you have poured

For the words which you have spoken

Now we give you thanks, O Lord

By this pledge that you do love us

By your gift of peace restored

By your call to heaven before us

Sanctify our lives, O Lord

With our sainted ones in glory

Seated at our Father's board

May the church that waits now for thee

Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord

In your service Lord defend us

In our hearts keep watch and ward

In the world where'r you send us

May your kingdom come, O Lord

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!*

COMMUNION MUSIC

(Music on page 13)

"For the Bread"

Andrew Osenga © 2012

(Music on page 14)

"Sweet Comfort"

Sandra McCracken © 2021

* 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.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 3:8-18 (ESV)

3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; **11** let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

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: *O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. You have given us grace at this time to make our common supplication to you and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name you will be in their midst. Fulfill now, O Lord, our petitions as may be best for us and pleasing to you, for we ask in the name of Jesus.*

Minister: We pray for the Church of Jesus Christ, that it may be filled with grace and truth, be moved by faith, hope, and love, and be found faultless at the day of your coming.

People: *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: We pray for freedom from pride and unbelief, from false doctrine and division, from excessive and sinful affections, and from hatred and the crafts and assaults of the devil.

People: *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: We pray for all who suffer tribulation that you would extend your fatherly affection and provide refreshment for their souls and healing for their bodies.

People: *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: We pray for those who do not yet believe that you may dispel the darkness, enlighten their minds and renew their heart so as to receive the gospel in faith.

People: *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: We pray for the Holy Spirit to so stir our hearts that we may readily and cheerfully give ourselves for the service and enrichment of one another and this community.

People: *Lord, hear our prayers.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)

*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 also have forgiven 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 FAITH *(Lyrics on page 7)*

"Amazing Grace"
Christ Rice © 2019

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.

THE SANCTUS Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:26

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

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.*

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

*** PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

SERMON

Reverend Roy R. Bennett

"A Petition for Cosmic Justice"

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Nothing But the Blood"

Fernando Ortega © 2005

*** DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Unison: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2:22-25 (ESV)

Minister: "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now am found

Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come

Tis grace that brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years

Bright shining as the sun

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we first begun

*** PSALTER LESSON**

Psalm 7:1-17 (ESV)

- 1 O Lord my God, in you do I take refuge;
save me from all my pursuers and deliver me,
- 2 lest like a lion they tear my soul apart,
rending it in pieces, with none to deliver.
- 3 O Lord my God, if I have done this, if there is wrong in my hands,
- 4 if I have repaid my friend with evil
or plundered my enemy without cause,
- 5 let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it, and let him
trample my life to the ground and lay my glory in the dust.
- 6 Arise, O Lord, in your anger;
lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies;
awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.
- 7 Let the assembly of the peoples be gathered about you; over it
return on high.
- 8 The Lord judges the peoples;
judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness
and according to the integrity that is in me.
- 9 Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end,
and may you establish the righteous—
you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!
- 10 My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.
- 11 God is a righteous judge,
and a God who feels indignation every day.
- 12 If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword;
he has bent and readied his bow;
- 13 he has prepared for him his deadly weapons,
making his arrows fiery shafts.
- 14 Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and
is pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies.
- 15 He makes a pit, digging it out,
and falls into the hole that he has made.
- 16 His mischief returns upon his own head,
and on his own skull his violence descends.
- 17 I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I
will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.

SERMON NOTES

A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning
the words of Cush, a Benjaminite.