

Welcome to Christ Presbyterian Church of New Haven!

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in worship this Lord's Day.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will know the saving presence, power, love and authority of our King and Savior Jesus Christ as a result of our time spent together in worship.

*We would also like to get more acquainted with you, so please take the time to **fill out the register** as it comes down your row during the announcements. Please use the prayer card located in the inside pocket of the register or the back of pews to communicate your prayer requests or other concerns and place it in the basket on the back table as you leave the worship service. Your requests are prayed for during the week.*

*We also hope you will join us for **coffee & tea following the worship service.***

*As a church, we value family worship, and therefore children of all ages are welcome to join us in the worship service at their parents' discretion. However, **childcare** is available (off of the foyer area - Children's Education Wing) for parents who wish to take advantage of it (there is no age restriction). Please do not hesitate to ask a greeter for assistance.*

Introduction and Welcome to CPC - please pick up your free copy on the table located at the foyer entrance.

Our Offices are adjacent to the sanctuary. Core office hours at CPC are from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm Monday-Thursday. Should you need to use our facilities, please call our Administrator to make arrangements. We are currently building a unique library and reading room containing various selections of books, journals, children's literature and tapes (library is located in our balcony area). Selections may be checked out or you are welcome to drop by for a reading break from your busy schedule.

Parking - On Sundays, please reserve the on-site parking lot for our visitors & parents with small children. In courtesy to our neighbors, please do not park in front of Bradley St. homes, but use the RIS parking lot located next door. **During the week**, please contact our administrator for parking information as most of our spaces are rented out during the week. And, for safety reasons, exit the lot on the Bradley Street side only. Thank you.

Log onto: christpresnewhaven.org for more information or calendar events.

You may also call 777-6960 and press 5 to hear weekly events.

CD's of sermons are available upon request for \$3 per CD. To order a copy, please fill out a request sheet (located in the Media Center/Reading Room in the Fellowship Hall) and place your payment into the container labeled Media Payments.

As a church committed to Greater New Haven, we meet in the middle of the region we hope to serve and reach, which consists of both downtown New Haven and the surrounding edge towns. We believe that the gospel transcends all ethnic, social, and demographic boundaries. We are ambitious for the glory of God and aim to extend a Christ-centered gospel throughout Greater New Haven.

We reuse bulletin covers - if you do not need one - please place covers on the foyer table as you leave.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Service Order 4

January 14, 2007

10:30AM

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

Be Thou My Vision

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art-
thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence thy light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

*Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.*

*O Life that will yet swal-low death,
I glo-ry in thy vic-to-ry;
My flesh will find e-ter-nal breath,
For Je-sus burst the bonds of death
And reigns in heav'n for me.*

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Psalm 138:1-5

Leader: I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

People: *I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness,*

Leader: for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

People: *When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.*

Leader: May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth.

People: *May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.*

*Hymn of Praise: O God Beyond All Praising

#660

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

*Invocation and Prayer of Adoration

*Doxology (#733)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;

O Praise Him! O Praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Old Testament Reading: Num. 21:4-9

New Testament Reading: John 3:11-21

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Meditation

[Please take a moment to reflect on the reading of God's Word]

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Corporate Confession:

[Participants may kneel or lean forward]

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: *We have sinned against you, O Lord, our Maker, our Defender, and our Redeemer.*

Our natures are corrupt and sinful, prone to fall away from you, sluggish to do good and swift to do evil. Vain thoughts have come upon us and found lodging within us, defiling and disquieting our minds, and keeping out good thoughts. We have burdened ourselves with that care which you have commanded us to cast upon you. We have failed in our duties one to another, and have provoked one another as much to folly and anger as to love and good works. We have been cold in our love to you, weak in our desires toward you, unsteady in our walking with you, and we are even at this time poorly prepared to serve you. We beseech you--forgive all our sins, for Christ's sake, and be at peace with us in Him who died to make peace and lives to make intercession for us. Amen. (Adapted from Matthew Henry)

Private Confession

Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. *Psalms*

103:8-12

Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: Laurie & Rob Semke

Special Needs:

Jorgensen Family –stresses with continued job search.

Ngosi – Praise to God for encouraging medical test results.

Young Mothers Fellowship Group

Shoreline Community Group –*Joanne Donovan* – upcoming trip to South Africa. *Arnie & Georgia Monahan* – various challenges. *Bogue family* – in England. *JoAnn Kupiec* – the passing of her uncle, his surviving wife & JoAnn's Mother.

Mission to the World:

Philippines –

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Conroy, Ms. Cheryl Crocker, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Davidson, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Fitzpatrick, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Garrett, Ms. Sandra Hart, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Helm, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Kim, Mr. & Mrs. Dale Knutson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Patterson, Ms. Lindsey Scott, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Scott, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Watanabe

*Song of Response: *Satisfied*

*All my life long I had panted for a drink from some cool spring
That I hoped would quench the burning of the thirst I felt within.*

*Chorus: Hallelujah! He has found me,
the One my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies all my longings;
through his blood I now am saved.*

*Feeding on the filth around me till my strength was almost gone
Longed my soul for something better, only still to hunger on.*

Chorus

*Poor I was and sought for riches, something that would satisfy
But the dust I gathered 'round me only mocked my soul's sad cry.*

Chorus

*Well of water ever springing, Bread of life so rich and free
Untold wealth that never faileth my Redeemer is to me.*

Chorus

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: *The Ultimate*

Rod of Aesculapius
Chrismon

Rev. Preston Graham



[Sermon notes located on page 15]

11Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

John 3:11-21 (ESV)

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH SACRAMENT

Introduction to the Lord's Table

The Collection of the Communion of the Saints

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Collection Hymn: *Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands*

#427

[A good time to retrieve your children from childcare to experience the Lord's Table, if so desired.]

*Amidst us our Beloved stands, and bids us view his pierced hands;
points to the wounded feet and side, blest emblems of the Crucified.*

*What food luxurious loads the board, when at his table sits the Lord!
The wine how rich, the bread how sweet, when Jesus deigns the guests to meet!*

*If now, with eyes defiled and dim, we see the signs, but see not him;
O may his love the scales displace, and bid us see him face to face!*

*O glorious Bridegroom of our hearts, your present smile a heav'n imparts!
O lift the veil, if veil there be, let every saint your glory see!*

*Presentation of Gifts

[Please stand as we present our lives and gifts to Christ at His banquet table.]

...and they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Revelation 4:10-11

*Processional Hymn: *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (#1)

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth-tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.*

*Congregation Standing

*Confession of Faith

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

Congregation: *We believe that Jesus Christ has presented Himself in our behalf before the Father, to appease His wrath, by offering Himself on the tree of the cross, and pouring out His precious blood to purge away our sins. And therefore we always ascribe all the glory to God, humbling ourselves before Him,*

without presuming to trust in any merit of ours, relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone, which becomes ours when we believe in Him. This is sufficient to cover all our iniquities, and to give us confidence in approaching to God; freeing our conscience of fear, terror, and dread. Wherefore we justly say with the apostle Paul that we know nothing save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified; we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose wounds we find all manner of consolation.

[Adapted from the Belgic Confession, 1561, Articles XX-XXII]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Lord's Table

[We use wine in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the biblical element used. We provide grape juice for those who, out of conscience or reasons of health, do not partake of wine. Grape juice is in the outer rim.]

Words of Institution

Pastor: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Pastor: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Congregation Standing

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayers for those not communing:

-Prayer for those searching

Oh God, I am discovering that the more I have, the more I need to have, the more I am loved, the more I need to be loved, the more I achieve, the more I need to achieve. Nothing seems to satisfy me. "Nothing tastes." Could it be, as someone once said, that "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." Dear God, if this is true, and if as the Bible teaches there is life and life eternal in Christ alone, please guide me to him. Open me to the reality of the one who alone can satisfy my restless heart. Give me the courage to believe that which I cannot see but can understand, feel and touch through the word, sacraments and church family. Lord I want to believe, please help me in my unbelief! Amen.

-Prayer of belief

Lord God, I now see that I am weaker and more flawed than I ever before believed, but in Christ, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. Even as I have not loved you or my neighbor with all of my heart, you have shown your love for me in that while I am still sinning, Christ died for me and took upon himself the condemnation that I deserve. I now know that You owe me nothing for my efforts, but you offer acceptance, love

and blessing into all eternity because of Christ's efforts on my behalf. I therefore ask that you would enable me to turn away from trusting in my own efforts to gain your acceptance and forgiveness, and trust in the perfectly righteous efforts of Christ on my behalf in order to be accepted by you and entered into your holy family. And just as you raised Christ from the dead, so too I ask that you would give me a new life in Christ, one that will lead eventually to heaven itself. Thank you for Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit to believe in him alone for my salvation. And as You have called us to follow You in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in Your church, grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people, and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

#342

*Christ is made the sure Foundation,
Christ the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's Help forever,
And her Confidence alone.*

*All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation,
Pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.*

*To this temple, where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With Thy wonted lovingkindness
Hear Thy servants as they pray.
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway.*

*Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain;
What they gain from Thee forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One;
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.*

*Congregation Standing

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Gloria Patri (#735)

***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!***

*Benediction

Leader: Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

Jude 24-25

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Sermon Notes

The Ultimate

Rod of Aesculapius
Chrismon



John 3:11-21

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

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