

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 3

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

***Call to Worship: Psalm 147:1-7**

Leader: Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

People: *The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.*

Leader: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

People: *He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.*

Leader: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.

People: *The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.*

Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp.

People: *Praise the Lord.*

Liturgical Definitions:

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation:

A time to quiet your heart and mind in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psa. 46:10

Call to Worship

And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! Rev. 4:2

** Congregation Standing wherever indicated throughout bulletin.*

Note: Trinity Hymnal can be found in pews for hymns indicated with numbers.

**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 swallow death,
I glory in thy victory;
My flesh will find eternal breath,
For Jesus burst the bonds of death
And reigns in heav'n for me.*

*Invitational Songs of Prayers
for God's Presence
And I looked, and there in
heaven a door stood open.
Rev. 4:1*

**Hymn of Praise: Holy, Holy, Holy*

#100

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

*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: 2 Samuel 12:1-15

New Testament Reading: James 5:19 & 20

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Meditation: *Bless The Lord*

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

*Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.*

Sing 2x

Invocation and Praise

Day and night without
ceasing they sing,
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord
God the Almighty, who was and
is and is to come."
Rev. 4:8

Hearing God's Word

A time to hear God's holy
Word, ultimately unveiled to
us in Christ by the Holy
Spirit.

*Then I saw in the right hand of
the one seated on the throne a
scroll written on the inside and
on the back, sealed with seven
seals. Rev. 5:1*

Meditation on God's Word

In stillness and meditation,
please take a moment to
reflect on the power and
privilege of hearing God's
Word.

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: My Brother's Keeper?

Rev. Tolivar Wills

[Sermon notes located on page 16]

[19] My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, [20] let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20 (ESV)

Sermon

A sermon is not just teaching for living a moral life; it is mainly a time when the living Christ himself encounters his people through his Word bringing to us the full truth and grace of the gospel. Therefore, as you listen, pray to encounter the life-changing Christ.

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals,

*They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."
Rev. 5:1, 9-10*

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:

"For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life."

Romans 5:10

Confession of Sin

Because sin is so pervasive in both our corporate and individual lives, we are invited to come before God with honesty and transparency, confessing our brokenness and moral failures, asking for both forgiveness and healing through Jesus Christ. We confess corporately to show our unity even in our brokenness. We confess honestly because in Christ, we are safe to confess our sins without fear of condemnation and no longer in need of hiding in defensiveness and blame shifting.

And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Rev. 2-4

Absolution

Christ has given the Church authority to declare the forgiveness of sins in his Name. This promise is for all who have been joined to Christ by faith as mediated through any gospel-believing church.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mt. 16:19)

Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: Leah Kelley; Kristy Lamb

Special Needs: Karen and Kit Schmeisser- prayer as they begin home schooling; David Olson as he starts college; High school students; Grad/Pro Open House

Mission to the World: Jamaica- Ms. Cheryl Erb

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*

Pastoral Prayers:

Our prayers are ultimately "in the name of Jesus Christ," which means that our trust is not in the power of our prayers, but in the power of Christ's prayers who prays for us as our "great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God... For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
Heb. 4:14-16

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Rev. 5:8

Right after the sermon is a good time to retrieve your children from childcare to experience the Lord's Table, especially on the weeks we come forward (first Sunday of the month) in order to receive God's blessing for his covenant children.

*People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."
*Luke 18:15-16**

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

Communion Gifts:

We give not as a payment for a service rendered nor out of compulsion to gain God's favor. The communion offering is symbolic of offering our whole lives and weekly vocations in consecration to God in spiritual service of worship! It is as if we join the holy procession of saints throughout history in offering ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice made acceptable to God by Christ who completes us by faith. Please give as an act of worship and only if you can give cheerfully as unto the Lord.

*The twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; 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."
Rev. 4:10-11*

***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.*

***Confession of Faith**

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

Congregation: *We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible, and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of the same essence as the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to the life in the world to come. Amen.*

[Nicene Creed, 325 AD]

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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

The Eucharistic Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

Eucharist means "the good grace" and "communion" implies a real participation in that grace. Therefore, the Lord's Supper is both a thankful memorial service to remember the grace of Christ's once and accomplished by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and a life giving participation in that grace as we are being united to Christ in heaven by the Holy Spirit and received by faith. In short, Christ is really present in, with and through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, even if not bodily but spiritually as being united to the body of Christ in the church.

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, 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!" Rev. 5:11-12

Note concerning the elements of the Lord's Supper:

We serve 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

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.

Prayers for those not communing

Those who have genuinely confess their own brokenness in sin, receive Christ by faith and have are joined to Christ by means of joining any gospel believing church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you are not yet prepared to participate in the sacrament, please know that we are glad that you are here, even as we respect your sincerity for not participating at this time. We want CPC to be a safe place for you to be "in journey" and would not want you to feel any compulsion to partake until it is the right time as noted above. With you in mind, we have included some prayers if perhaps you would desire some aid in praying to God during this time.

*Closing Hymn: *Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord!*

#19

*Thee we adore, eternal Lord!
We praise Thy Name with one accord.
Thy saints, who here Thy goodness see,
Through all the world do worship Thee,
Through all the world do worship Thee.*

*To Thee aloud all angels cry,
The heav'ns and all the powers on high:
Thee, holy, holy, holy King,
Lord God of hosts, they ever sing,
Lord God of hosts, they ever sing.*

*Apostles join the glorious throng,
And prophets swell th'immortal song;
Thy martyrs' noble army raise
Eternal anthems to Thy praise,
Eternal anthems to Thy praise.*

*From day to day, O Lord, do we
Exalt and highly honor Thee!
Thy Name we worship and adore,
World without end, forevermore,
World without end, forevermore.*

*Hymns of Coronation and
Praise*

*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!"*

*And the four living creatures
said, "Amen!" And the elders
fell down and worshiped. Rev.
5:13-14*

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 may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

Sermon Notes

My Brother's Keeper?

James 5:19 & 20

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

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