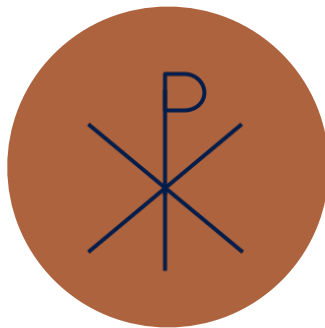

Christ

United Reformed Church



Worship Services

Communion Service	9:30 a.m.
Catechism Service	11:15 a.m.

Welcome

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Galatians 4:4-5

Welcome to all who worship here today. We gather together this Lord's Day to hear Christ proclaimed from all the Scriptures. In worship, the Holy Spirit meets us on His terms, that is, through Word and Sacrament, in order to announce God's promises and renew His Covenant with us. Worship is a spiritual feast spread before us so that our famished souls may be nourished with God's ordained means. By God's bountiful meal each week, we are strengthened in faith, renewed in mind, and continue to be sanctified as pilgrims in this present evil age. May God bless our worship this day!

About Communion

Christ United Reformed Church desires to receive visitors to the Lord's Supper and also to celebrate it according to the requirements of Scripture, in order that Christ might be honored and His Church blessed. Paul reminds us that the Supper can bring judgment, not just blessing (1 Cor. 11:27-32). Therefore, if you are a visitor and wish to partake of the Lord's Supper today, you must be able to answer yes to the following questions:

1. **Have you been baptized** into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)?
2. **Have you publicly professed your faith in Christ alone** and embraced the Christian faith as summarized in the Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed)?
3. **Are you presently a member in good standing of a Protestant church that bears the marks of a true church**, that is, a local church that preaches the gospel faithfully, administers the sacraments as instituted by Christ, and has governing elders who exercise church discipline (Belgic Confession, Article 29)?

If you are able to affirm these questions sincerely, the elders welcome you to the Table today. If you are not able to affirm these questions, please abstain from the Table and speak with the pastor or an elder after the service to discuss your relationship to Christ's Church. It is our prayer that this practice blesses and protects the recipients of the Supper, encourages Christians to reflect upon their relationship with Christ and His Church, and directs all people to the death of Jesus as the only source of spiritual life.

Order of Service

Communion Service

The Thirty-Seventh Lord's Day, September 10, 2023

9:30 AM

Those who enter for worship are asked to join others in quietly preparing to worship the Lord.

* = standing *italics* = spoken/sung in unison

God Lifts Us Into His Presence

***God Calls Us to Worship ~ Psalm 135:1-3**

Congregation of our Lord, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts up to heaven where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father (Col. 3:1)

***We Praise God in Song ~ 48A:1,4-6 ~ Great is the LORD Our God**

***Confession of Dependence**

Congregation of our Lord, from where does your help come?

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Ps. 124:8)

***God Greets Us ~ Ephesians 1:1-2**

God Renews His Baptismal Promise

God Calls Us to Confession ~ Isaiah 1:16-17

We Confess Our Sins ~ Prayer of Confession

Our Father, although You are a holy God, who cannot look upon sin, look upon Christ our Savior and forgive us for His sake. You have promised us that if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. For if we do sin, we have an Advocate before Your throne, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and He is the propitiation for our sins. Give us Your pardon by Your mercies, dear Father, for You have clothed us in Christ's righteousness. We ask also that You would give us an increase of the grace of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may learn the wisdom of Your ways and walk in Your holy paths, for Your glory and the good of our neighbor. Amen.

God Absolves Us of Our Sins ~ Romans 4:25-5:5

***We Give Thanks to God in Song ~ 335 ~ Praise the Savior Now and Ever**

God Speaks His Law To Us ~ Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 12:9-21

***We Respond to God's Law in Song ~ 533 ~ Have Thine Own Way, Lord!**

God Speaks His Covenant Word

We Draw Near in Prayer ~ Prayer for Illumination

Eternal Father, who has spoken in various times and in various ways to Your people in the past, but in these last days in Your Son, the incarnate Word, we pray that You will open the mouth of Your servant to proclaim that Word in the power of the Spirit. And we pray that this same Spirit will open the hearts of its hearers here assembled to receive Your holy gospel and write on their hearts Your holy law, even as You have promised. All of this, gracious Father, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

God Speaks in the Reading of Scripture ~ James 2:1-13 (Text: vv.1-4)

God Speaks in the Preaching of Scripture ~ The Problem with Favoritism (1)

***We Respond to the Preaching of Scripture in Song ~**

488 ~ May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

We Draw Near in Prayer ~ Prayer of Intercession

...We pray all this in the name of Him who taught us to pray:

Our Father who is 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 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.

We Worship God with Our Tithes and Offerings

God Seals His Covenant With The Supper

Formulary and Instruction for the Lord's Supper ~ Forms & Prayers, p. 50

God Sends Us Forth With His Blessing

***God Calls us to Service ~ Romans 12:1,2**

We Go Forth in Gratitude ~ 147B:1,2,4 ~ *O Praise the LORD, for It Is Good

***The Benediction ~ 2 Corinthians 13:11-14**

***Doxology ~ 570**

Prayer Requests

Rev. James Folkerts is a missionary in [Uganda](#).

- 1) Give thanks for a safe return to Canada and for the de-briefing at the Missionary Training Institute in Colorado Springs, CO.
- 2) Please pray this time of transition for our family and for the upcoming sabbatical this fall/winter.

Catechism Service

11:15 AM

***God Calls Us to Worship ~ Psalm 34:1-3**

***We Praise God in Song ~ 68B ~ O Lord, Thou Hast Ascended**

***We Call on God for Help**

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we are sinners, conceived and born in sin, unable of ourselves to do any good. But we do repent of our sins, and seek Your grace to help us in our remaining weaknesses. Through the teaching of Your Word, which we confess with the church throughout the ages, satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst with Your refreshing truth, that we, with all our hearts, may love and serve You, with our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, the one and only true God, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

***God Greets Us ~ Galatians 1:3-5**

***We Celebrate in Song ~ 213 ~ Glory Be to God the Father**

God Speaks in the Reading of Scripture ~ Ephesians 1:1-14

The Summary of Scripture ~ Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 21, p. 880

God Speaks in the Preaching of Scripture ~ A Society of Saints

We Respond in Prayer

Gracious and merciful Father, we give You thanks for having established Your covenant with believers and their children. For, as You have told us, "the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." This promise You have not only signified and sealed by holy baptism, but daily prove by perfecting Your praise through the mouths of children, and so putting to shame the wise and understanding of this world. Continue to establish Your saints in this faith throughout their lives. So give us the grace to inwardly digest the food You have given us and to instruct our children in Your knowledge and fear until they have reached complete maturity. All of this we ask in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

We Worship God with our Offerings of Mercy

We Respond in Song ~ 404:1,2,5,6 ~ *The Church's One Foundation

***God Sends Us Forth With His Blessing ~ Numbers 6:24-26**

Doxology ~ 435:4,5 ~ *Not What My Hands Have Done

Service & Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Communion Service.....9:30 am

Sunday Morning Catechism Service.....11:15 am

A fellowship meal will follow the Catechism Service and all are invited to join.

Location: Royster Presbyterian Church
6901 Newport Ave, Norfolk, VA 23505

Our next morning worship services are scheduled for **October 8, 2023**.

Sunday Evening Service.....5:30 pm

We meet each Sunday evening at Royster Presbyterian Church (except for the Sundays we have morning services) to livestream the service from Covenant URC, our overseeing church. Please join us for this time of worship and fellowship.

Thursday Night Bible Study.....7:00 pm

Our next Bible Study will be **September 21**.

We meet for Bible study at various locations. Please contact us for the location.

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong-body and soul, in life and in death-
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has
delivered me from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my
head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must
work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of
eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now
on to live for him.

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

Contact Us

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contactus@christreformedva.org

christreformedva.org

Oversight

We are a church plant of the URCNA.

Our overseeing church is Covenant United Reformed Church.

Pastor: Scottie Wright

Clerk of Council: Doug Slager

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Pantego, NC 27860

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URCNA

The United Reformed Churches in North America declare complete subjection and obedience to the Word of God, delivered to us in the inspired, infallible and inerrant book of Holy Scripture. We are fully persuaded that the Reformed Creeds (The Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and Canons of Dordt) do fully agree with the Word of God and thus confess them. We acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the supreme and only head of the Church. This headship is exercised in the Church by His Word and Spirit through God-ordained offices, for the sake of the purity of doctrine and the holiness of life.

To find out more about the URCNA, please visit urcna.org