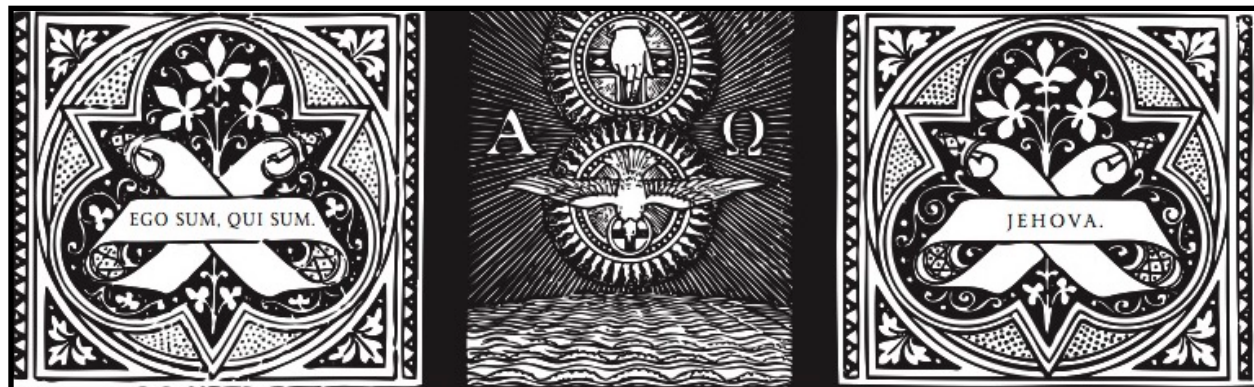


# Christ Congregational Church

*Upholding the evangelical and congregational tradition of the Reformed Faith since A.D. 2010*



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FIRST SUNDAY IN DOMINIONTIDE | AUGUST 30, A.D. 2026

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## Call to Worship

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

## Organ Prelude

*Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said* — arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

*Minister.* This is the day the LORD has made;

*Answer.* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✝ The congregation shall stand for the processional hymn.

## Processional Hymn 29

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

✝ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn.

## Opening Prayer

The Reverend Randall K. Green

✝ Then shall the Lector read the first lesson.

Hear the first lesson, written in Matthew 16, vv. 21-26 (Pew Bible, p. 822).

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.  
22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall

never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

*Lector.* The Gospel of the Lord.

*Answer.* **Praise be to Christ.**

✠ The congregation shall stand for the singing of the *Gloria Patri*, and the hymn following.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.**

### **Hymn 484**

*“Take Up Thy Cross,” the Savior Said*

✠ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn; then the Lector will read the second lesson.

Hear the second lesson, written Philippians 3, vv. 4b-11 (Pew Bible, p. 981).

**I**f anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

*Lector.* The Word of the Lord.

*Answer.* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*The Way of the Cross: Self-Denial*

✠ The congregation shall stand at the conclusion of the sermon; then shall the Lector lead *The Nicene Creed*.

Let us confess the Holy Faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

**I** believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ All shall remain standing for the singing of the *Doxology*.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Anthem**

*With a Voice of Singing* — Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia! Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia! O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious. With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

✠ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the *Doxology*; then shall the *Prayers of the People* be offered, each petition ending with:

*Intercessor.* Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever,

*Answer.* **Amen.**

✠ The Minister shall conclude the prayers, ending with *The Lord's Prayer*.

**O**ur Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

✝ Then shall the congregation stand for the recessional hymn and closing prayer.

### **Recessional Hymn 171**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**A**nd now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore.

*Answer.*     **Amen.**

### **Organ Postlude**

*Onward, Christian Soldiers* — arr. T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)



**WORSHIP LEADERS** The Reverend Randall K. Green, *minister*; Mr. M. Todd Stracener, *lector*; *Christ Church Chorale*; Mr. D. Clarence Lawson, *organist*; Mary Kathryn Stracener & Henry Springfield, *acolytes*.

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**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE**

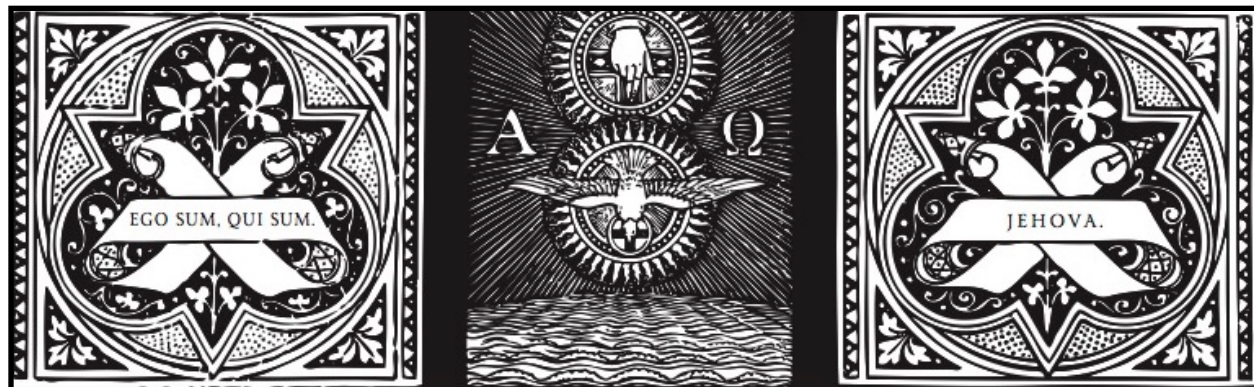
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Office Hours • Monday-Thursday • 9-11:30 am • 1:30-4 pm

# Christ Congregational Church

*Upholding the evangelical and congregational tradition of the Reformed Faith since A.D. 2010*



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SECOND SUNDAY IN DOMINIONTIDE

| SEPTEMBER 6, A.D. 2026

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## Call to Worship

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

## Organ Prelude

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*Minister.* This is the day the LORD has made;

*Answer.* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✝ The congregation shall stand for the processional hymn.

## Processional Hymn 206

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

✝ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn.

## Opening Prayer

The Reverend Randall K. Green

✝ Then shall the Lector read the first lesson.

Hear the first lesson, written in Matthew 16, vv. 24-28 (Pew Bible, p. 822).

**T**hen Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

*Lector.* The Gospel of the Lord.

*Answer.* **Praise be to Christ.**

✠ The congregation shall stand for the singing of the *Gloria Patri*, and the hymn following.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.**

### **Hymn 204**

*Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious*

✠ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn; then the Lector will read the second lesson.

Hear the second lesson, written 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 (Pew Bible, p. 989).

**B**ut we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

*Lector.* The Word of the Lord.

*Answer.* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*The Way of the Cross: Glory to Come*

✠ The congregation shall stand at the conclusion of the sermon; then shall the Lector lead *The Nicene Creed*.

Let us confess the Holy Faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

**I** believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and**

was buried; and the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ All shall remain standing for the singing of the *Doxology*.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;  
praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Anthem**

*Blessed Shall They Be* — Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

Oh blessed, blessed shall they be who serve our God most faithfully; who know and do the Lord's command, and take the truth to every land. For they shall be joyful wherever they go; the fruits of the Spirit within will they know; upon them abundance the Lord will bestow, and through them the glory will shine. Oh blessed, blessed all their days are those who join in grateful praise, and serve the Lord who reigns above to light the world with heavenly love.

✠ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the *Doxology*; then shall the *Prayers of the People* be offered, each petition ending with:

*Intercessor.* Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever,

*Answer.* **Amen.**

✠ The Minister shall conclude the prayers, ending with *The Lord's Prayer*.

**O**ur Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

✠ Then shall the congregation stand for the recessional hymn and closing prayer.

### **Recessional Hymn 506**

*Work, for the Night Is Coming*

**A**nd now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore.

*Answer.* **Amen.**

### **Organ Postlude**

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**WORSHIP LEADERS** The Reverend Randall K. Green, *minister*; Mr. M. Todd Stracener, *lector*; *Christ Church Chorale*; Mr. D. Clarence Lawson, *organist*; Mary Kathryn Stracener & Henry Springfield, *acolytes*.

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