

Epiphany



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

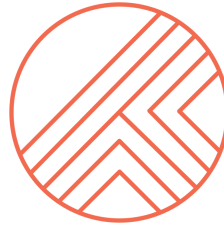
Gospel of Grace



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.

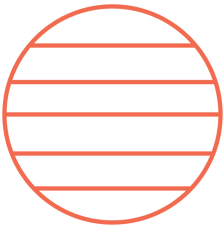
Faithful Presence



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.

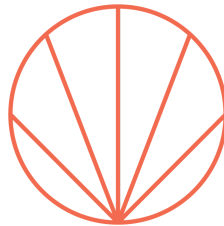
Formative Rhythms



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

François Rabelais, The Works (1535)

How shall I be able to rule over others if I have not full power and command of myself?

Ed. Richard Foster, The Life with God Study Bible

Sometimes, when a Christian leader commits some moral lapse, there is always someone to say, “Well, our pastors are only human.” True. But 1 Timothy boldly asserts that the leaders of the Church are more interesting than merely “human.” They are those human beings who are called to lead, to teach, and to care for the Body of Christ and therefore they are those whom we are justified in expecting to embody the highest Christian lifestyle.

N.T. Wright, 1 Timothy for Everyone

We should note that this isn't only of interest to those who are called to be office-holders (or those who want to check up on them); the reason they must keep to these standards is because this is what God longs to see all his children being like. The leaders must, as it were, be on the leading edge of that new humanity which the church is supposed to be. Because we're all 'on the way', rather than having 'made it' into the complete new humanity God desires, it's important that there are role models, especially that leaders should play that sort of part.

Kathy Keller, Jesus, Justice, and Gender Roles

Jesus in his submissive servanthood, taking on the role of a servant in order to secure our salvation (Philippians 2:5–11), shows that his submission to the Father was a gift, not something compelled from him. At no time is his equality with the Father ever called into question... Everywhere Jesus is claiming to be God...Nevertheless, he willingly assumed the role of a servant for the purpose of accomplishing our justification. The Son's ontological equality with the Father, and yet his economic submission for the purpose of salvation in taking on the role of a servant, lead us into the heart of the mystery of the Trinity. How else can this even begin to be conveyed without human players who enact the same truths, the same roles?

Call to Worship

Psalm 107:1-9

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble.**

Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

He led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

**For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

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!

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.

Into thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into thy health,
out of my wanting and into thy wealth,
out of my sin and into thyself,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of thy cross,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,
out of life's storms and into thy calm,
out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of myself to dwell in thy love,
out of despair into raptures above,
upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the joy and light of thy home,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,
into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
ever thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 NRSV

11 Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” 14 No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 3:1-13 NRSV

1 The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. 2 Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way— 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

8 Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; 9 they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. 11 Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; 13 for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Qualifications for Elders

Notes

Application Questions

1. After reading 1 Timothy 3:1-13, how would you reflect on your experience with leaders in the church?
2. Who has been a sound spiritual mentor in your life, and why did they make such an impression?
3. As you reflect on the qualifications for church leadership, what's one area where you feel challenged to grow? Share that with others who can come alongside you in prayer and accountability.

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.

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word.

What more can he say than to you he has said?

To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled,

To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Oh, how firm a foundation! How firm a foundation for us!

Fear not I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid.

I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,

upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand,

upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

Oh, how firm a foundation! How firm a foundation for us!

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.

For I will be with you your troubles to bless,

and sanctify to you your deepest distress,

and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Oh, how firm a foundation! How firm a foundation for us!

When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.

The flame shall not hurt you, I only design,

your dross to consume and your gold to refine,

your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

Oh, how firm a foundation! How firm a foundation for us!

Words & Music by Traditional, arranged by Charlie

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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.

We Labor Unto Glory

My God my God where e'er I go, glory,
where I reap and where I sow, glory.
When my hands they grip the thorn, glory,
in the still and in the storm glory, glory.

Oh we labor unto glory,
till heaven and earth are one.

Oh we labor unto glory
until God's kingdom comes.

The sun it shines and then goes down, glory,
rain it pours and beats the ground, glory.
Dust it blows and ends my days, glory,
hearts they burn beneath your gaze, glory, glory.

My heart my hands they're kingdom bound, glory,
where thorns no longer curse the ground, glory.
Trim the wick ignite the flame, glory,
my work it will not be in vain, glory, glory.

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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.

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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.

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! 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.

Congregational Meeting

Members and regular attendees, stay after today's service for the congregational 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.

Social Hour

Stick around after the service on February 19th for coffee, donuts, and fellowship!

Game Night at the Bivin's

You're invited to game night on Sunday, February 19 at 5pm. Everyone is welcome! Please bring a snack or drink to share and your favorite games. Contact Bethany at (714) 313-2785 for their address.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season and serves to remind us of our need for reconciliation. Join us for an Ash Wednesday service of prayer and confession on February 22 at 6:30pm.

Evening at Ski Bowl

Join us for fun in the snow on Friday, February 24th from 3-10pm. Meet on the mountain or leave work early and catch a ride with the carpool. Email the Community Life team with questions.

Volunteer for Easter Meals

Last year's Easter dinners were a great time of community and fellowship! If you're interested in hosting an Easter meal this year or helping the hosts clean up, email communitylife@oaksparish.org.