

Epiphany



oaks parish

Our Mission

To abide in Christ Jesus for the renewal of all things.

Our Core Values

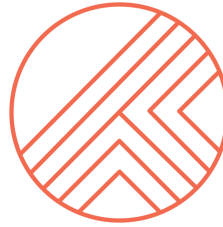
Gospel of Grace



The gospel of grace is the foundation of everything we are and do at Oaks Parish.

At Oaks Parish, we experience holistic flourishing through the person and work of Christ. The death and resurrection of Christ has redeemed us individually, and collectively as a church; we try to mirror that grace in all we do.

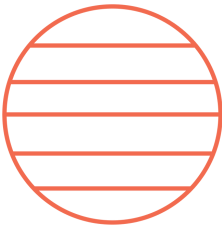
Faithful Presence



We are committed to Portland and aspire to be a church woven into the fabric

of the city. Oaks Parish is a uniquely welcoming and inclusive place. We greet our neighbors, friends, families, and co-workers with infectious hospitality, faithfully showing the love of Jesus in Portland.

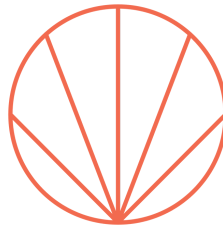
Formative Rhythms



The rhythms of our life shape our character, and at Oaks Parish we anchor our

practices in Scripture and the historical church. Our liturgical and expressive practice of gathered worship on Sunday pervades and shapes our rhythms of prayer, study of Scripture, and gatherings throughout the week. This process of intentional formation, or discipleship, shapes us to be more like Jesus.

Extended Family



Oaks Parish is intensely relational. We strive to live together as a diverse,

multi-generational extended family—not just on Sunday, but throughout the week. We share our stories and how God is redeeming them even as we work, play, and serve together. We want everyone to experience being known and loved in Christ.

Quotes for Reflection

Robert Frost, The Road Not Taken

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Willie James Jennings, Acts: A Theological Commentary

This Ethiopian eunuch is the outer boundary of the possibility of Jewish existence, and there at that border God will bring that difference near, very near, to hearth of home in the Spirit.

Henri Nouwen, Discernment

To act or not to act. To wait or to move. To speak or remain silent. All of these can be faithful acts. Living in the presence of God and trusting the Spirit helps us discern right action in everyday life.

Call to Worship

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**

Who forgives all your iniquity.

Who heals all your diseases.

Who redeems your life from the pit.

Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.**

Songs of Praise

Come and Rest

Have you been trying to move a mountain
and the mountain it will not move?
Have you been struggling
to remember somebody is looking out for you?

Come and rest,
come and rest,
come and rest
in the love of God.

Do you need a mother?
Do you need a father?
Oh, everybody needs a friend.
And are you looking for the way home,
do you wanna feel that peace again?

Come and rest,
come and rest,
come and rest
in the love of God.

There's a time for all your working.
There's a time to put your hand to the plow.
Can you hear it,
Jesus is singing,
come and lay your burdens down!
Come and lay your burdens down,
come and lay your burdens down!

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Almighty God

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open.
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears.
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy.
Come with your light,
we cannot hide from you.

Almighty God to you all hearts are open.
With gratitude, we raise our song to you.
Come and fill the praises of your people.
In grace and truth
you make us new again.

Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open.
We long for more than what this world provides.
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us.
But your river deep
floods over everything.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open.
You take away our sickness and our sin.
O Lamb of God, we gather at your table.
In bread and wine
you have supplied our needs.

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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7 NRSV

1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—

6 She says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

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 and ever. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Lord, we offer these gifts to you with thankful hearts and in joyful praise. As we give of our money and resources, we surrender our whole beings to you in worship and adoration. May these offerings extend the work of your kingdom in your church, your community, and your world. Amen.

Stories of Grace

Sasha Cox - Discipleship Groups

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40 NRSV

25 Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Wholeness in the Wilderness

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to Judea & Samaria

Notes

Application Questions

1. What are you trying to discern in life right now?
2. Read Isaiah 53 and 56. Why were these passages so meaningful to the eunuch? In what specific ways can the good news about Jesus make you whole?
3. Why does discernment naturally flow from living in the presence of God? What's one way you can live with Him more fully this week?

Confession of Sin

We have great reason, O Lord, to be humbled before you, on account of the coldness of our hearts, the disorder of our lives, and the prevalence of worldly affections within us. Too often we have indulged the tempers which we ought to have subdued, and we have neglected your call to love and justice. O Lord, be merciful to us for your Son Jesus Christ's sake. Produce in us deep repentance and a lively faith in that Savior who has died for our sins and risen again for our justification. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 12:2-3 NRSV

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Confession of Faith

We believe in God, the father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We 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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of your love.

Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use
every pow'r as thou shalt choose,
every pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be
ever only all for thee,
ever only all for thee.

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Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right to do so.

Communion

Christ has died,

Christ has risen,

Christ will come again.

We do not dismiss in any set order, come forward when you feel ready.

Form two lines down the center aisle, return to your seats by the side aisles.

Take the elements and consume them at your seat at your discretion.

Bread is locally sourced and gluten free.

Choose between red wine and white grape juice.

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

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Benediction

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.

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Prayers for Those Not Communing

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared confess, but through you I am more loved than I ever dared hope. Thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, enable me to see in you the fulfillment of all my true needs, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to see that your Gospel is bigger than my sin, and that your work breaks the power of sin as well as freeing me from its penalty. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and author of my faith. Amen.

oaks parish

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Oaks Parish: Get Connected

Welcome to Oaks Parish

To make our community more accessible, our worship service is available online and in person.

Download the Oaks Parish App

Text OaksParish App to (833) 245-5311 or search for Oaks Parish in your app store!

Sign up for the Weekly Email

Get detailed announcements right to your inbox by signing up for our weekly email at oaksparish.org.

New Visitor Form

Thanks for joining us today, we would love to connect with you! Fill out the linked form below or visit oaksparish.org/visitor and someone from our team will be in touch soon!



Morning Prayer

Join us online every Wednesday from 6:30-7am for morning prayer! This is a time to pray together as a church and practice spending time with God on our own. Join us at oaksparish.org/morningprayer.

Social Hour Today!

Join us after church today for coffee, donuts, and conversation!

Newcomers' Gathering

Learn more about the vision, mission, and community of Oaks Parish at Newcomers' Gathering on Sunday, January 29, directly following the service! Lunch will be provided.

Discipleship Groups

Two new discipleship groups launch this month! Men's and women's discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. Sign up by January 22 at oaksparish.org/discipleship.

Congregational Meeting

Members and regular attenders, please mark your calendars for our winter congregational meeting on Sunday, February 12. At the meeting we will provide updates on the life of our church and share about ministry developments for the spring. We will also nominate a new class of elders who will join our elder team this summer.

Infant & Toddler Room

If you have an infant or toddler who is active in the service, we have a room for you, located directly behind the sanctuary. Find toys and books for your little ones and a way for you to still engage the service!