

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.

## ***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)

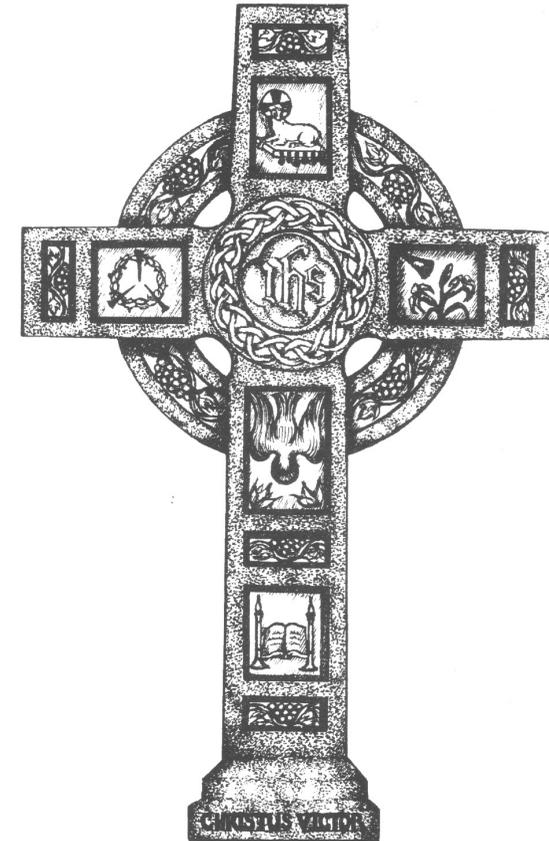
### **HIS BAPTISM**

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

PO Box 25 Ojai, CA 93024 (805) 452-3354  
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**

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: September 5, 2021, 1:30 pm*

\* Congregation standing

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

"This Is Not a Place of Resting"  
Jeremy Casella © 2015

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

**INVITATORY**

Minister: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

**People:** *So shall my word be that goes from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

Minister: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**People:** *Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the Lord,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."*

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** (Lyrics on page 2) "Come Thou Almighty King"  
Steve Ivey © 2003

## COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Come, thou almighty king  
help us thy name to sing  
Help us to praise, Father, all glorious  
O'er all victorious  
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days  
  
Come, thou incarnate word  
gird on thy mighty sword  
Our prayer attend, come they people bless  
And give thy word success  
Spirit of holiness on us descend  
  
To the great one in three  
The highest praises be hence evermore  
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see  
and to eternity and adore

## \* 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

"Fix Me, Jesus"  
Jubilant Sykes © 1998

## HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold, he must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last  
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast  
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast

He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast  
For my savior loves me so, he will hold me fast

## \* PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Unison:** *Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts. For as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Confession XII

Minister: How does God adopt us into his family?

**Unison:** *God guarantees to make all who are justified in and by his only Son, Jesus Christ, participants in his gracious adoption. By adoption we are counted among his children enjoying all the freedoms and privileges. God gives to us his name. We receive the Holy Spirit who authenticates our adoption. We may come before God's presence boldly, while he reigns from his throne of grace. Here we may address him in the most intimate manner. Our Father will show mercy, protect us, provide for our needs, correct us and never abandon us. Our adoption is sealed to the day of redemption when we inherit the promises as heirs of eternal salvation. Thanks be to God!*

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Samuel 15:1-17 (ESV)

**15:1** After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. **2** And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," **3** Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." **4** Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice."

<sup>5</sup> And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. <sup>6</sup> Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. <sup>8</sup> For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the Lord.' " <sup>9</sup> The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. <sup>10</sup> But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!' " <sup>11</sup> With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. <sup>12</sup> And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

<sup>13</sup> And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." <sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." <sup>15</sup> And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides." <sup>16</sup> So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. <sup>17</sup> And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## LAY YOUR BURDEN DOWN

Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your troubled soul, your tired mind  
And lay your burden down  
Lay your burden down, get your feet on solid ground  
Take your worries to the foot of the cross  
And lay your burden down

Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your weary life, your heavy load  
And lay your burden down  
Lay your burden down, get your feet on solid ground  
Take your failures to the foot of the cross  
And lay your burden down

You've been trying hard to make it all alone  
Trying hard to make it on your own  
And the strength you once were feeling isn't there no more  
And you think the wrong you've done is just too much  
to be forgiven, but you know that isn't true  
Just lay your burden down, he has forgiven you

Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your burden to the cross and lay it down  
Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your worries to the cross and lay them down

Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your burden to the cross and lay it down  
Lay your burden down, lay your burden down  
Take your worries to the cross and lay them down

## 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)*

"Lay Your Burden Down"  
Chuck Girard © 1978

*(Lyrics on Page 14)*

"He Will Hold Me Fast"  
Keith and Kristen Getty © 2016

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

**Unison:** *Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it that we may become instruments of your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Minister: Inspire us to share freely with others what we have received.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Strengthen those caught in storms of grief, conflict and loss.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Help us make good judgments that are pleasing to you.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Teach us to heed your warnings and turn to you for life.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Lead us to help and support those who suffer for your sake.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Cause us to live with diligence and dependence upon you.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Give us confidence in your power to forgive and set us free.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Move us to break through to others with an act of grace.

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayers.*

Minister: Bring healing to those whom we name in your presence.

**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 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*)

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"  
Fernando Ortega ©2005

**PSALTER LESSON**

Psalm 3:1-8 (ESV)

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

- 1 O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;
- 2 many are saying of my soul,  
"There is no salvation for him in God." *Selah*
- 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,  
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
- 4 I cried aloud to the Lord,  
and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah*
- 5 I lay down and slept;  
I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.
- 6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of people  
who have set themselves against me all around.
- 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!  
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;  
you break the teeth of the wicked.
- 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord;  
your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

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:** *O Father, if your mercy had limits, we would have no refuge from your wrath, but in Christ your love is without measure. Therefore, we confess our transgressions and failures. We renew our repentance and plead the finished work of Jesus, which needs not our own deeds. Have pity on us and cause us to be more resolute, attentive and prayerful. Keep us from evil, hardness, vanity and folly. Let us not cause others to stumble, but reflect the loveliness of Christ. Amen.*

## \* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 130:3-7 (ESV)

Minister: "If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. I wait for the Lord and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than the watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem his people from their sins."

## 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.

## JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

Jesus, lover of my soul  
Let me to thy bosom fly  
While the nearer waters roll  
While the tempest still is high  
Hide me, oh my Savior, hide  
Safe into the haven guide  
Oh receive my soul at last

Other refuge have I none  
Hangs my helpless soul on thee  
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone  
Still support and comfort me  
All my trust on thee is stayed  
All my help from thee I bring  
Cover my defenseless head  
With the shadow of thy wing

Thou, oh Christ art all I want  
More than all in thee I find  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint  
Heal the sick and lead the blind  
Just and holy is thy name  
I am all unrighteousness  
False and full of sin I am  
Thou art full of truth and grace

Plenteous grace with thee is found  
Grace to cover all my sin  
Let the healing streams abound  
Make and keep me pure within  
Thou of life the fountain art  
Freely let me take of thee  
Spring thou up within my heart  
Rise to all eternity

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON**

Reverend Roy R. Bennett  
"A Confident Cry for Deliverance"

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY** (*Lyrics on page 9*) "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"  
Indelible Grace © 2008

**\* DOXOLOGY/DEDICATION**

**DEAR REFUGE OF MY WEARY SOUL**

Dear refuge of my weary soul  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief  
For every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face  
And shall I seek in vain  
And can the ear of sovereign grace  
Be deaf when I complain  
No still the ear of sovereign grace  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access  
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet  
Thy mercy seat is open still  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will  
And wait beneath Thy feet