

# 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](http://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 21, 2007

10:30AM

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, o breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:  
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

*\*Like a River Glorious*

*Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace,  
over all victorious in its bright increase;  
perfect, yet it floweth full of ev'ry day,  
perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.  
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest,  
finding, as he promised, perfect peace and rest.*

*Hidden in the hollow of his blessed hand,  
never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,  
not a blast of hurry, touch the spirit there.*

*Chorus*

*Ev'ry joy or trial falleth from above,  
traced upon our dial by the Sun of Love.  
We may trust him fully all for us to do;  
they who trust him wholly find him wholly true.*

*Chorus*

*\*Congregation Standing*

## WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-7, 21

Leader: I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever.

**People:** *Every day I will bless You, and I will bless Your name forever and ever.*

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.

**People:** *One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.*

Leader: I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.

**People:** *Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness.*

Leader: They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness.

**People:** *My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,*

Leader: And all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.

\*Hymn of Praise: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

#345

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God!  
He, Whose Word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See! the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love;  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst t'assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,  
Never fails from age to age.*

*Round each habitation hovering,  
See the cloud and fire appear!  
For a glory and a cov'ring  
Showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from our banner  
Light by night and shade by day;  
Safe they feed upon the manna  
Which He gives them when they pray.*

*Savior, if of Zion's city,  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy Name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.*

\*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!*

\*Congregation Standing

Old Testament Reading: *Esther 4:1-17*  
New Testament Reading: *Romans 3:9-26*  
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]*

### WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

#### Corporate Confession:

*[Participants may kneel or lean forward]*

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

**People: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways, by forgetting your love. Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father, and free us from our sin. Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Saviour and King. Amen.**

(Adapted from CRC Psalter Hymnal, Service of Word and Sacrament, 1981)

#### Private Confession

#### Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

*Isaiah 1:18*

#### Pastoral Prayer

*[Participants may be seated]*

**Prayer for our Members:** Joe & Nancy Shields

**Special Needs:** Rev. Preston Graham – father's illness and salvation.  
Grad/Pro Luncheon with George Levesque.  
Westside Trumbull Community Group

#### Mission to the World:

**Portugal** - Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Camenisch, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hudson,  
Ms. Susan Wood

\*Song of Response: *Before the Throne of God Above*

*Before the throne of God above;  
I have one strong and perfect plea.  
A great high priest whose name is  
Love;  
who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands;  
My name is written on his heart.  
I know that while in heav'n he stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.*

*When Satan tempts me to despair  
and tells me of the wrong within,  
upward I look and see him there;  
who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died;  
my sinful soul is counted free.  
For God, the Just is satisfied;  
to look on him and pardon me,  
to look on him and pardon me.*

*Behold him there! The Risen Lamb;  
my perfect spotless Righteousness.  
The great unchangeable I Am;  
the King of Glory and of grace.  
One with Himself I cannot die;  
my soul is purchased by his blood.  
My life is hid with Christ on high;  
with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God.*

## WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: *If you're not working, trust somebody else*  
[Sermon notes located on page 15]

Rev. Tolivar Wills

<sup>1</sup>When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. <sup>2</sup>He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. <sup>3</sup>And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup>When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup>Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. <sup>6</sup>Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, <sup>7</sup>and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup>Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. <sup>9</sup>And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup>Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, <sup>11</sup>"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law--to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days." <sup>12</sup>And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. <sup>13</sup>Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup>For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" <sup>15</sup>Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup>Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. *Esther 4: 1-17 (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: *Amazing Love*

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

*My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;  
that I, the guilty one may go free.*

*Amazing love, O what sacrifice,  
the Son of God, giv'n for me;  
my debt He pays and My death He dies,  
that I might live, that I might live.*

*And so they watched Him die, despised, rejected;  
but O the blood He shed flowed for me.*

*Chorus*

*And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;  
come wash your guilt away, live again.*

*Chorus*

\*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:** I believe that Christ makes intercession for us, by his appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring for them quiet of conscience, notwithstanding daily failings, access with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services. [Westminster Larger Catechism #55]

## 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.

## 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: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

#289

*A hymn of glory let us sing;  
New songs thro'out the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
Ascendeth to the throne of God.*

*Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The holy apostolic band  
Upon the Mount of Olives stand; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with his followers they see  
Jesus' resplendent majesty.  
Refrain*

*To whom the angels, drawing nigh,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky? Alleluia! Alleluia!  
This is the Saviour," thus they say;  
"This is his noble triumph day."  
Refrain*

*"Again shall ye behold him so  
As ye today have seen him go, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
In glorious pomp ascending high,  
Up to the portals of the sky."  
Refrain*

*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!*

*\*Congregation Standing*

\*Benediction

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.  
*Numbers 6:24-26*

***People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!***

Postlude

\*Congregation Standing

## **Sermon Notes**

*If you're not working, trust somebody else*  
*Esther 4: 1-17*

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences: