

# 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

August 19, 2007

9:30 AM

### Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

#### Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

The organic concept of the church that appears in the New Testament presents a more theological, Christ-centered, spiritual view of the church as defined not by one earthly hierarchal center nor by many earthly congregational centers, but by a heavenly center that requires multiform earthly manifestations. Earthly assemblies do not define but manifest the nature and the center of the church.

The picture of the church as a worshipping assembly is nowhere more powerfully presented than by the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews (ch. 12:18-29). He contrasts the worship of God at Mount Sinai with the worship of the New Covenant. We do not come to Mount Sinai in our worship, but to Mount Zion. That Zion is not the earthly, but the heavenly Zion, the sanctuary of the eternal city of God. For the author of Hebrews, this is not a figurative way of speaking. The heavenly Jerusalem is not a Platonic abstraction. It is as real as the living God, as real as the risen body of Jesus Christ. In our worship in Christ's church we approach the throne of God the Judge of all. We enter the festival assembly of the saints and the angels. We gather in spirit with the spirits of just men made perfect. We enter the assembly of glory through Christ our Mediator, and the blood of his atoning death. For that reason we must hear and heed the word of the Lord, and worship God acceptably with reverence and awe!

~Edmund Clowney

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open!...<sup>2</sup> At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne... <sup>5:11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

~Revelation 4:1-2, 5:11-14

\* - Congregation Standing

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

*Out of the Deep*

*Out of the deep I call  
To Thee, O Lord, to Thee.  
Before Thy throne of grace I fall;  
Be merciful to me,  
Be merciful to me.*

*Out of the deep I cry,  
The woeful deep of sin,  
Of evil done in days gone by,  
Of evil now within,  
Of evil now within.*

*Out of the deep of fear  
And dread of coming shame;  
All night 'til morning watch is near  
I plead the precious name,  
I plead the precious name.*

*Lord, there is mercy now,  
As ever was, with Thee.  
Before Thy throne of grace I bow;  
Be merciful to me,  
Be merciful to me.*

*\*Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand*

*Ten thousand times ten thousand in sparkling raiment bright,  
The armies of the ransomed saints throng, up the steep of light:  
'Tis finished, all is finished, their fight with death and sin:  
Fling open wide the golden gates, and let the victors in.*

*Chorus: Alleluia! Alleluia! 'Tis finished, all is finished,  
thou Prince and Savior, come.*

*What rush of alleluias fill, all the earth and sky!  
What ringing of a thousand harps bespeaks the triumph night!  
O day, for which creation, and all its tribes were made;  
O joy, for all its former woes, a thousandfold repaid!*

*Chorus*

*O then what raptured greetings on Canaan's happy shore;  
What knitting severed friendship up where partings are no more!  
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle, that brimmed with tears of late;  
Orphans no longer fatherless, nor widows desolate.*

*Chorus*

*Bring near thy great salvation, thou Lamb for sinners slain;  
Fill up the roll of thine elect, then take thy power, and reign:  
Appear, desire of nations, thine exiles long for home;  
Show in the heaven thy promised sign, thou Prince and Savior, come.*

*Chorus*

## 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: *From All That Dwell below the Skies*

#7

*From all that dwell below the skies  
let the Creator's praise arise;  
let the Redeemer's name be sung  
through every land, by every tongue.*

*In every land begin the song;  
to every land the strains belong.  
In cheerful sound all voices raise  
and fill the world with joyful praise.*

*Eternal are your mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends your word.  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore  
till suns shall rise and set no more.*

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

\*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: *Micah 4:1-2, 6-7*

New Testament Reading: *Hebrews 12:18-29*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Meditation: *Come and Fill*

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone O Lord are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Alleluia.*

(Sing 2x)

## WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

### Corporate Confession:

*[Participants may kneel or lean forward]*

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

*People: Eternal Father, You are good beyond all thought, but we are sinful and blind. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel and our ways reluctant to amend. Unmask to us sin's deformity, that we may hate it, abhor it, flee from it. Our abilities have been weapons of revolt against you. Give us grace to bewail our senseless folly; grant us to know that the way of transgression is hard, that to depart from you is to lose all good. We have seen the purity and beauty of your perfect law, yet daily we violate and condemn its precepts. All these sins we mourn, lament, and for them cry, "Pardon." Work in us more profound and abiding repentance; give us the fullness of a godly grief which is ever powerful, and ever confident; grant that our repentance will enable us to see more clearly the brightness and glory of the cross of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

### Private Confession

### Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

### Pastoral Prayer

*[Participants may be seated]*

**Prayer for our Members:** The Gantenbein Family

**Special Needs:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class. Worship Convocation.

Kimberly Yerino – health & preparation for school and balanced life.

**Mission to the World:** Hungary - Mr. & Mrs. Greg McGinnis

\*Song of Response: *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

#128

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

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.*

*Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will.*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.*

*His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.*

*Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And He will make it plain.*

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

## WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: Sermon: Into the Heavenly Festal Gathering: An Exposition on Worship

Rev. Preston Graham

[Sermon notes located on page 16]

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest [19] and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. [20] For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." [21] Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." [22] But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, [23] and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, [24] and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

[25] See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. [26] At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." [27] This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. [28] Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, [29] for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:18-29 (ESV)

## 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: *Before the Throne of God Above*

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

*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.*

\*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 God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I 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.*

*[Apostles' Creed]*

†That is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

*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,  
In glorious pomp ascending high,  
Up to the portals of the sky."- Refrain*

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

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, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!*

\*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: Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 6:23*

*People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!*

Postlude

# Sermon Notes

Into the Heavenly Festal Gathering: An Exposition on Worship  
*Hebrews 12:18-29*

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

[Music reprinted by permission – CCL #745254]