

# WORSHIP GATHERING

September 19, 2021

*Pre-service reflection:*

(Aslan is the Christ figure in the children's series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*)

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* (1994 ed.) 141.

# Call to Worship

*Revelation 21*

*Leader*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

*Congregation*

**“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”**

*Leader*

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

*Congregation*

**And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.**

# We Delight

*Joshua Moore*

*CHORUS*

We delight in the Law of your word

We delight in the son Who was perfect from birth

We delight in the day He's returning to earth - Hallelujah

We will bow our hearts because we are free

As we raise our hands to give you glory

Father of life and love and infinite worth

We're delivered by blood that flows from the tree

Draw us near to you, vessels of your mercy

Before the invention of man, glorious Trinity

*CHORUS*

We will lift our eyes to the cloud and the flame

Lord you guide our steps and restore us again

The nations of man will rejoice in the God of the wilderness

*CHORUS X 2*

Hallelujah...

# Sing to the King

*Jordy Searcy*

Oh Lord, we give you our lives  
Let the veil be lifted from our eyes  
You are God, You created us...to Sing to You

*CHORUS*

Sing to the King, all the people  
Sing to the King, for He is the One  
Who is worthy of all the praise  
That we could ever give

Sing to the One who paid our ransom  
Sing of His name, Higher than the heavens  
Sing to the King for who He is

Oh Lord, we lift our praises high  
May our voices and our hearts collide  
And perform You a living sacrifice  
We were made for You

*CHORUS*

Oh God above the nations  
Oh God above our sin  
Lean your ears to hear us  
Let Your church sing again

*CHORUS*

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*Words by Isaac Watts, Music by Lowell Mason*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

# Confession of Sin

*Congregation*

**Heavenly Father, loving King, our thoughts and motives cannot be hidden from Your sight. Our self-pity and pride, our cowardice and sloth, our anger and envy are laid bare before Your eyes and ours.**

**But because of Jesus, let us hear Your voice saying: “His blood is our peace, His death is our freedom, His Spirit is our power, His bruising is our safety.” And let our hearts know that Your service is perfect freedom. Amen.**

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

# Declaration of Pardon

*Romans 8:31–34*

*Leader*

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

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

*Congregation*

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

# Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

*Keith Getty, Matt Papa*

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone  
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand?  
What comes, apart from His command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand

*CHORUS*

O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

*CHORUS*

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"  
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

*CHORUS X2*

Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death



# Confession of Faith

NEW CITY CATECHISM - QUESTION #49

*Leader*

Where is Christ now?

*Congregation*

**Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.**

*(kids version)*

*Leader*

Where is Christ now?

*Congregation*

**Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

## Prayer

# The Assembly of the Firstborn

September 19, 2021 | Hebrews 12:18-29 | Pastor Roger Williams

## Hebrews 12

<sup>22</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>23</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>24</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>25</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>26</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>27</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”

<sup>22</sup> But you have come:

to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

## Hebrews 10

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

## Hebrews 13

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace... <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

## 1 Peter 5

<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

# 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.

# Tell Out My Soul

*words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1962 ; music: Holly Dutton, 2004*

Tell out, my soul the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice  
Tender to me the promise of His word  
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might the deeds His arm has done  
His mercy sure from age to age the same  
His holy name-the Lord the mighty One

Tell out, my soul the greatness of His might!  
Powers, dominions lay their glory by  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise and His mercy sure  
Tell out, my soul the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

# Benediction

*Hebrews 12*

*Leader*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Go in peace.

### **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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