

Ordinary Time



oaks parish

Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

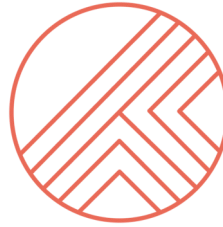
Gospel of Grace



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.

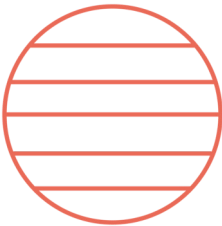
Faithful Presence



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.

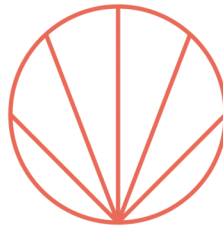
Formative Rhythms



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

Tim Keller, *A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory*

In the Bible Christians have an ancient, rich, strong, comprehensive, complex, and attractive understanding of justice. Biblical justice differs in significant ways from all the secular alternatives, without ignoring the concerns of any of them. Yet Christians know little about biblical justice, despite its prominence in the Scriptures. This ignorance is having two effects. First, large swaths of the church still do not see ‘doing justice’ as part of their calling as individual believers. Second, many younger Christians, recognizing this failure of the church and wanting to rectify things, are taking up one or another of the secular approaches to justice, which introduces distortions into their practice and lives.

Martin Luther King Jr., *The Role of the Church in Facing the Nation’s Chief Moral Dilemma*, April 1957

The Church must remind men, once more, that God is the answer, and that man finds greater security in devoting his life to the eternal demands of the Almighty God, than in giving his ultimate allegiance to the transitory evanescent demands of man. The Church must continually say to Christians, “ye are a colony of heaven.”⁹ This means that although we live in the colony of time, our ultimate allegiance is to the empire of eternity. We have a dual citizenry. We live both in time and eternity; both in heaven and earth. Therefore, we owe our ultimate allegiance to God. It is this love for God and devotion to his will that casteth out fear.

We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization. Our motto must be, “Freedom and justice through love.” Not through violence; not through hate; no not even through boycotts; but through love. As we struggle for freedom in America it may be necessary to boycott at times. But we must remember as we boycott that a boycott is not an end within itself; it is merely a means to awaken a sense of shame within the oppressor and challenge his false sense of superiority. But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friend.

Call to Worship

Psalm 145 NRSV

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day we will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

**We shall extol your works to one another
and declare your mighty acts.**

We will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and meditate on your wondrous works.

**We will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds
and declare your greatness.**

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.

Words and Music Joachim Neander (1680), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1863)
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Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
would welcome me.

I was lost but He brought me in.

Oh, His love for me.

Oh, His love for me.

Who the Son sets free,
oh is free indeed.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

Free at last He has ransomed me;

His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin,

Jesus died for me.

Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

In my Father's house, there's a place for me.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken.

I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me.

I am who You say I am.

In my Father's house.

there's a place for me.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

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Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1-14 NRSV

1 Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! 4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. 5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

6 “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

9 The voice of the Lord cries to the city (it is sound wisdom to fear your name): Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city!

10 Can I forget the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed?

11 Can I tolerate wicked scales and a bag of dishonest weights?

12 Your wealthy are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, with tongues of deceit in their mouths.

13 Therefore I have begun to strike you down, making you desolate because of your sins.

14 You shall eat, but not be satisfied, and there shall be a gnawing hunger within you; you shall put away, but not save, and what you save, I will hand over to the sword.

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

Heavenly Father, when we look around, we see your immense blessing in our lives and we see great need. Because we believe that everything we have belongs to you, we trust you to provide for the needs of our community, our city, and the whole world. Lead us to use the resources you've blessed us with wisely and generously. With these offerings today, we worship you and give our whole selves to be used for the glory of your Kingdom. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

New Testament Reading

Revelation 21:22-22:7 NRSV

22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

7 “See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bryan Buck: Growing in Justice & Healing

Notes

Application Questions

1. What is your next step with discipleship in Jesus?
2. To what community has God called you to be on mission?
3. How will you prioritize “life together” here at Oaks Parish?

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, we confess that we have tried to plant our roots in all the wrong places. We have failed to pursue your justice, to seek you in the rhythms of our lives, to attune our hearts to your gospel of grace, and to love our neighbors. By your grace, root our identities, our callings, our lives in you and your kingdom. Forgive us for the sins of our thoughts, our words, and our deeds, and lead us into your abundant life. In Your Son's name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:3, 7-8 NRSV

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

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.

Revelation Song

Worthy is the
Lamb who was slain;
holy, holy is He.
Sing a new song
to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat.

Holy, holy, holy,
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.
With all creation I sing,
praise to the King of kings!
You are my everything,
and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows
of living color,
flashes of lightning,
rolls of thunder.
Blessing and honor, strength and
glory and power be,
to You the only wise King.

Filled with wonder,
awestruck wonder,
at the mention of Your name.
Jesus, Your name is power,
breath and living water,
such a marvelous mystery.

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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 Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion;
we will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
my soul be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long!
O God of Jacob, be my strength!

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
bind us together, bring shalom.

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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

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!

Listen to the OP Podcast

Search "Oaks Parish" on Apple Podcasts and Spotify to catch up on the latest sermons.

Catechism Class Starts Today

5th-8th grade students are dismissed during the Passing of the Peace to explore the basic tenets of Christianity in an environment that encourages them to engage their sense of wonder about God.

Morning Prayer

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

Last Day to Sign Up for a Discipleship Group

Our discipleship groups launch this week! Men's and women's discipleship groups are where community is strengthened and time is spent intentionally abiding with Christ. Sign up today at oaksparish.org/discipleship!

Membership Gathering

If you've attended Newcomers Gathering and are looking to learn more about membership at Oaks Parish, join us for Membership Gathering TODAY after the service! We'll discuss the significance of membership at Oaks Parish, and answer all of your questions.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Members and regular attenders, please mark your calendars for our fall congregational meeting on Sunday, October 1st after the service. We will provide updates on the life of our church and share about the ministry year ahead.

Newcomers Gathering

Learn more about the vision, mission, and community of Oaks Parish at Newcomers Gathering on Sunday, September 24th, directly following the service! Lunch will be provided. Use a postcard to RSVP today!