

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 foyer) 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 - Baptism

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

In standing up for the creed and standing up for what it stands for, I am accepting my place in the long procession moving forward from the past that belongs to God into the future that belongs to God. I see in my mind's eye the procession lining the upper reaches of St. Apollinare-in Class—the glorious mosaics—with each more than life sized figure gazing forward at the unmistakably victorious Christ. When you look back at these figures, you are swung around by their gaze to focus on the coming one.

[David Wills, *Clues to the Nicene Creed*]

Let us in Heaven's name drag out the Divine drama from under the dreadful accumulation of slipshod thinking and trashy sentiment heaped upon it, and set it on an open stage to startle the world into some sort of vigorous reaction. IF the pious are the first to be shocked, so much the worse for the pious—others will enter the Kingdom of Heaven before them. IF all men are offended because of Christ, let them be offended; but where is the sense of their being offended at something that is not Christ and is nothing like Him. WE do Him singularly little honor by watering down his personality till it could not offend a fly. Surely it is not the business of the church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ.

[Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos*]

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

** Congregation Standing wherever indicated throughout bulletin.*

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

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

Gracious Spirit

*Gracious Spirit, Dove Divine,
Let Thy light within me shine;
All my guilty fears remove,
Fill me full of heav'n and love.*

Chorus:

*Let me never from Thee stray,
Keep me in the narrow way,
Fill my soul with joy divine,
Keep me, Lord, for ever Thine.*

*Speak Thy pard'ning grace to me,
Set the burdened sinner free;
Lead me to the Lamb of God,
Wash me in His precious blood.*

Chorus

*Life and peace to me impart;
Seal salvation on my heart;
Breathe Thyself into my breast,
Earnest of immortal rest.*

Chorus

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

** Come and Rejoice*

*Come with rejoicing, the Father is calling,
Those who would worship in spirit and truth;
Come with your singing, come with thanksgiving,
Jesus, our Savior, has made all things new.*

*Come and rejoice, O holy nation,
come and sing praises to Him;
Come and bow down, worship before Him,
Jesus, the King of all Kings,
Jesus, the King of all Kings.*

*Lord of creation is full of compassion,
Seated in splendor adorned with all grace;
Majestic and glorious, reigning victorious,
Now and forever enthroned on our praise.*

Chorus

*With the sound of the trumpet
He summons the nations,
Calling a priesthood to go in His name;
To show forth His power to this generation,
To worship before Him, a kingdom of praise.*

Chorus

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Hosea 6:1-3

Leader: "Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up.

People: After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him.

Leader: Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord. His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

*Hymn of Praise: *Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord* #26

*Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord;
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.*

*Tell out my soul, the greatness of His name:
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.*

*Tell out my soul, the greatness of His might:
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.*

*Tell out my soul, the greatness of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more.*

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

*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: *Deuteronomy 6:1-2* & *4-11*

New Testament Reading: *Ephesians 4:1-16*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Meditation: **Come and Fill**

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

**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**

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 BAPTISM AND ABSOLUTION

Introduction to Christian Baptism and Church Membership

Corporate Confession:

[Participants may kneel or lean forward]

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

People: *My Changeless God. Under the conviction of your Spirit I learn that the more I do, the worse I am, the more I know, the less I know, the more holiness I have, the more sinful I am, the more I love, the more there is to love. O wretched person that I am! I have a wild heart that cannot stand before you. How little I love your truth and ways! I neglect prayer by thinking I have prayed enough. I lack spiritual understanding with too little desire for the Lord's Day. My will is without power of decision or resolution, my heart is without affection. I am too often the evangelical hypocrite, who sins more readily because grace abounds. Give me a broken heart that it may carry home the power of your grace. For my hope is not in me, but in you through Jesus Christ, Amen!*

(Adapted from "Paradoxes" in The Valley of Vision)

Private Confession

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

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

"And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."

Acts 2:38-39

Baptismal and Membership Vows

Members Joining:

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Alan Carr
Profession of Faith & Christian Baptism-
Jocelyn Carr
Transfers – Gary & Jancy Houcks**

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)

Membership Vows

1. *Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?*
2. *Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?*
3. *Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?*
4. *Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?*
5. *Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?*

Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: Our new members

Special Needs: Pastor Graham- fast surgery recovery; community group ministries

Mission to the World: Japan- Jane Brinkerhoff, Roberta Brown, Matt Chase, Craig & Ree Coulbourne and Family, Sally Dangler, Tabitha Ellis, Charlene Hatmaker, Dave and Paula Hebert and Family, Bill and Jean Jackson and Family, Darlene Johnson, Linda Karner, Daniel & Esther Lee and Family and Dan & Carol Iverson and Family.

*Song of Response: **Not What My Hands Have Done (vs. 1,2,3,5) #461**

*Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.*

*Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, And set my spirit free.*

*Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.*

*I praise the God of grace; I trust His truth and might;
He calls me His, I call Him mine, My God, my joy and light.
'Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives.*

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

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: The Dogma IS The Drama:
An Exposition on Christian Spirituality Rev. Preston Graham

[Sermon notes located on page 16]

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [7] But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. [8] Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives and he gave gifts to men." [9] (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? [10] He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) [11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (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

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

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***

***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

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: *I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by His eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and saves us from our sins even as salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere. I believe that the Holy Spirit is eternal God and that He has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.*

[Selections from Heidelberg Catechism]

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 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, not bodily, but spiritually 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

***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

Words of Institution

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.

**Prayers for those not
communing**

Those who have genuinely confessed their own brokenness in sin and who have received Christ by faith and who 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 you would desire some aid in praying to God during this time.

***Closing Hymn: Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

#302

***Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!***

***Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!***

***Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"***

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 our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

**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 worshipped. Rev.

5:13-14

Sermon Notes

The Dogma IS The Drama:

An Exposition on Christian Spirituality

Ephesians 4:1-16

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

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