

# **WORSHIP GATHERING**

December 6, 2020  
Advent, week 2

## **Welcome**

New City Church is a spiritual family defined by the good news that God has taken loving initiative in Jesus Christ to bring salvation to sinners and a sin-marred world. Through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, the restoration of all things has begun, beginning with those who admit their need and trust his gracious provision. This restoration will eventually reach to the ends of the earth and touch every part of creation.

This is our joyful confession  
and the life-giving hope of our community.

# Gathering Song

*Feel free to join in as you find your seat and prepare for worship*

## **COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

*Rowland Hugh Prichard and Charles Wesley*

Come Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the saints Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee, day-spring from on high appear  
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear  
O'er the hills the angels singing news glad tidings of a birth  
Go to him your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer Shepherd Friend Leaving  
riches without number, born within a cattle stall  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

# Call to Worship

*Isaiah 11*

## *Leader*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

## *Congregation*

**The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the  
viper's nest.  
They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.**

# O Come All Ye Faithful

*John Francis Wade, C. Frederick Oakeley*

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;

*CHORUS*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

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

*CHORUS*

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

*CHORUS X2*

# You Are

*Peter Taylor*

Father amongst us  
Spirit within  
Son work through  
Until we see clearly again

*CHORUS*

For my strength is weak Father Father  
And my love grows thin, Son assist  
When I'm told to reach out I pull back  
Spirit deliver me from this

Breathe life into our bones  
Pierce us through with the crown of glory  
That we may proclaim you're the Holy of holies  
'til we are what you made us  
In the garden we'll be  
Broken and asking  
Yahweh do this to the Body

*CHORUS*

We lay  
This petition before you

For in our frailty You are strong  
In our mistakes You are good  
In our defeats You have won  
For You are, You are  
(repeat)

# Confession of Sin

*Leader*

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 admit that we don't have any excuses. Just like your word says: even though 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.

*Congregation*

**Claiming to be wise, we become fools. But we put our hope in the wonderful fact that when we were weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. We confess with joy 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.**

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

# Declaration of Pardon

*based on Isaiah 40:1-2*

*Leader*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid.

In Christ you are forgiven, free, and restored!

*Congregation*

**In Christ, we are forgiven, free, and restored!**

# Cornerstone

*Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder  
Bradbury*

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

*CHORUS*

Christ alone, Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm  
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

*CHORUS X2*

When he shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless, stand before the throne

# Confession of Faith

NEW CITY CATECHISM - QUESTION #8

*(The underlined portions correspond to the Children's Catechism studied at home this week by New City families.)*

*Leader*

What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

*Congregation*

**You shall have no other gods before me.**

**You shall not make for yourself an idol ...**

**You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

**You shall not murder.**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

**You shall not steal.**

**You shall not give false testimony.**

**You shall not covet.**

## Prayer

## Sermon

SEE ACCOMPANYING INSERT

# The Prodigal Spirit

December 6, 2020 | Luke 15:10-24 | Pastor Roger Williams

**Luke 15:11-24** <sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

<sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’

<sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

## The Father subverts the allure of sin with the allure of grace.

### The allure of the far country (v.11-16)

*A “freedom” that entices, then enslaves and dehumanizes*

### Coming to ourselves (v.17-19)

*Honestly turning from famine with a hunger for home*

### The allure of the Father (v.20-24)

*Rise and go with clear words to a Father to runs to meet us*

## al·lure

/əˈloʊr/

*noun*

the quality of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating.

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.

And yet after such a great number of years, no one without faith has reached the point to which all continually look. All complain, princes and subjects, noblemen and commoners, old and young, strong and weak, learned and ignorant, healthy and sick, of all countries, all times, all ages, and all conditions.

A trial so long, so continuous, and so uniform, should certainly convince us of our inability to reach the good by our own efforts. But example teaches us little. No resemblance is ever so perfect that there is not some slight difference; and hence we expect that our hope will not be deceived on this occasion as before. And thus, while the present never satisfies us, experience dupes us, and from misfortune to misfortune leads us to death, their eternal crown.

**What is it then that this desire and this inability proclaim to us, but that there was once in man a true happiness of which there now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present?** But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself.

He only is our true good, and since we have forsaken Him, it is a strange thing that there is nothing in nature which has not been serviceable in taking His place; the stars, the heavens, earth, the elements, plants, cabbages, leeks, animals, insects, calves, serpents, fever, pestilence, war, famine, vices, adultery, incest. And since man has lost the true good, everything can appear equally good to him, even his own destruction, though so opposed to God, to reason, and to the whole course of nature.

-Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* #425

You move us to delight in praising You; for You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

- Augustine, *Confessions* 1.1

# Joy to the World

*Isaac Watts / Psalm 98*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world  
With truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

# Benediction

*Revelation 1*

*Leader*

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

**ACTIVE DEACONS & DEACONESSES (“DIACONATE”)**

Tom Abbett, Megan Flahive, Rich Scott (Chairman), Emily Taylor, Rebekah Torzewski, Chris Vincent, Teresa Wedges

**ACTIVE ELDERS (THE “SESSION”)**

Michael Erler, Ben Flack, Blake Williams, Caleb Winter (Clerk)

**STAFF**

Taylor Bradbury — *Director of Ministries*

Ben Flack — *Director of Liturgy*

Rebekah Torzewski — *Church Administrator*

Roger Williams — *Senior Pastor*

Emily Winter — *Director of Children’s Ministries*

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