January 11, 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 97:1, 6

Minister: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.

People: **The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.**

*Hymn #403 — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

*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.

*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.

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

*Please stand if you are able.

Declaration of Pardon — Romans 6:3-4

Minister: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

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.**

*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 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.

*Please stand if you are able.

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 & Illumination

The Service of the Word

*Scripture Reading — Matthew 16:13-20

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Title — *The Rock of the Church*

*Hymn #292 — *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Closing Prayer

*Please stand if you are able.

Announcements

Fellowship Meal Resumes Today

We will be resuming our fellowship meal today after worship. This new year, please make plans to join us for worship and stay for a delicious meal after the service!

Theology by the Pint on January 13

Are Catholics and Protestants really all that different? What exactly is the Eastern Orthodox church? What things do we agree on and where are the schisms? On January 13, Oak Forest Anglican Church in Houston is hosting a Theology by the Pint event that will feature a rich conversation among ministry leaders from all 3 branches of the church—and probably a charitable argument about who's right. Pastor Juan Carlos Martínez has been invited to be one of the panelists for this event. If you would like more information, or would like to register, please go to theologybythepint.org/photos-events and click on the January 13 event.

Women's Evening Bible Study Resumes on January 14

The women's evening study of Hebrews will resume on January 14.

Men's Saturday Bible Study Resumes on January 17

This study takes place on Saturdays at 7:00 AM at 6 Wild Ginger Ct in The Woodlands. The gathering begins with breakfast from 7 – 7:30 AM (this is optional). Then, from 7:30 – 8:30 AM, we study the Bible, have time for discussion, and conclude with a time of prayer. Men and their sons are encouraged to attend. We will resume on January 17.

Men's Westminster Confession Study Resumes on January 21

The men's evening study will pause through the rest of December and resume on January 21.

Church Merch Available

Support our Youth Ministry by checking out our new merch store! From casual tees to polos, vests, and beanies, 100% of the profits go toward the Youth Ministry. Visit: https://woodlandsreformed.printful.me/

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. You are invited to stay and enjoy the meal whether or not you are a member.

Notes

Notes

Staff

Rev. Juan Carlos Martínez, Pastor
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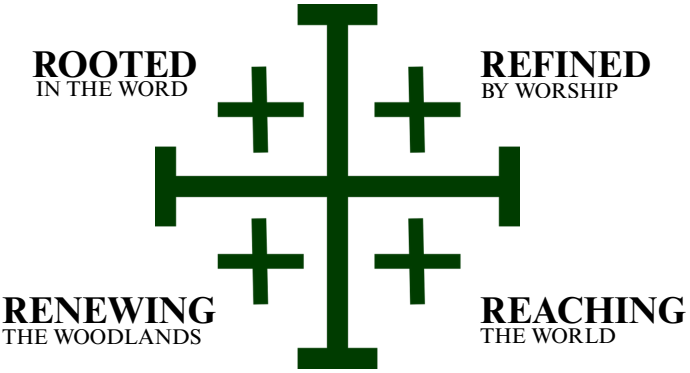
Connect

*Please stand if you are able.

VISION



The Woodlands Reformed Church envisions a vibrant, Christ-centered community rooted in the truth of God's Word, refined by the worship of the Triune God, renewing The Woodlands through gospel witness and loving hospitality, and reaching the world with the hope of Christ. Our aspiration is that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be taught Scripture and trained in righteousness, aiming to transform our community into a beacon of God's grace, and to take the gospel to all nations, glorifying God in all we do.

In summary, our Vision is to be:
Rooted in the Word. **Refined** by Worship. **Renewing** The Woodlands. **Reaching** the World.

MISSION

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.

MARKERS

Holiness | *History* | *Hospitality* | *Hope*

MEANS

Scripture | *Sacraments* | *Prayer* | *Fellowship*