

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

December 17, 2006

8:30 & 10:30AM

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandr'ing heart to thee.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it-prone to leave the God I love:
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

#229

*1. Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled,
To the world a Stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can he be the saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favour.*

*2. Angels sang about His birth,
Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.*

*3. Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a Stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His Name in all the earth,
Hail! the King of Glory!*

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

*Call to Worship: Psalm 106: 1, 7-10, 48

Leader: Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

People: *Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the Sea, at the Red Sea.*

Leader: Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

People: *He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.*

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say,

People: *"Amen" Praise the Lord!*

*Hymn of Praise: O Come, All Ye Faithful

#208

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
Refrain*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
Refrain*

*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: *Genesis 28:10-22*

New Testament Reading: *John 1:1-5; 45-51*

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 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Corporate Confession:

[Participants may kneel or lean forward]

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

People: *O LORD, do not rebuke us in your anger, or discipline us in your wrath. For your arrows have sunk into us, and your hand has come down on us. There is no soundness in our flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in our bones because of our sin. For our iniquities have gone over our heads; they weigh like burdens too heavy for us. Forgive our sins, pardon our iniquities, and restore our communion with You, we ask through our Blessed Lord Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, Who by your grace tasted death for everyone. Amen.* *[Based upon Psalm 38 and Hebrews 3]*

Private Confession

Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Psalm 34:22

*Congregation Standing
Pastoral Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Prayer for our Members: The Jorgensen Family

Special Needs: *Christmas Eve service. Joanne Donovan* – hospitalized for testing.

Zhenliang Zhao – safe return to China & good career opportunities.

Graduate/Professional Group: *Dan Deacon* – parent’s health issues & care regarding decisions, wisdom & peace among siblings, safe travel. *Mary Moan* – wisdom, provision for transitioning to Florida, safety for travels, encouragement in fundraising.

Mission to the World:

Nicaragua – Mr. & Mrs. Robbie Lathrop

*Song of Response: *I Will Glory in My Redeemer*

*I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death
My only Savior before the Holy Judge
The Lamb Who is my righteousness
The Lamb Who is my righteousness*

*I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns
I have no longings for another
I’m satisfied in Him alone
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace
My feet are firm, held by His grace*

*I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagle’s wings
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I’ll ever sing
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me it will be paradise
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold*

*Congregation Standing

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: Images of Christ before Jesus: Christmas Lessons from Genesis
Part 3: A Bridge to Heaven

Rev. Tolivar Wills

[Sermon notes located on page 15]

10Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." 17And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." 18So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. 20Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, 21so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, 22and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Genesis 28:10-22 (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: *Silent Night! Holy Night! (vs. 1 & 4)*

#210

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

*Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!*

*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?

Congregation: I believe that our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. I believe that God, out of his mere good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, to deliver them out of sin and misery and to bring them into salvation by our redeemer, Jesus Christ. I believe in the life everlasting, where the souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness and do immediately pass into glory and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves until the final resurrection and the full enjoyment of God to all eternity. [Selections from Westminster Standards]

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 Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Prayer of 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

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*Congregation Standing

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: As With Gladness Men of Old*

#226

*1. As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.*

*2. As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

*3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.*

*4. Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.*

*5. In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!*

**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: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

Sermon Notes

Genesis 15

Images of Christ before Jesus: Christmas Lessons from Genesis
Part 3: A Bridge to Heaven

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

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*Congregation Standing