

Christ Congregational Church

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



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN DOMINIONTIDE | OCTOBER 18, 2026

Call to Worship

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

Organ Prelude

Meditation on "Nicaea" — arr. Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Minister. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Answer. **Let us exalt his name together!**

✝ All shall stand for the processional hymn.

Processional Hymn 1

Holy, Holy, Holy!

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

Prayer for Purity

Minister. Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

Answer. **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✝ Then the Law of Christ shall be read from 1 Peter 1:15-16.

As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Minister. LORD, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Minister. LORD, have mercy upon us and hear our prayer of humble confession.

✠ Then shall all pray the *Prayer of Confession*.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our fellow men, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our transgressions against your holy law. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us our sins, including those particular ones which we, in this time of silent confession, now bring before you.

Assurance of Pardon

Minister. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

✠ The congregation shall stand for the singing of the *Gloria Patri*, the lesson 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.

Hear the lesson, written in Exodus 33, vv. 12-20 (Pew Bible, pp. 73-74).

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." 14 And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

17 And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 18

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

Sermon

The Glory of God's Goodness

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

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

✠ The congregation shall sit for the *Anthem* and the *Service of Communion* following.

Anthem

O Gentle Savior— William H. Doane (1832-1915), arr. Charles McCartha, 2014

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry. While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by. Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief; kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. *Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry. While on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.* Trusting only in Thy merit, I will seek Thy face; heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by Thy grace. Thou, the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me. Only Thou on earth I worship, holy Prince of Peace. *Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, etc.* (Fanny J. Crosby [1820-1915, alt.])

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Minister. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Answer. **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ Then shall the Minister offers thanks for the grace and mercy of Christ, in response to which, the people say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayers of Consecration

✠ Then shall the Minister consecrate the gifts of bread and wine, concluding with:

Minister. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Answer. **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

✝ Then shall the Minister commend to God the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, followed by the *Prayer of Humble Access*.

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and 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, so to partake of this Sacrament of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Ministration of Communion

✝ The Minister shall invite to the Table all baptized persons who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please come forward as directed by the ushers and receive the elements. The outer rings of the communion trays contain fermented wine, while the center ring alone contains unfermented juice. Please choose according to your preference and remain standing/kneeling before the communion rail until all in your group have communed, at which time the Minister shall pronounce the dismissal:

Minister. The peace of the LORD be with you.

Answer. **And also with you.**

✝ Then shall the Minister conclude the service with a prayer of thanksgiving, ending with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Our 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.

Recessional Hymn 585

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

May 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 his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Answer. **Amen.**

Organ Postlude

Toccata on "St. Denio" — arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)



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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