

O Come,
O Come,
Emmanuel

OAKS

PARISH

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

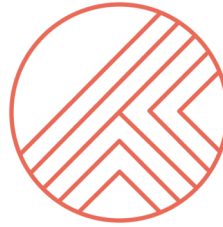
Gospel of Grace



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.

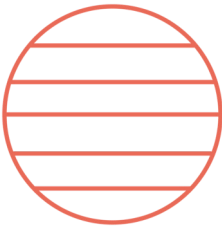
Faithful Presence



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.

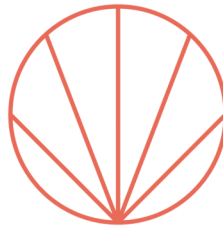
Formative Rhythms



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

Walter Brueggemann, Isaiah

The meaning of faith in the work of Isaiah and, indeed, in the entire Old Testament. Faith (“stand firm in faith”) is not a matter of intellectual content or cognitive belief. It is rather a matter of quite practical reliance upon the assurance of God in a context of risk where one’s own resources are not adequate. It means to entrust one’s security and future to the attentiveness of Yahweh—to count God’s attentiveness as adequate and sure, thereby making panic, anxiety, or foolishness unnecessary and inappropriate. It is to know one’s self safe in risk because of an Attending Other whose resources are mobilized and whose commitments are unfailing. It is to place one’s self into the reliable care of another.

N.T. Wright, Matthew for Everyone

The name ‘Jesus’ was a popular boys’ name at the time, being in Hebrew the same as ‘Joshua’, who brought the Israelites into the promised land after the death of Moses. Matthew sees Jesus as the one who will now complete what the law of Moses pointed to but could not of itself produce. He will rescue his people, not from slavery in Egypt, but from the slavery of sin, the ‘exile’ they have suffered not just in Babylon but in their own hearts and lives. By contrast, the name ‘Emmanuel’, mentioned in Isaiah 7.14 and 8.8, was not given to anyone else, perhaps because it would say more about a child than anyone would normally dare. It means ‘God with us’. Matthew’s whole gospel is framed by this theme: at the very end, Jesus promises that he will be ‘with’ his people to the close of the age (28.20). The two names together express the meaning of the story.

Otto Kaiser, Isaiah

The only way we can have God is by relying on him and using him. For the only way it is possible to accord God’s deity to him is by using him and risking one’s life upon God’s word by trusting his promises and obeying the revelation of his will.

Advent Meditation

“Annunciation,” John Collier (2000)

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, Your people’s everlasting light;
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse, should doom to death a universe;
You came, O Savior, to set free, Your own in glorious liberty.

When earth drew on to darkest night, You came, but not in splendor bright;
not as a king, but as the child of Mary, virgin mother mild.

At Your great name, O Jesus now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heav’n shall call You Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One;
praise, honor, might, and glory be, from age to age eternally.

**A meditation on the watching and waiting of Advent, translated from a 9th century Latin text and traditionally paired with a 9th century plainchant.*

Call to Worship

based on Luke 1:46-55

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God’s name!

He has shown the strength of his arm,
scattering the proud and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things.

He has remembered his promises!

Praise the Lord!

Songs of Praise

Let All Mortal Flesh

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God With Us

Words & Music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:1-17 NRSV

1 In the days of Ahaz son of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel went up to attack Jerusalem, but could not mount an attack against it. 2 When the house of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind. 3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field, 4 and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. 5 Because Aram—with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah—has plotted evil against you, saying, 6 Let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; 7 therefore thus says the Lord God:

It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

8 For the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

(Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.)

9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you do not stand firm in faith,
you shall not stand at all.

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering Prayer

Generous God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you, as the gold, frankincense, and myrrh were before your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 NRSV

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Lessons in Carols

Notes

Application Questions

1. What threat is causing you to fear right now? For you personally, how does fear carry you away into exile?
2. How have you seen faith and action work together in your own faith journey?
3. How does the gospel deepen your trust in God as the Attending One?

Confession of Sin

God of grace and truth,
your prophets told of your promises – of restoration and salvation.
We confess that we have not believed your promise,
that we have preferred brokenness to restoration,
and have lingered with disease, rather than welcome wholeness and
renewal. Forgive our stiff necks and renew our hearts, so that we may
receive the fullness of your promise, and live into that joy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 55:6-7 NRSV

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

○ Come, ○ Come, Emmanuel

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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.

Communion

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.

So Long, Moses

Words & Music by Andrew Peterson

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Benediction

Doxology

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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

Thanks for joining us today - we would love to connect with you! Jot down your name and email address on the postcard found in your worship guide and drop it in an offering basket before you leave so we can get to know you.

How to Use Postcards

- Let us know you're visiting
- Sign up for the weekly email
- Share a prayer request
- RSVP for an event
- Connect with pastoral staff

Drop your postcard in an offering basket before you leave today!

Morning Prayer

Join us online every Wednesday at 6:30am to pray together for our community and beyond at oaksparish.org/morningprayer.

Christmas Eve Worship

We'll celebrate the birth of the newborn King with a Lessons & Carols service on Sunday morning at 10am. This is a service for the whole family so there will be no OP Kids classes.

Women's Advent Celebration

Oaks Parish women are invited to an Advent Celebration today, from 5-8pm in the fellowship hall! Create a holiday wreath or centerpiece, enjoy festive food and drink, and reflect on an Advent meditation.

Advent Reflection Guide

Prepare your heart for the Advent of our Lord with this year's Advent reflection guide: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," including Scripture, reflection questions, and prayer. Beginning Monday, December 3rd, you can listen to the guide (three times a week) on the Oaks Parish Podcast (found on Apple Podcasts or Spotify) or download to read at oaksparish.org/advent.

Advent for Kids

Families, be sure to pick up a Jesse Tree Ornament Set & Devotional Guide at the welcome desk today (1 per family).

Social Hour

Join us for coffee, donuts, and conversation about the service on Sunday, December 10th!