

WORSHIP GATHERING

August 15, 2021

Pre-service reflection:

And then—oh joy! For he was there: the huge Lion, shining white in the moonlight, with his huge black shadow underneath him.

But for the movement of his tail he might have been a stone lion, but Lucy never thought of that. She never stopped to think whether he was a friendly lion or not. She rushed to him. She felt her heart would burst if she lost a moment. And the next thing she knew was that she was kissing him and putting her arms as far round his neck as she could and burying her face in the beautiful rich silkiness of his mane.

“Aslan, Aslan. Dear Aslan,” sobbed Lucy. “At last.”

The great beast rolled over on his side so that Lucy fell, half sitting and half lying between his front paws. He bent forward and just touched her nose with his tongue. His warm breath came all round her. She gazed up into the large wise face.

“Welcome, child,” he said.

“Aslan,” said Lucy, “you’re bigger.”

“That is because you are older, little one,” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia*, (1951, 1994) 141.

Call to Worship

Psalm 46

Leader

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Congregation

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

**God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.**

**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Come to Me

Buddy Greene

CHORUS

Come to me
All who are weary
And heavy laden,
And I will give you rest, rest, rest
I'll give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you
And learn from me
For I am gentle
And humble at heart
And you will find
Rest for your soul
For my yoke is easy
And my burden is light.

CHORUS

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CHORUS

All Praise to Him

Matt Merker and Bob Kauflin

All praise to Him the God of Light
Who formed the mountains by his might
All praise to Him who names the stars
That sing His fame in skies afar

All praise to Him Who reigns in love
Who guides the galaxies above
Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care

All praise to Him Whose love is seen
In Christ the Son, the servant King
Who left behind His glorious throne
To the pay the ransom for His own

All praise to Him Who humbly came
To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame
Who lived to die, Who died to rise
The all-sufficient sacrifice

All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts
The love of God within our hearts
The Spirit of all truth and peace
The fount of joy and holiness

To Father, Son, and Spirit now
Our souls we lift, our wills we bow
To you, the Triune God we raise
With loving hearts our songs of praise (x2)

You Alone Can Rescue

Matt Redman

Who O Lord could save themselves,
Their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea
Your love is deeper still (x2)

CHORUS

You alone can rescue, You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave
You came down to find us, Led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise

You, O Lord, have made a way
The great divide You heal
For when our hearts were far away
Your love went further still
Yes, your love goes further still

CHORUS X 2

We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes, You're the Giver of Life
We lift up our eyes, Lift up our eyes, You're the Giver of Life
(repeat x3)

CHORUS

Confession of Sin

Leader

Our gracious God and heavenly Father, we fall short of Your glory every day;

Congregation

by spending hours unprofitably and selfishly, by trying to impose our will instead of doing your will.

We forget...or refuse...to submit to Your will, and often complain about the circumstances of our life.

We have often been hasty and short in prayer, neglecting our relationship with you.

Father, in Your mercy forgive our sins. Enable us to be fully-alive people, free from small, selfish, worldly desire, and from everything contrary to Your revealed will.

**Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened through its influence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON YOUR KNEES, OR BOWING
IN YOUR SEAT, FOR PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN.*

Declaration of Pardon

Proverbs 18:10

Leader

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.

In Christ, you are forgiven, free, and restored!

Congregation

In Christ we are forgiven, free, and restored!

Praise the Lord Ye Heavens

Eric J. Marshall

Praise the Lord, Ye heavens adore Him
Praise Him, angels in the height
Sun and moon rejoice before Him
Praise Him all ye stars of light

Praise the Lord for He hath spoken
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made

CHORUS

All creation join the song of praise
Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy
All of our days

Praise the Lord for He is glorious
Never shall His promise fail
God hath made His saints victorious
Sin and death shall not prevail

CHORUS

Glory, Glory, All glory to You Lord...

Praise the God of our salvation
Hosts on high His power proclaim
Heaven and earth and all creation
Laud and magnify His Name

CHORUS

Confession of Faith

NEW CITY CATECHISM - QUESTION #44

Leader

What is baptism?

Congregation

Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and *seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

*“Seals” means “to bear official designation.” That is, baptism is the “official sign” God gives (as opposed to some other sign we may make up in its place).

(kids version)

Leader

What is baptism?

Congregation

Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer & Baptism

Elijah Bradbury; Charles and Daniel Sandvig; Elizabeth, Cynthia, and Torin Purdie

New City Church has the privilege of being a community where many streams of the ancient Christian faith flow together. One practice that has divided Christians for centuries is baptism and the question of *who* should be baptized.

Historically, the “major stream” of Christianity in history has seen baptism appropriately applied to both believing adults (who have not been baptized) and the children born or incorporated into a believing household. An important “smaller stream” has understood baptism to be reserved for people only after the profess faith.

As a place where multiple streams converge, New City Church practices the “major stream” and deeply respects and honors the other.

We recognize there have been godly and brilliant people on both sides of this issue for hundreds of years and each have arguments they think to be thoughtful and biblical. While it is necessary to practice *something*, we have chosen not to make baptism a point of contention within our community.

As a church in the Reformed tradition, New City will engage in the practice of baptizing children of a believing parent as well as adults/older children who have made a profession of faith but not yet been baptized. While New City engages in this practice for biblical reasons, we also understand that some may choose not to do so.

We believe the power of the gospel makes it possible for those in the body of Christ to disagree about this issue and for it not to affect our love and treasuring of one another or our children. The riches of grace make it possible to differ in perspective with mutual and genuine love.

Infant/child baptism: The Reformed position on baptism flows from reading the Bible as one book from Genesis to Revelation and understanding the unfolding plan to God to be one story with a God who does not change.

We do not believe baptism “saves” anyone of any age. Rather, it is a sign of God’s gracious covenant promise and blessings extended in a particular way to children of believers.

In the Old Testament: God called Abraham to trust him by faith, which the Bible calls a covenant relationship. Abraham did trust God and God declared that he was “righteous by faith.” As a sign of “righteousness by faith,” God had Abraham receive a sign of circumcision. Circumcision was an external sign representing a spiritual reality – namely, “righteousness by faith” and a changed / “circumcised” heart (Rom 4:11, Deut 10:12-22).

God then directed Abraham to apply this sign of righteousness by faith to the infant sons born in his household – before they could personally express faith in any way. This was a sign that these children were “in covenant” with God, were called to a life of righteousness by faith, and that God would pursue them with grace in a particular way through blessing them with the benefits of being in a covenant community. It is God’s intention to extend his righteousness to these children of parents who love and revere him. These children must also personally embrace their Lord in due time and receive the full benefits pictured in the sign (Ps 103:17-19).

A child could get older and resist this grace of God and, if he did, God declared him to be a covenant breaker and called him to repentance – very strong and sorrowful words (Ezek 16:59).

In the New Testament: The sign of circumcision was replaced by another sign representing the same thing, namely righteousness by faith. This new sign is baptism (c.f. Col 2:11-12). As the promises moved beyond a primarily Jewish context to the wider world, the sign of baptism is more comprehensive and accessible—pointing beyond Judaism and including women.

In our community: The Reformed Presbyterian understanding of baptism emphasizes the continuity of Scripture and the character of God. Since God does not change, unless He explicitly tells us he is relating differently to children of believers, we should trust that he does the same thing he has always done. If God now excluded children of believers, he would be less gracious in the new covenant than he was in the old! Early Christians, coming from a Jewish background, would have understood this and not have needed a command to do what they had always done.

New City leadership believes we should continue to apply the sign of the covenant to children of a believing parent - unless God tells us to stop. We do not need a second command from God to continue his prior command. Yet, we joyfully live at peace with those who are not yet convinced of this.

Gaining a Heart of Wisdom

August 15, 2021 | Psalm 90 | Pastor Roger Williams

**We are called into a way of being
that gains a heart of wisdom
(but we are not forced into it)**

Psalm 90

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

facing reality

¹² So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

responding in humility

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

actively enjoying available grace

Sermon & Communion

Should you take Communion?

This is a “means of grace”— a method of encouragement and spiritual nourishment from God for those who entrust themselves to Jesus Christ and have received the sign of baptism. This is not for perfect people, it’s for broken people who are honest about their sin and trust in the mercy of Jesus. However, if you are harboring secret or unrepented sin or are in unaddressed conflict with another Christian, we ask that you first repent or go and be reconciled before coming to the table.

New City is happy to be a community where many are in process with that they believe and honestly struggle with sin and reconciliation. For this reason, it is not uncommon for folk to refrain from taking communion.

Children

Should talk with a pastor about personal faith in Christ before taking Communion. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to be in this conversation.

Run to the Father

Matt Maher, Ran Jackson, Cody Carnes

I've carried a burden for too long on my own
I wasn't created to bear it alone
I hear Your invitation, to let it all go
I see it now, I'm laying it down
I know that I need You

CHORUS

I run to the Father, fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend
So I run to the Father again and again
And again and again

You saw my condition, had a plan from the start
Your Son for redemption, the price for my heart
I don't have a context for that kind of love
I don't understand, I can't comprehend
All I know is I need You

CHORUS

My heart has been in Your sights long before my first breath
Running into Your arms is running to life from death
I feel this rush deep in my chest, Your mercy is calling out
Just as I am You pull me in I know I need You now

CHORUS

I run to the Father, fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait
My heart found a surgeon, my soul found a friend
So I run to the Father again and again
And again and again

This Is Amazing Grace

Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, The King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, The King above all kings

CHORUS

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life, that I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who rules the nations with truth and justice?
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

CHORUS

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave (x2)

CHORUS

Benediction

from 2 Peter 3:18

Leader

As you go in peace may you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.

ACTIVE DEACONS & DEACONESSES (“DIACONATE”)

Tom Abbett, Katie Blodgett, Megan Flahive, Dave Ostendorf,
Rich Scott (Chairman), Emily Taylor, Paul Taylor, Rebekah Torzewski, Chris
Vincent, Teresa Wedges

ACTIVE ELDERS (THE “SESSION”)

Michael Erler, Ben Flack, Daryl Kapp, John McAllen, Mark Moss, Joe Sugimura,
Dustin Sutherland, Caleb Winter (Clerk)

STAFF

Taylor Bradbury — *Associate Pastor*

Ben Flack — *Director of Liturgy*

Rebekah Torzewski — *Church Administrator*

Roger Williams — *Senior Pastor*

Erin Winders — *Director of Nursery Ministries*

Emily Winter — *Director of Children’s Ministries*

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