October 5, 2025

The Woodlands Reformed Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

The Service of Entrance

*Invocation — Psalm 147:5-7

Minister: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

People: **The Lord lifts up the humble;**
he casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

*Hymn #234 — *The God of Abraham Praise*

*Prayer of Adoration

*The Lord's Prayer

All: **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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

*Please stand if you are able.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon Psalm 49:15

Minister: But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

People: Amen!

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: the maker of heaven and earth.

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,

People: and our mouth will declare your praise.

*Please stand if you are able.

*Gloria Patri

All: **Glory be to the Father,**
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

The Service of the Word

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Illumination

*Scripture Reading — Matthew 1:1

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Title — *Mind the Gap*

*Hymn #287 — *Lift High the Cross (Refrain Only)*

All: **Lift high the cross,**
The love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore
His sacred name.

*Please stand if you are able.

The Service of the Table

*Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

*Please stand if you are able.

*Prayer of Reliance on God's Mercy

Minister: You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Minister: You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Through him and in him, God has mercy on us, forgives us our sins, and brings us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

*Please stand if you are able.

*The Passing of the Peace

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you!

Minister: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures, here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

*Prayer of Dedication

*Please stand if you are able.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

People: It is right and just to do so!

Minister: It is truly right and just, our duty and blessing, always and everywhere, to give you thanks, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For by his righteous life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection, he has forever delivered us from the yoke of sin and death; and together with you, he has sent us the Holy Spirit, to call us out of darkness, and into your marvelous light. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, saying:

All:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Please stand if you are able.

The Fencing of the Lord's Table

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Consecration

The Words of Institution (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Minister: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Invitation to the Lord's Feast

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ, our Passover,
has been sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

*Please stand if you are able.

***Hymn #404** *The Church's One Foundation*

***Benediction** **Psalm 121:7-8**

Minister: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***Please stand if you are able.**

Announcements

Congregational Meeting

If you are a member of The Woodlands Reformed Church, please plan to attend our upcoming congregational meeting following the worship service on Sunday, October 19. The purpose of the meeting is twofold: First, the session will present the budget for next year; and second, pastor Juan Carlos will discuss the steps toward particularization. *Note: We will not have a fellowship meal that Sunday.*

Grace Presbyterian Church Men's Retreat

Grace Presbyterian Church (GPC) has graciously invited the men of Woodlands Reformed to participate in their Men's Retreat on November 7th and 8th at GPC (8989 Woodlands Pkwy) on Friday night and Saturday morning. There will be good Bible teaching, music, food, and great opportunities to fellowship with one another and the men of GPC. To register, please email julio@woodlandsreformed.org.

Men's Westminster Confession of Faith Study

The men's evening study will meet on October 8 at 7:00 PM at 6 Wild Ginger Ct. Join us for our study through the Westminster Confession of Faith, and stay for dinner!

Women's Evening Bible Study

Our women's evening study will meet on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM at 6 Wild Ginger Ct. The women will be studying the book of Hebrews.

Men's Lunch Bible Study - Ezra & Nehemiah

Join our men's weekly Bible study! We are meeting at Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet at 11:30 AM every Wednesday. We will be using Crossway's 12-week study guide for Ezra and Nehemiah.

Church Merch Available

Support our Youth Ministry by checking out our new merch store on our website! From casual tees to polos, vests, and beanies, 100% of the profits go toward the Youth Ministry.

Volunteering

We are looking for volunteers for 2025 to help with nursery, hospitality, set-up and tear down, audio visual, and greeting for Sunday mornings. To inquire, please email Julio Rodriguez at julio@woodlandsreformed.org.

Order of Worship

Our service is intentionally structured to reflect reverence for God and His Word as we seek to glorify Him with our worship. Because our worship is intentionally trinitarian, our liturgy is composed of three parts: the Service of Entrance, the Service of the Word, and the Service of the Table.

The Service of Entrance

The Service of Entrance centers on the redemptive work of God the Father. It begins with the Prayer of Invocation, in which we use God's Word to invoke His presence among His people. We then join voices to praise and adore God by singing a psalm or a hymn, and by praying the Lord's Prayer. In all of this, we are mindful of the great contrast between God's majesty and holiness, and of our sin and need for grace. For this reason, we confess our sin before our listening Lord, and we hear a declaration of pardon from God's Word. This leads us to rise from our seats as we joyously sing the Gloria Patri.

The Service of the Word

The Service of the Word centers on the redemptive work of God the Son. It commences with a Prayer of Illumination, where we ask God to enable us to hear His voice as we proceed to read Scripture. During the sermon, the pastor faithfully exposits the text, proclaiming the saving work of Jesus Christ to the congregation. The congregation responds to the sermon by standing and singing the refrain from Lift High the Cross.

The Service of the Table

The Service of the Table centers on the redemptive work of God the Holy Spirit. It begins when the congregation affirms its faith by reciting the Nicene Creed. Since we are not to approach the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner, we continue with the Prayer of Reliance on God's Mercy and with the Passing of the Peace. After this, we bring our tithes and offerings to God, and offer a prayer of dedication. This leads us to the formal eucharistic liturgy, beginning with the Great Thanksgiving, and continuing with the Fencing of the Table, in which the pastor welcomes to the table all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith, are resting and relying on Christ alone for salvation, and are members in good standing of a local Christian church. The liturgy then proceeds with the Words of Institution, the Invitation to the Lord's Feast, and the actual partaking of the Sacrament, in which the Holy Spirit enables believers to feed on Christ by faith – not in a physical manner, but in a real, spiritual manner. The service concludes with the singing of a psalm or hymn, and with a Benediction from God's Word.

Liturgical Colors

Our liturgical colors, represented in the colored stole worn by the pastor throughout the service, serve as visual reminders of the Church calendar year, with specific colors used for certain seasons and occasions to magnify our sense of worship and symbolize theological truth.

White:

Symbolizes joy, purity, and the glory of Christ. It is used for celebrating events in the life of Christ, such as Christmas, Easter, and the Ascension.

Green:

Symbolizes life, our spiritual growth, and discipleship. It is used during Ordinary Time, in the weeks after Epiphany and Pentecost.

Red:

Symbolizes the Holy Spirit, zeal, and sacrifice. It is used during Holy Week, Pentecost, and Reformation Sunday.

Purple:

Symbolizes humility, preparation, and royalty. It is used during Advent and Lent.

Fellowship Meal

After every service, we partake in a Fellowship Meal. Whether you are a member or a visitor, we would love for you to stay and enjoy this fellowship meal with us!

Notes

Staff

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