

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.

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.

Sermon MP3's are downloadable online or 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

April 15, 2007

10:30 AM

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

One Church

*Your hand O God has guided
Your church from age to age
The tale of love is written
For us on ev'ry page
Our fathers knew Your goodness
And we Your works record
And each of these bear witness
One church one faith one Lord*

*One church one faith one Lord of life
One Father one Spirit one Christ
One church one faith one Lord of life
One heavenly King Lord of all*

*Your mercy never fails us
Or leaves Your work undone
With Your right hand to help us
The victory shall be won
And then with heaven's angels
Your name shall be adored
And they shall praise You singing
One church one faith one Lord*

Chorus

**Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul*

#57

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
he shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.*

*Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
he is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
he delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.*

*Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,
helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.*

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is King;
unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.*

Note: Trinity Hymnal can be found in pews if desired.

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Selections from Psalm 46

Leader: There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place
of the tabernacle of the Most High.

People: *God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of
dawn.*

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

People: *Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has made desolations in the earth.*

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be
exalted in the earth!

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*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: *Esther 6*

New Testament Reading: *John 19:1-18*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

*Congregation Standing

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: *Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;*

according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you alone, have we sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us. Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put new and right spirits within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us, we pray through Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Based upon

Psalm 51]

Private Confession

Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

"For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."

Hebrews 9:24

Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: The Bach/Criscoulo Family

Special Needs: *Rufus Howard* – continued recovery. *Julie Bruce* – expecting.

Shoreline Community Group.

Mission to the World: **Australia** - Mr. & Mrs. David Cunningham,

Mr. & Mrs. David Kiewit, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Linkston, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Rarig,

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Schoof, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Stevens, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young

*Song of Response: **By Sovereign Grace**

[A good time for children to leave for childcare - if so desired.]

*Lord, we con-fess our man-y faults, how great our guilt has been!
Our thoughts were vain and full of pride and all our lives were sin.
But praise our God, for-ev-er praise, for-ev-er love His name,
who turns our feet from dan-g'rous ways of fol-ly, sin, and shame.*

*He raised us from the depths of sin, the gates of gap-ing hell,
and fixed our stand-ing more se-crete than 'twas be-fore we fell.
The arms of ev-er-last-ing love be-neath our hopes be-gin;
It's by the wat-er and the blood our souls are washed from sin.*

*It's not by works of right-eous-ness which our own hands have done;
But we are saved by sov-ereign grace a-bound-ing through His son.
It's from the mer-cy of our God that all our hopes be-gin;
It's by the wat-er and the blood our souls are washed from sin.*

*It's through the pur-chase of His death who hung up-on the cross,
the Spir-it is sent down to breathe on such dry bones as us.
Raised from the dead, we live a-new; And, jus-ti-fied by grace,
we will ap-pear in glo-ry too, and see our fath-er's face.*

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: Restoration of “the Kingdom” within a Kingdom

Rev. Tolivar Wills

[Sermon notes located on page 14]

*1*On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. *2*And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. *3*And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." *4*And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him. *5*And the king's young men told him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." *6*So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" *7*And Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, *8*let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. *9*And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.'" *10*Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned." *11*So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor." *12*Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. *13*And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him." *14*While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.
Esther 6 (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: ***'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus***

#679

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

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
And to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus says the Lord!"*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

*O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
And in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!
Refrain*

*Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.
Refrain*

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.
Refrain*

*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 (vs.1)*

#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.*

Note: Trinity Hymnal can be found in pews if desired.

*Confession of Faith

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

Congregation: *I believe in the one eternal God, Creator and Lord of the*

world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will. I believe that God has been calling out from the world a people for Himself, the church, and sending His people back into the world to be His servants and witnesses for the extension of His Kingdom and for His glory. I believe in the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety as the only written word of God, and in the power of God's word to accomplish His purpose of salvation. I believe that there is only one Savior, Jesus Christ, and that He will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate His salvation and His judgment. I believe in the Holy Spirit whom the Father has sent to bear witness to His Son, believing that conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth, and Christian growth are all His work.

[Adapted from The Lausanne Covenant, 1974]

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Pastor: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*Prayer of Consecration

*Congregation Standing

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.

*All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God, who from His altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball;
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.*

Note: Trinity Hymnal can be found in pews if desired.

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: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

2 Corinthians 13:14

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Sermon Notes

Restoration of “*the Kingdom*” within a Kingdom
Esther 6

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

[Music reprinted by permission – CCL #745254]