

Joy to  
the World

OAKS

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PARISH

## Our Mission

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

## Our Core Values

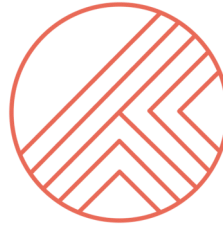
### Gospel of Grace



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.

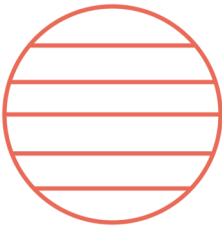
### Faithful Presence



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.

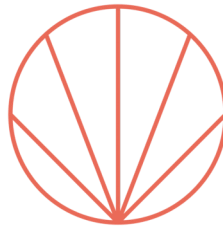
### Formative Rhythms



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

### Marie Curie, Pierre Curie, 1923

All my life through, the new sights of Nature made me rejoice like a child.

### Tim & Kathy Keller, *The Songs of Jesus*

The imagery of the trees and fish praising God (Psalm 96:11–12), with the rivers and the mountains clapping and singing (verse 8), is more than just poetry. Romans 8:18–25 says that nature was made to be far more alive and glorious than it is in its current state. Modern philosophies cannot fathom that the natural world will not come into its own until the human race is made righteous again. Jesus will come to restore this ancient harmony (verse 9). So our future hope is powerful. If rivers and mountains will be like this when he returns, what will we be like (1 John 3:2–3)?

### Herbert Boyer, University of Pittsburgh commencement, 2000

Wonder is what sets us apart from other life forms. No other species wonders about the meaning of existence or the complexity of the universe or themselves.

## Call to Worship

*from Isaiah 61*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God!

**For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.**

The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,**

You shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

**For the Lord delights in you,  
and your God rejoices over you!**

## Songs of Praise

### Go Tell It On the Mountain

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### God With Us

Words & Music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

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## New Testament Reading

### Galatians 3:23-4:7 NRSV

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

1 My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; 2 but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. 3 So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

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

## Old Testament Reading

### Psalm 96 NRSV

1 O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

6 Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12 let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Bryan Buck: Joy to the World

Lessons in Carols

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## Notes

### Application Questions

1. How might this psalm lead you to declare the glory of God in everyday life?
2. How does worship help us with a proper understanding of God?
3. How does creation help us better understand the judgement of God?



## 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.

## Joy to the World

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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.

## The Beauty of the Heart of Christ

Words & Music by Mitch Wong & Tim Timmons

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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.

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*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](http://oaksparish.org/morningprayer).

## January Social Hour

Let's kick off the new year together on Sunday, January 14th with coffee, donuts, and connection - after the service in the Parish Hall.

## Last Week of Advent Reflection Guide

Don't miss the final week of the Advent guide, preparing us for the season of Epiphany! You can listen to the guide on the Oaks Parish Podcast (found on Apple Podcasts or Spotify) or download to read at [oaksparish.org/advent](http://oaksparish.org/advent).

## Family Promise Volunteers Needed

Oaks Parish is partnering with Family Promise Metro East to serve our houseless neighbors by providing meals and support for participating families. Volunteer to make a meal or stay overnight during our next week of service from January 21-28. Learn more at [oaksparish.org/family-promise](http://oaksparish.org/family-promise).

## Men's Pizza Night

Oaks Parish men are invited to a pizza & game night at the home of Rob Howells on Saturday, January 20th, starting at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite game; we'll provide pizza and drinks! RSVP to [rob@thehowellsgroup.com](mailto:rob@thehowellsgroup.com).