

WORSHIP GATHERING

September 26, 2021

Pre-service reflection:

Christ is present and active in and through the visible church today because it is that part of the world that is being penetrated by the rays of the new age as the Spirit unites us to Christ, disturbing and reorganizing our fellowship around his person and work. The church is not merely an invisible entity based merely on a spiritual unity or experience, but it also cannot guarantee its existence simply by pointing to its history. The church is a covenant community extended through all times and places, but any particular church remains in communion with this true church only by constant dependence on the free mercies of the Spirit, who has bound himself to his Word.

- Dr. Michael Horton, *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*, 846.

Call to Worship

Jeremiah 31

Leader

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Congregation

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Leader

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.

Congregation

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Covenant Song

Aaron Senseman

We belong to the Lion of Judah
We are Abraham's seed
We belong to the God
And Creator of ev'rything

Let us raise up a covenant chorus
Let us bring forth our lives
To the One whose host gathers among us
And fills the skies

CHORUS

And raise up His name on high
Raise up you people of His pride
Raise up and bear the fire that's in our eyes
And in our lives that shows that we are not afraid

In His light we can never be hidden In His love we are healed
We will shine through the night Like a city upon a hill

CHORUS

No we are not afraid

He delivers His people from bondage Sets the prisoner free
He has given us love and salvation His eternal legacy

He will spare us the sword of His anger He prepares us a home
Where we'll worship in glory forever Before His throne

CHORUS X2

We are not afraid
No we are not afraid
No we are not afraid

Praise to the Lord

Joachim Neander Arr. and addl. chorus by Nathan and Christy Nockels

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Join Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings yea, so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen
How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

CHORUS

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, Come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen sound from His people again
Gladly for aye we adore Him

CHORUS X2

Wisdom and Grace (Psalm 90)

Sandra McCracken

CHORUS

Teach us to number our days
That we may apply our hearts to Your ways
Teach us to number our days
with wisdom and grace.

You've been our home and our dwelling
our place in all generations.
Before the earth or the mountains were formed,
You are God.

CHORUS

Now the span of our lives,
It is made of sorrow and labor
As the days pass away like the grass
How soon we are gone.

CHORUS

Let the work of our hands bring you praise,
set Your favor upon us.
O establish the word of our hands,
May Your kingdom come!

CHORUS

Confession of Sin

Congregation

O King and Father, Your Son died only to be raised. Now give us to die to our sin in repentance, so we may rise to new life and power.

**Heal our confused minds with Your word,
heal our divided wills with Your law,
heal our troubled consciences with Your love,
heal our anxious hearts with Your presence,
all for the sake of Your Son, who loved us and gave himself
for us. Amen.**

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

Declaration of Pardon

From 1 John 2

Leader

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

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

Congregation

In Christ we are forgiven, free, and restored!

How Great the Love

Rick Jensen and John J. Moment

How vast the mercy and the love
My heart can now proclaim
Dry bones to flesh and blood were brought
Now sing the Father's name

CHORUS

Women How great the love

Men That He would leave the throne

Women How great the love

Men The Word became flesh and bone

Women How great the love

Men Came here to dwell and die

All And now the Father lifts the Son up high

How vast the patience, and the grace
To chase us to the end
Out to a wretched wicked man
My God now condescends

CHORUS

Wandering and lost You sought us and found us
Wrap now your peace Like a mantle around us

How deep the unseen holiness
That calls me to His name
Breathes life into this heart of stone
To glorify His name

CHORUS

Confession of Faith

NEW CITY CATECHISM - QUESTION #50

Leader

What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

Congregation

Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

(kids version)

Leader

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Prayer

The Household of God

September 26, 2021 | Ephesians 2:11-21 | Pastor Roger Williams
(What is the Church? - part 2)

The church is the Jesus-built household of God.

created...united...growing...being built...in Jesus

Ephesians 2

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins... ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us **alive together with Christ**...⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now **in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For **he himself** is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create **in himself** one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

¹⁸For **through him** we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus himself** being the cornerstone, ²¹**in whom** the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²**In him** you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Timothy 3 ¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Revelation 21 ¹Then 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. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “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. ⁴He 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.”

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.

All My Ways Are Known to You

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Dustin Smith, and Michael Farren

In days of peace and days of rest
In times of loss and loneliness
Though rich or poor, Your word is true
That all my ways are known to You

No trial has come beyond Your hand
No step I walk beyond Your plan
The path is dark outside my view
Still all my ways are known to You

CHORUS

And oh what peace that I have found
Wherever I may be
For all my ways are known to You
Hallelujah, they are known to You!

I do not fear the final night
For death will be the door to life
You take my hand and lead me through
For all my ways are known to You

CHORUS

Open up my eyes so I may see
That You have made these ways for me
Open up my eyes so I may see
That You my God, will walk with me

CHORUS

Benediction

Ephesians 3:20

Leader

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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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