

# WORSHIP GATHERING

August 29, 2021

*Pre-service reflection:*

The ascension thus speaks of the Jesus who remains truly human and hence in an important sense absent from us while in another equally important sense present to us in a new way. At this point the Holy Spirit and the sacraments become enormously important since they are precisely the means by which Jesus is present. Often in the church we have been so keen to stress the presence of Jesus by these means that we have failed to indicate his simultaneous absence and have left people wondering whether this is, so to speak, “all there is to it.” The answer is: no, it isn’t. The lordship of Jesus; the fact that there is already a human being at the helm of the world; his present intercession for us—all this is over and above his presence with us. It is even over and above our *sense* of that presence, which of course comes and goes with our own moods and circumstances.

-N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, 114.

# Call to Worship

*Hebrews 4:14-14*

*Leader*

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Congregation*

**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

# A Mighty Fortress is Our God

*Frederick Henry Hedge, Martin Luther, Jordan Critz*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing  
Our Helper He amidst the flood of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He  
The Lord of Hosts His Name, from age to age the same  
And He must win the battle

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still  
His Kingdom is forever

# Psalm 116 (I Love You, Lord)

*Jessica Ray Langdon*

*CHORUS*

I love You, Lord  
For You have delivered me  
I love You, Lord  
For You have delivered  
My soul from death  
My feet from stumbling  
I will walk in the land of the living  
My soul from death  
My feet from stumbling  
I will walk in the land of the living

I will bless You, Lord, for You heard my cry  
I reached out my hand and You saved my life  
I will bless You, Lord for You heard my plea  
And the God of Heaven turned His ear to me

I will bless You, Lord for unending love  
For Your grace and mercy raining down from above  
I will bless You, Lord to the very end  
I will call on You as long as I may live

*CHORUS*

# Jesus Paid It All

words: Elvina M. Hall, 1865; music: John T. Grape; arr.: Kristian Stanfill

I hear the Savior say,  
“Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness  
Watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all”

*CHORUS*

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone  
Can change the leper’s spots  
And melt the heart of stone

*CHORUS*

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete  
“Jesus died, my soul to save”  
My lips shall still repeat

*CHORUS*

O praise the One  
Who paid my debt  
And raised this life up  
From the dead  
(repeat)

# Confession of Sin

*Leader*

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the plans and desires of our own hearts.

*Congregation*

**We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.**

**But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us. And grant, for Jesus' sake, that we may endeavor to live a godly, righteous, and joyful life – so that Your holy name would be known as the true treasure it is. Amen.**

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

# Declaration of Pardon

*Psalm 130*

*Leader*

“If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.”

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

*Congregation*

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

# The Cup Was Not Removed

*Ben Wolverton, Justin Tweito, Taylor Agan*

The cup was not removed, He drank it all  
See Him hanging there where I belong  
His tears were as scarlet, but there in the garden  
The cup was not removed

O praise the Lamb who takes away my sin  
He tore the veil, now I can enter in  
For all my days my soul will praise Him

The law was not removed, it was fulfilled  
The prayers of all the prophets now revealed  
In the image of the Father, the yes of every promise  
The law was not removed

## *CHORUS*

O praise the Lamb who takes away my sin  
He tore the veil, now I can enter in  
For all my days my soul will praise Him  
O praise the One with scars in his hands  
O praise the Son who died and rose again  
For all my days my soul will praise Him

My sins are now removed, yes every one  
Taken by my Jesus at the cross  
As far as east and west, I see His righteousness  
My sins are now removed  
O praise Him, O praise Him

## *CHORUS*



# Confession of Faith

NEW CITY CATECHISM - QUESTION #46

*Leader*

Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

*Congregation*

**Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom.**

*(kids version)*

*Leader*

Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

**Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him.**

## Prayer led by a New City Elder

# The Ascended King

August 29, 2021 | Luke 24:50-53 | Pastor Roger Williams

**In his ascension, Jesus brings us the challenge, comfort, and confidence of his Kingdom.**

## Luke 24:50-50

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> **And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.**

## Psalm 110

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

<sup>2</sup> The LORD sends forth from Zion  
your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

<sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely  
on the day of your power,  
in holy garments...

## Daniel 7

<sup>13</sup> “I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;

his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

**Acts 1** (beginning of Luke’s second book, retelling Luke 24 to prepare for Acts)

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Completing themes in Luke: kingdom already/not yet, prayer, nations, outsiders

# Sermon & Communion

During Communion today we ask you to go to a nearby table and receive the bread and (red) wine or (white) grape juice. You do not have to hurry through the line. Bring the bread and wine back to your seat and we will all partake together. We are intentionally using slightly larger samples of bread and wine than are normal in most Protestant churches. This is an attempt to slow down the process a bit and savor the taste while reflecting on the meaning.

## **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 people are in process with what they believe and honestly struggle with sin and reconciliation. For this reason, it is not uncommon for folk to refrain from taking communion.

If not participating in Communion today, we encourage you to pray through one of the prayers on the next page.

## **Children**

Children who profess faith in Christ and have been approved to receive communion by the Elders of New City Church or the leaders of your home church are welcome to partake. Children not receiving communion are heartily welcomed to go through the line with their parents to observe what is happening.

# Prayers During Communion

## **For those searching for truth:**

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

## **For those who desire to profess faith in Christ:**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

## **A prayer for those struggling against sin:**

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

## **A prayer for children of the Church:**

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

# Jesus, Your Mercy

*Bob Kauflin, Jordan Kauflin, and Nathan Stiff*

Jesus, Your mercy is all my plea  
I have no defense, my guilt runs too deep  
The best of my works pierced  
Your hands and Your feet  
Jesus, Your mercy is all my plea

Jesus, Your mercy is all my boast  
The goodness I claim, the grounds of my hope  
Whatever I lack its still what I need most  
Jesus, Your mercy is all my boast

## *CHORUS*

Praise the king who bore my sin  
Took my place when I stood condemned  
Oh how good You've always been to me  
I will sing of Your mercy

Jesus, Your mercy is all my rest  
When fears weigh me down and enemies press  
A comfort I cling to in life and in death  
Jesus, Your mercy is all my rest

## *CHORUS*

Jesus, Your mercy is all my joy  
Forever I'll lift my heart and my voice  
To sing of a treasure no pow'r can destroy  
Jesus, Your mercy is all my joy

## *CHORUS*

# Sing to the King

*by Billy Foote and Charles Silvester Horne*

Sing to the King who is coming to reign  
Glory to Jesus the Lamb that was slain  
Life and salvation his empire shall bring  
And joy to the nations when Jesus is King

## *CHORUS*

Come let us sing a song  
A song declaring that we belong to Jesus  
He is all we need  
Lift up a heart of praise  
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus  
Sing to the King

For His returning we watch and we pray  
We will be ready the dawn of that day  
We'll join in singing with all the redeemed  
'Cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King

## *CHORUS*

# Benediction

*Romans 15:13*

*Leader*

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





### **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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