

WORSHIP GATHERING

January 2, 2022

Pre-service reflection:

“We know that all that is possible or conceivable of what is good and fair and blessed shall one day be real and visible. Out of all evil there comes the good; out of sin comes holiness; out of darkness, light; out of death, life eternal; out of weakness, strength; out of the fading, the blooming; out of rottenness and ruin, loveliness and majesty; out of the curse come the blessing, the incorruptible, the immortal, the glorious, the undefiled!

Our present portion, however, is but the pledge, not the inheritance. The inheritance is reserved for the appearing of the Lord. Here we see but through a glass darkly. It does not yet appear what we shall be. We are now but as way-faring men, wandering in the lonely night, who see dimly upon the distant mountain peak the reflection of a sun that never rises here, but which shall never set in the ‘new heavens’ hereafter.”

—Horatius Bonar, *Night of Weeping* (1845)

Call to Worship

Psalm 145

Leader

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.

Congregation

**One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

Leader

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Congregation

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

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

All Things Together

Andrew Peterson

He's the image of the invisible God
The firstborn of creation
By Him, all things were created
In heaven and earth, seen and unseen
Rulers, dominions, and powers and kings

CHORUS

(He holds) all things, all things, all things together
He holds all things, all things, all things together

He is the head of the body, the church
The firstborn from the dead
So in everything, He is the head
And the fullness of God was pleased to dwell
In Him to reconcile to Himself

CHORUS

Through Him and for Him, all things remain
Through Him and for Him, all things remain
He is above all things, in Him all things hold together
Through Him and for Him, all things remain
Through Him and for Him, all things remain
He is above all things, in Him all things hold together

He made peace, He made peace
He made peace by the blood of His cross
He made peace, He made peace
He made peace by the blood of His cross

CHORUS X2

Confession of Sin

Leader

Let us confess our sins together.

Congregation

Gracious Heavenly Father, you are the giver of all good things. You have kept nothing from us that would be for our ultimate flourishing.

Leader

What is excellent and profitable for your people, you give to us in your word, but we, at times, ignore it or forget it. You have asked us to speak evil of no one and to avoid quarreling, but we insist on being right. You have said to be gentle and show perfect courtesy toward all people but we are selective in who receives our mercy.

Congregation

We have forgotten our former place before your grace broke into our lives - a place of disobedience and slavery to various passions and pleasures - and, as a result, do not extend that grace towards others as you have asked. Convict us, O Lord, of the malice and envy in our hearts towards others - towards those you love and died for - so that we might set our hearts, again, towards you and the good works you have prepared for us in Jesus, for his people, your Church. Amen.

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

Declaration of Pardon

Titus 3:4-5

Leader

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

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

Congregation

In Christ we are forgiven, free, and restored!

He Will Hold Me Fast

Keith & Kristyn Getty

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

CHORUS

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

CHORUS

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last

CHORUS X2

Give Thanks to the Lord

words: Brad Smith, arr. David Hampton

Give thanks to the Lord for the works of His hands
For a kingdom that cannot be shaken
Give thanks to the Lord, for we all now can stand
And fear not of being forsaken

CHORUS

Give thanks to the Lord for His righteousness,
Give thanks to the Lord for His love
Let us worship His name and His holiness
Give thanks to the Lord! Oh, Give thanks to the Lord!
Give Thanks

Give thanks to the Father for sending His Son
Give thanks to the Son for the Spirit
Now lift up your voices to God three in one
And shout so the whole world can hear it

CHORUS X2

Confession of Faith

EACH WEEK WE CONFESS TRUTH SHARED BY CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING FROM THE LAUSANNE COVENANT, AN INTERNATIONAL 20TH CENTURY WORK.

(6. THE CHURCH AND EVANGELISM)

Leader

We affirm that Christ sends his redeemed people into the world as the Father sent him, and that this calls for a similar deep and costly penetration of the world. We need to break out of our ecclesiastical ghettos and permeate non-Christian society.

Congregation

In the Church's mission of sacrificial service evangelism is primary. World evangelization requires the whole Church to take the whole gospel to the whole world. The Church is at the very center of God's cosmic purpose and is his appointed means of spreading the gospel.

Leader

But a church which preaches the cross must itself be marked by the cross. It becomes a stumbling block to evangelism when it betrays the gospel or lacks a living faith in God, a genuine love for people, or scrupulous honesty in all things including promotion and finance.

Congregation

The church is the community of God's people rather than an institution, and must not be identified with any particular culture, social or political system, or human ideology.

Covenant is the Way

January 2, 2022 | Genesis 12, 15, 17 | Pastor Roger Williams

A divine covenant...is a God-initiated, binding, living, relationship with blessings and obligations. – Dr. Ligon Duncan

Genesis 11 ⁴Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

Genesis 12

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

*Covenant trust is the way
God gives what we anxiously seek.*

Genesis 15

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates ...

*Covenant grace is the way
God gives himself to his people.*

Genesis 17

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

⁹And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.

*Covenant partnership is the way
God gives life to the world.*

Hebrews 11

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Galatians 3

⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Prayer

LED BY A NEW CITY CHURCH ELDER

Sermon

SEE ACCOMPANYING INSERT

Communion

Receiving communion is an active profession that, “I receive and rest on Jesus alone for salvation and humbly submit to his Lordship in my life.”

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.

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.

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

*DURING THIS LAST SONG, WE INVITE KIDS TO GRAB SHAKERS FROM THE
BACK OF THE GYM AND PLAY ALONG WITH US.*

God Is For Us

*James Ferguson, James Tealy, Jesse Reeves, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren,
Rich Thompson, and Tiarne Kley*

We won't fear the battle, we won't fear the night
We will walk the valley, with You by our side
You will go before us, You will lead the way
We have found a refuge, only You can save

CHORUS

Sing with joy now, our God is for us
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now, no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us

Even when I stumble, even when I fall
Even when I turn back, still Your love is sure
You will not abandon, You will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

CHORUS

Neither height nor depth can separate us
Hell and death will not defeat us
He who gave His Son to free us
Holds us in His love (x2)

CHORUS (x2)

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.

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*

Claire Snethen — *AV Coordinator*

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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