

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 at no cost online or are available upon request for \$3 per CD. To order a copy, please fill out a request sheet (located in the foyer) and place your payment into the container labeled Media Payments. Only orders accompanied by payment will be filled.

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.

December 30, 2007

10:30 AM

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Service Order 4

Prelude & Pre-Worship Meditation

Opening Songs of Praise and Worship

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#457

*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 wand'ring 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.*

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." Psalms 46:10

***Hymn of Praise: Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul #57**

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.*

*Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heaven and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.*

*Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning prisoner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eyes to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.*

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is king;
Unto him, thy God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.*

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

** Congregation Standing
wherever indicated throughout
bulletin.*

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

WORSHIP THROUGH INVOCATION AND ADORATION

***Call to Worship: Psalm 93**

Leader: The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

People: *Your throne was established long ago; You are from all eternity.*

Leader: The seas have lifted up, O Lord, the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

People: *Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea- the Lord on high is mighty.*

Leader: Your statutes stand firm; holiness adorns Your house for endless days, O Lord.

***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!*

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!
Revelation 4:2*

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."
Revelation 4:8*

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-37

New Testament Reading: I Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

Meditation: *Come and Fill*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia. 2x

WORSHIP THROUGH CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Corporate Confession:

[Participants may kneel or lean forward]

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

People: *Our great and everlasting God, Whose eternal power and divine nature have been seen through the things You have made, we ask for your forgiveness even as we acknowledge that we are without excuse. For although we have known You, we have not honored you as God or given you thanks, but we have become futile in our thinking, and our senseless minds have been darkened. Claiming to be wise, we have become fools. We are prone to envy, strife, deceit, and craftiness; we are gossips, slanderers, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, faithless, and heartless. We most joyfully confess that You have proven your love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Forgive our sins, we pray, through Him who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Amen.*

Based upon Romans 1 and Romans 5

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. Revelation 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.

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.

Private Confession

Absolution

Leader: Hear now God's assurance of pardon:

"Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Isaiah 1:18

Communal Prayer

[Participants may be seated]

Pastoral Prayer:

Prayer for our Members: Peter & Molly McHenry

Special Needs: Sunday school teachers

Mission to the World:

Church of South Africa & MTW missionaries & their families

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. Revelation 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." Mtatthew16:19

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.

Hebrews 4:14-16

***Song of Response: In Christ Alone**

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

*In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground.
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace.
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All.
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh.
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness.
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died.
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay.
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious Day.
Up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory.
Sin's curse has lost it's grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine.
Brought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death.
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man.
Can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Till He returns or calls me home.
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

*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. Revelation 5:8*

WORSHIP THROUGH THE WORD

Sermon: *In Awe of the Gospel*

Reverend Tolivar Wills

[Sermon notes located on page 14]

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
[2] We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,[3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.[6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,[7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.[9] For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
[10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (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."

Revelation 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.

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: *Fairest Lord Jesus (vs. 1, 2 & 4)*

#170

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.*

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

*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?

People: I believe that God, because of Christ's atonement, will never hold against me any of my sins nor my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather in his grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment. I am a member of Christ by faith, and thus partake of his anointing. He is ordained of God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Ghost, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and to be our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body, has redeemed us, and makes continual intercession with the Father for us; and also to be our eternal King, who governs us by his word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in that salvation, he has purchased for us. [Heidelberg Catechism, Question #56, 31, 32]

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.”
Revelation 4:10-11

*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

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 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 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!"

Revelation 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 confessed their own brokenness in sin, received Christ by faith and have 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: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

#296

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Crown him ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call:
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall.
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all;
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!*

*Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.*

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." Revelation 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: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

Postlude

Sermon Notes

In Awe of the Gospel
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Exposition:

Main Point:

Inferences:

[Music reprinted by permission – CCL #745254]

The CPC Weekly

DECEMBER 30th, 2007

If you are visiting or you regularly attend CPC, we invite you to pick up our Welcome Booklet and Ministry Guide which can be found on the greeting table in the foyer.

THIS WEEK:

The CPC Study Center will be closed December 25th – January 1st. You can still email the administrator at cpc.ad@snet.net or Tolivar Wills at cpctolivar@snet.net if any urgent business needs to be taken care of during that week.

Please note the following changes to the schedule due to the holidays:

There will be **No Sunday School** on these dates:

Sunday, December 30th, 2007
Sunday, January 6th, 2008

There will be **No Theology at Anna Liffeys** on these dates:

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008
Wednesday, January 9th, 2008

Meetings will resume on Wednesday, January 16th, 2008 at 5 pm.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Coming soon: CPC Café!

CPC will be hosting an after-service café in the new year. This will be a catered event. Grand Opening – date to be determined. We are looking for a few good people to meet with the pastors to help formulate this vision. We will be meeting for lunch on January 6th, 2008 (after worship service) to discuss this event.

Christmas decorations will be taken down on Friday, January 11, 2008 at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY GROUP

Please see the bulletin board in the foyer for meeting dates, times and locations.

GOT ANNOUNCEMENTS? WILL POST!

Communicate with the congregation: events, job opportunities, housing, other non-sponsored church activities, etc. E-mail your information to cpc.ad@snet.net. Look for these announcements in the weekly email and on the Parlor bulletin board.

(Postings must be received by NOON on Wednesday to be guaranteed in the next Weekly.)

JOIN THE ONLINE SERMON DISCUSSION

Please visit the CPC homepage to access links to the sermon discussion message board. All are invited to participate. Community Groups are encouraged to share their thoughts online following their conversation or visit the message board prior to their meeting to facilitate discussion.

<http://groups.google.com/group/cpcnewhaven/>

Get Connected at CPC

CPC Mom's Study Group

Meets every Tuesday morning in the Parlor from 10:30 -11:30. For more information contact Heather Woolbert at heather@woolbert.com or 203-375-1414.

CPC Women's Prayer Group

Meets every Thursday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 at Peggy Keabian's home in Guilford. For more information contact Peggy Keabian at 453-6965 or Jennifer Cheng at 457-9825.

CPC Community Groups

Groups meet throughout the month - if you would be interested in joining a community group or for more information, please contact Tolivar Wills at cpctolivar@snet.net or call 777-6960.

CPC Sunday Nursery Schedule

Please contact Abby Hodges abby.hodges@yale.edu for Sunday scheduling.

12/30 SS: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Worship: Julie Bruce, Abby Hodges, Peggy Keabian
1/6 SS: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Worship: Russell Bogue, Heidi Shimp, Stephanie Lim, Keri Cocchiola
1/13 SS: Karen Peck and Megan Paek	Worship: Katherine Bogue, Sara Daniel, Paul Wildey
1/20 SS: Heather and Steve Woolbert	Worship: Catherine and Martha Olson, Benny Finch, and Scott Wilhelm
1/27 SS: Molly and Tim Gribble	Worship: Ellen Keabian, Kristy Lamb, Sam Wills, Jim Thomas

Cancellation Policy

If a service is to be cancelled it will be announced on our website and on our phone system no later than 1 hour prior to event. If no announcement is posted then scheduled event will still take place.

