

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 - Baptism

November 26, 2006

10:30AM

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

Before the Throne of God Above

*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.*

*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.*

*On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

*On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie.
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the promised Land.
All o'er those wide extended plains, Shines one eternal day.
There God, the Son forever reigns, And scatters night away.*

Chorus

*No chilling winds nor poisonous breath, Can reach that healthful shore,
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, Are felt and feared no more.*

Chorus

*When shall I reach that happy place, And be forever blest,
When shall I see my Father's face, And in his bosom rest.*

Chorus (repeat)

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!

People: *Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.*

Leader: Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

People: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

Leader: For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.

*Hymn of Praise: Rejoice, All People, Homage Give

#73

*1. Rejoice, all people, homage give,
To God with voice of triumph sing;
He ruleth in dread majesty,
The great, the universal king.*

*2. He puts the nations under us
And makes us all triumphant stand;
He gives us for our heritage
His promised rest, a goodly land.*

*3. God has ascended with a shout,
Jehovah with the trumpet's sound;
Sing praise to God our King, sing praise,
Yes, let his glorious praise abound.*

*4. Our God is King of all the earth,
With thoughtful heart his praise make
known,
O'er all the nations God does reign,
Exalted on his holy throne.*

*5. To praise and serve our covenant God
The princes of the earth draw nigh;
All kingly pow'rs belong to him,
He is exalted, God most high.*

*Congregation Standing

*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: *Ezekiel 37:1-10*

New Testament Reading: *John 2:23 – 3:8*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Instrumental Meditation

[Please take a moment to reflect on the reading of 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: Our great and glorious God, You who know and judge the secrets of every human heart, we do acknowledge and confess that we have turned from your ways and from your blessed Presence and have reaped the misery of turning away from You, the very Author of life. None of us is righteous, no not one. None of us has understanding, none of us seeks God. We use our tongues to deceive, our mouths are full of cursing and bitterness, our feet are swift to shed blood, ruin and misery are in our paths, and the way of peace we have not known. There is no fear of God before our eyes. We appeal to you, through your great mercy made manifest in Jesus Christ Your obedient Son, that you would forgive our sins for His sake, that you would make many righteous through His one act of obedience, that where our sin has increased, Your grace would abound. Amen.

[Based upon Romans 3]

Private Confession

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

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?

Membership Vows and Christian Baptism: Zhenliang Zhao Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: The Hawkes Family

Special Needs:

Catherine Kozak – upcoming biopsies of calcifications of routine exam on Nov 30th.

Trumbull Community Group.

Mission to the World: Korea – Mr. & Mrs. Yong Park

*Song of Response: *Thy Mercy My God is the Theme of My Song*

*Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,
the joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue.
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
hath won my affections and bound my soul fast.*

*With out thy sweet mercy I could not live here;
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;
but through thy free goodness my spirits revive
and he that first made me still keeps me alive.*

*Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
dissolved by thy goodness I fall to the ground
and weep for the praise of the mercy I've found.*

*Thy father of mercies thy goodness I own
and the covenant love of thy crucified son;
all praise to the spirit whose whisper divine
seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine!*

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: *Born again?*

Rev. Preston Graham

[Sermon notes located on page 15]

²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. ¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 2:23-3.8 (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: *How Deep the Father's Love For Us*

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

*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.*

*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.*

*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)*

*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: What is thy only comfort in life and death?

Congregation: That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

[Heidelberg Catechism, #1]

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.

*Congregation Standing

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.

*Closing Hymn: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#30

*Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.*

*The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their lives and cares,
Are carried downwards by the flood,
And lost in following years.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
O be our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.*

*Congregation Standing

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 Lord bless you according to the riches of his glory and strengthen you with the power of his Spirit that you may be filled with all the fullness of God in Christ. Amen. *Ephesians 3:16ff*

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Sermon Notes

John 2:23-3:8
Born Again?

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

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