

Epiphany



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

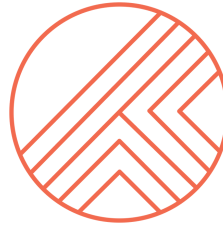
Gospel of Grace



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.

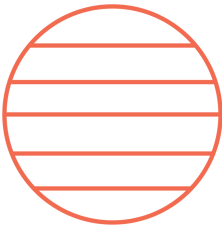
Faithful Presence



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.

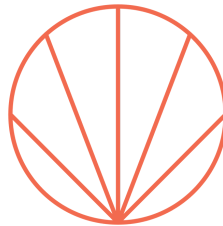
Formative Rhythms



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

Boethius, The Consolation of Philosophy

If you want to know truths with natural clarity, cast aside joy, fear, hope, and sorrow.

N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone

The first ‘Christians’ were not just known as ‘the king’s people’. They were known as people who, precisely because that ‘king’ was Jesus himself, were committed at the deepest level to giving themselves in love to one another and to all in need.

Raymond Arsenault, Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice

With characters and plot lines rivaling those of the most imaginative fiction, the saga of the Freedom Rides is an improbable, almost unbelievable story. In 1961 . . . more than four hundred Americans participated in a dangerous experiment designed to awaken the conscience of a complacent nation. Inspired by visions of social revolution and moral regeneration, these self-proclaimed “Freedom Riders” challenged the mores of a racially segregated society by performing a disarmingly simple act. Traveling together in small interracial groups, they sat where they pleased on buses and trains and demanded unrestricted access to terminal restaurants and waiting rooms, even in areas of the Deep South where such behavior was forbidden by law and custom.

Willie James Jennings, Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible

As Luke would have it, Barnabas connects Jerusalem and Antioch in his own body and by his own joy, not two communities but one, not two peoples but one Spirit. Luke has rendered Barnabas’s body supremely a bridge to Peter and soon to Saul. This is in fact what the Spirit does. The holy work of drawing communities into shared life only happens through those willing to bare the space of the in-between in their bodies. Only those who hold inside themselves an awesome concourse of difference can channel this new reality, much like a child carried by a virgin.

Call to Worship

Psalm 108:1-5

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make melody.

Awake, my soul!

Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.

**I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and let your glory be over all the earth.**

Songs of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
if with his love he befriend thee!

Praise thou the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,
spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for e'er we adore him.

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Come Behold the Wondrous Myst'ry

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the king.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing in our darkness,
now the light of life has come,
look to Christ who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, he, the perfect son of man.
In his living in his suff'ring,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man,
Christ the great and sure fulfillment,
of the law in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners,
hangs the lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory,
grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain him,
praise the Lord he is alive.
What a foretaste of deliv'rance,
how unwavering our hope,
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when he comes.

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Scripture Reading

Acts 11:1-18 NRSV

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

Acts 11:19-30 NRSV

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. 20 But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. 21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. 22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

27 At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. 29 The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; 30 this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: The King's People

The Acts of the Apostles: Witness to Judea & Samaria

Notes

Application Questions

1. Why do you think we are so divided in our culture today?
2. How does Acts 11 reveal the hope for healing offered in the gospel?
3. What is one way you can live as the embodiment of God's renewal 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.

The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses partakes one holy food
and to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore.
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy, Lord, give us grace that we
like them the meek and lowly on high may dwell with 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.

Rejoice in All Your Works

Every mouth that cries for food, every lung that yearns for breath,
Every eye that searches through the dark for light,
All creation looks to You, for its breath and for its food,
From the goodness of Your hand we're satisfied.

Oh rejoice in all Your works, King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature You have made declares Your praise.
We rejoice in all You've made, God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing Your praise!

Every tree that thirsts for rain, every bird that seeks its nest,
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad,
All creation looks to You, for its breath and for its food,
From the goodness of Your hand we're satisfied.

May the pond'rings of my heart and the song upon my lips
With the chorus of creation join in praise
To the God who made all things, to the Spirit who sustains,
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

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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.

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.

Social Hour

Stick around today after the service for coffee, donuts, and fellowship!

Game Night at the Bivin's

You're invited to game night tonight at 5pm, hosted by the Bivin's! Pizza will be provided. 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.

A Lenten Prayer Journey

Dive deeper into the season of Lent with this weekly companion guide, designed to center your heart on Scripture and prayer. Download at oaksparish.org/lent.

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.