

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 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

November 5, 2006

8:30 & 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.*

* *Lo! He Comes*

*Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending,
Swell in triumph of His train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold Him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.*

*Now redemption long expected,
See in solemn pomp appear!
All his saints by man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the day of God, appear!*

*Yea, amen! let all adore Thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly;
Alleluia, come, Lord, come.*

*Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly;
alleluia! come, Lord, come.*

*Congregation Standing

*We praise you, O God our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we bring.*

*We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
through life's storm tempest our Guide you have been.
When perils o'er-take us, escape you will make us,
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win*

*With voices united our praises we offer,
to you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.*

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

Leader: O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

People: *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.*

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: *In his hand are all the corners of the earth, and the strength of the hills is his also.*

Leader: The sea is his and he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land.

People: *O come, let us worship and fall down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

Leader: For he is the Lord our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

People: *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*

Leader: For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, and with righteousness to judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

*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 2:19-23

New Testament Reading: John 4:7-26

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Meditative Response: *Thy Word*

[Please take a moment to reflect on the reading of God's Word]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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! 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. 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

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: Elena Gerard

Special Needs:

Caden Prokop – health related issues & doctor's wisdom.

Graduate Student/Professional - fall retreat. **Musicians Fellowship**

Mission to the World: Ireland – Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Tarter

*Song of Response: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

*Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'till the storm is past
safe into the haven guide, receive my soul at last.*

*Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed, help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head the shadow of thy wing.*

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am, thou full of truth and grace.*

*Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art, let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart, to all eternity.*

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: Doing for us what we can't do for ourselves
[Sermon notes located on page 15]

Rev. Tolivar Wills

¹⁹Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. ²⁰Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. ²¹In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ²²And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. ²³When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

Esther 2:19-23 (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

*Congregation Standing

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

*O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!*

*What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love for thee.*

*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.*

*Confession of Faith

Leader: Christians, what do you believe?

People: We believe that Jesus Christ has presented Himself in our behalf before the Father, to appease His wrath, by offering Himself on the tree of the cross, and pouring out His precious blood to purge away our sins. And therefore we always ascribe all the glory to God, humbling ourselves before Him, without presuming to trust in any merit of ours, relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone, which becomes ours when we believe in Him. This is sufficient to cover all our iniquities, and to give us confidence in approaching to God; freeing our conscience of fear, terror, and dread. Wherefore we justly say with the apostle Paul that we know nothing save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified; we count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose wounds we find all manner of consolation.

[Adapted from the Belgic Confession, 1561, Articles XX-XXII]

*Congregation Standing

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.

*The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.*

*The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light;*

*The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.*

*To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.*

*They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.*

*The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.*

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: May the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
himself restore, establish, and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. *I Peter*
5:10-11

People: *Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!*

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Sermon Notes

Esther 2:19-23

Doing for us what we can't do for ourselves

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

[Music reprinted by permission – CCL #745254]