

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

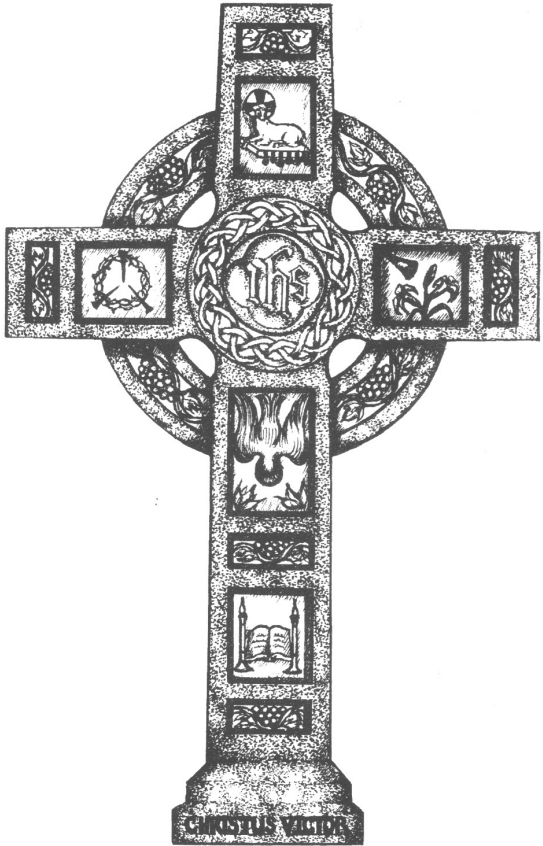
The dove and tongues of fire symbolically portray the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:10; Acts 2:3)



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.

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)
Ruling Elder David Blank (cosmos.psa19@rocketmail.com)
Ruling Elder Brad Durant (braddurant@verizon.net)
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.christchurchventura.org

WORSHIP LOCATION

Christ Church Ventura conducts services for public worship
On Sundays at 1:30pm at 196 North Ashwood Avenue
Christ Church Ventura also streams 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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: August 29, 2021, 1:30 pm

* Congregation standing

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"
Waldham Grove Orchestra © 2016

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-6 (ESV)

INVITATORY

Minister: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

People: *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

Minister: Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth! Say to the nations,
"The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall
never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

People: *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.*

Minister: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the
peoples in his faithfulness.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** (Music on pages 2)

"All Creature of Our God and King"
Fernando Ortega © 2003

ALL CREATURE OF OUR GOD AND KING

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise him, O praise him
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along
O praise him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening, find a voice
O praise him, O praise him
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart
Forgiving others, take your part
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear
Praise God and on him cast your care
O praise him, O praise him
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Unison: *Almighty God, you have redeemed us to yourself with the precious blood of your dear Son; grant that his love may constrain us to live no longer for ourselves but for him who died for us and rose again. Teach us to rest in your fatherly care, and look to you in faith, that your Spirit may guide and rule our hearts. Strengthen us in every duty; defend us in every danger; enable us to overcome every temptation; make us brave and patient under every trial. Keep us evermore in the peace and joy of a holy life, that we may love and serve you always; and grant that, having confessed you upon the earth, we may come at last to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

* BENEDICTION

Revelation 2:26-29 (ESV)

Minister: "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

POSTLUDE

"Highland"
Phil Keaggy © 1997

JESUS, LEAD US, WITH THY POWER

Chorus: Jesus, O lead us, with thy power
Safe into the promised rest
Hide our souls within thy bosom
Let us slumber on thy breast

Feed us with the heavenly manna, bread that angels eat above
Let us drink from the holy fountain, draughts of everlasting love

Chorus:

Through the desert wild conduct us with a glorious pillar bright
In the day a cooling comfort and a cheering fire by night

Be our guide in every peril watch us hourly, night and day
Otherwise we'll err and wander from the Spirit far away

Chorus:

In thy presence we find comfort. In thy presence we're secure
In thy presence all afflictions we will patiently endure

In thy presence we can conquer. We can suffer, we can die
Far from thee, we faint and languish. Lord, our Savior, keep us nigh

Chorus:

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

Unison: Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness and bring forth in us the fruit of good works through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Westminster Confession XI.1-3
Unison: All whom God effectually calls, he freely justifies. He does not justify by pouring righteousness into us, but by forgiving our sins. He considers and accepts us as righteous not because of what was accomplished in us or by us, but for Jesus Christ's sake alone. Righteousness is not a part of God's gift of faith, nor the result of our act of believing, nor the result of any obedience on our part to the good news of Christ. Rather, righteousness comes by God crediting and acknowledging the obedience and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ for us. Through faith we receive Christ and rest in his righteousness. We do not generate our faith, rather it is received as a gift from God. Faith, which receives and rests on Christ righteousness, is the only means of justification. Such faith does not exist by itself, but always is accompanied with all the consequences of God's saving and loving kindness. Such faith is not dead, but works through love. Jesus Christ, by means of his obedience and sacrificial death, fully paid the debt of sin for all those who are justified by faith. He made a proper, real, and full satisfaction to the Father's justice on our behalf. For us Jesus was given over to death by the Father for the satisfaction of justice. His obedience and satisfactory sacrifice were accepted on our behalf. Both were freely imputed to us, for there was nothing calling for such mercy. Our justification comes only from God's grace freely given and undeservedly received loving kindness. With the justification of sinners, the precise justice and rich loving kindness of God are joyfully acknowledged.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 4:5-31 (ESV)

4:5 The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, **6** with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. **7** And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, **9** if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, **10** let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. **11** This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. **14** But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. **15** But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, **16** saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. **17** But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." **18** So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, **20** for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." **21** And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. **22** For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

TABLE OF GRACE

Hear the good news, you've been invited

No matter what others may say

Your darkest sins will be forgiven

You will always have a place

Chorus: At the table of grace the cup's never empty

The plate's always full and it's never too late

To come and be filled with love never ending

You're always welcome at the table of grace

So come you weak, and heavy hearted (heavy hearted)

Don't try to hide your earthly scars

In his eyes, we all are equal (yes, we are)

Don't be afraid, come as you are

Chorus:

So let the first become the last

Let the poor put kings to shame

Their willing hearts will be their treasure

By the power of Jesus' name

Chorus 2X

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)

"Table of Grace"
Phillips, Craig & Dean © 1999

(Lyrics on Page 14)

"Jesus, Lead Us By Thy Power"
Indelible Grace © 2012

²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'—²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

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, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until we find our rest in you. Command whatever pleases you, but give us what you desire that we may run in the way of your statutes and delight in the glory of your name. Hear now the prayers of your people and may the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Minister: We pray for those who make, administer, and change our laws, for all those in authority among us. Grant them grace, humility, courage, and wisdom that they promote justice, goodwill, and righteousness.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: We pray for those who suffer and sorrow that you would look with compassion on their troubles and comfort them by your presence and love. We pray especially for the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the unemployed, and the troubled.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: We pray for the ministry of reconciliation throughout the world that you may restore relations destroyed by greed, pride, or anger, and bring peace where there is jealousy, fear, envy, or resentment. Speed the day when wars will end.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: We pray for all who have gathered to worship you this day that you would prepare our ears to hear your promises, our hearts to rest in the work of Christ, our eyes to see the needs of others, and our hands and feet to bear the gospel always.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Minister: We pray for the church of Jesus Christ that you may keep us one in faith, hope, and love, and that our lives, relations and community may adorn and advance the gospel throughout Ventura County and beyond.

People: *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

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 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.*

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: *Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of all men: we acknowledge our brokenness and confess the sins that find expression in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Our distrust and idolatry grieves us and rightly provokes your divine displeasure. We humbly repent and are truly sorry for willful transgressions of your ways. O gracious Father, have mercy on us for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Forgive us all that is past and renew our faith that we may serve you with gladness and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

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.

* HYMN OF HOPE *(Lyrics on pages 8)* "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Indelible Grace © 2012

PSALTER LESSON

Psalms 2:1-12 (ESV)

- 1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- 7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Minister: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Reverend Roy R. Bennett

"The Son-King and His Enemies"

HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED

Chorus: Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater son
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free
To take away transgression, and rule in equity

Chorus

He comes in succor speedy to those who suffer wrong
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong

Chorus

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
Whose souls condemned and dying, are precious in his sight

Chorus

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth

Chorus

The tide of time shall never his covenant remove
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is love

Chorus

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Nothing But the Blood”
Fernando Ortega © 2005

*** 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