



WORSHIP GATHERING

October 25, 2020

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

AWAKE MY SOUL

Sandra McCracken

The image of God invisible, the firstborn of all life
Before and within, He holds it all in
One name, one faith, one Christ

CHORUS

No one is good enough to save himself
Awake my soul tonight to boast nothing else

I trust no other source or name
Nowhere else can I hide
This grace gives me fear
And this grace draws me near
And all that it asks it provides

CHORUS

No seam in this garment
All my rags to hide
No less than your love
For Jesus is mine

When I stand on the edges of Jordan
With the saints and the angels beside
When my body is healed, And the glory revealed
Still I can boast only Christ

CHORUS X2

...To boast nothing else

Call to Worship

Philippians 3

Leader

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Congregation

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Oh! Great is Our God!

Brian Eichelberger

Oh Great is our God, so we should worship greatly
No song is too loud, no orchestra too stately
To hail the majesty of our King
So lift your voices loud as we sing

Oh Great is our God, so let our songs be endless
So awesome His ways, how could we comprehend them?
So we will make it known to our kids
And we will sing about the gracious gifts you give

CHORUS

We will sing your praise
And pour forth your fame
We will bless your name
Let everyone give thanks
Because our God is great

Oh Great is our God, and we cannot contain it
We sing from our souls, affected by His greatness
His mercy covers all that He's made
Showing His glory and His grace

CHORUS X2

O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer

Nathan Stiff

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone

Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts

My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died

You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame (2x)

O Lord my Rock and My Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your name

Confession of Sin

Leader

Let us confess our sin together.

Congregation

Father, teach us not to sin with such abandon. We often do it all so easily: pretend, lie, envy, lust, criticize, brood, ignore, deny, consume, hoard, defame, distort, make excuses, and then expect an easy forgiveness for the asking.

Loving Father, astonish us with a wholesome, godly, fear which will not drive us to despair, but cause us to number our days and get us hearts of wisdom. In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

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

Declaration of Pardon

From Acts 4

Leader

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. 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 #2

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

Leader

What is God?

Congregation

God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. He is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable in his power and perfection, goodness and glory, wisdom, justice, and truth. Nothing happens except through him and by his will.

Prayer

Sermon

SEE ACCOMPANYING INSERT

Philippians 3

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Colony of Heaven

October 25, 2020 | Philippians 3:17-21 | Pastor Roger Williams

In Jesus, the church becomes a colony of heaven.

Embracing citizenship

But our citizenship is in heaven

Embracing citizenship where we are

among enemies of the cross of Christ

Embracing citizenship where we are with redemptive activity

Join in imitating...walk...await...transform

1. The Holy Spirit has formed the church to be a colony of heaven in the country of death...the church is the core element in the strategy of the Holy Spirit for providing human witness and physical presence to the Jesus-inaugurated kingdom of God in this world. It is not that kingdom complete but it is a witness to that kingdom.

But it takes both sustained effort and a determined imagination to understand and embrace church in its entirety. Causal and superficial experience with church often leaves us with an impression of bloody fights, acrimonious arguments, and warring factions. These are more than regrettable; they are scandalous. But they don't define church. There are deep continuities that sustain the church at all times and everywhere as primarily and fundamentally God's work, however Christians and others may desecrate and abuse it.

-Eugene Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, 12

2. The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not *in* them, it only came *through* them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

3. Whenever the early Christians entered a town, the people in power became disturbed and immediately sought to convict the Christians for being “disturbers of the peace” and “outside agitators.” But the Christians pressed on, in the conviction that they were “a colony of heaven,” called to obey God rather than man. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be “astronomically intimidated.” By their effort and example they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contests.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*

4. In strange, often unintended ways, the pursuit of “justice,” shalom, and a “holistic” gospel can have its own secularizing effect. What begins as a gospel-motivated concern for justice can turn into a naturalized fixation on justice in which God never appears. And when that happens, “justice” becomes something else altogether—an idol, a way to effectively naturalize the gospel, flattening it to a social...project in which the particularity of Jesus as the revelation of God becomes strangely absent. Given the newfound appreciation for justice and shalom among evangelicals, we do well to see such trajectories as a cautionary tale...like a visitation from the ghost of Christmas future showing us where we could end up.

- James K.A. Smith, *Awaiting the King*, 82-83

Rescuer

Benjamin Hastings, Bryan Fowler, and Rend Collective

There is good news for the captive, Good news for the shamed
There is good news for the one who walked away
There is good news for the doubter, the one religion failed
For the good Lord has come to seek and save

CHORUS

He's our Rescuer, He's our Rescuer
We are free from sin forever more
Oh how sweet the sound, Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

He is beauty for the blind man, Riches for the poor
He is friendship for the one the world ignores
He is pasture for the weary, Rest for those who strive
Oh the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life (x2)

CHORUS

So come and be chainless, Come and be fearless
Come to the foot of Calvary
There is redemption for every affliction,
Here at the foot of Calvary

So come and be chainless, Come and be fearless
Come to the foot of Calvary
There is redemption for every affliction,
Here at the foot of Calvary

CHORUS

Benediction

1 Timothy 1

Leader

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory 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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