

WORSHIP GATHERING

March 27, 2022

Pre-service reflection:

The gospel tells us that, because of God's great love for us, Jesus Christ the Son of God left the realm of heaven and gave himself for our sins at the cross, creating for himself a new human culture for all who believe into him – a gospel culture. In this canceling, crucifying world, Jesus is carving out a place of safety where we can get our lives back, where we can plug into the power source of his gospel and light up to his love. Gospel plus safety plus time to heal – that's the culture Jesus died to create, and that's where we come alive.

-TJ Tims, Lead Pastor, Immanuel Church Nashville

Call to Worship

Psalm 115

Leader

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Why should the nations say,

“Where is their God?”

Our God is in the heavens;

he does all that he pleases.

Congregation

O Israel, trust in the LORD!

He is their help and their shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!

He is their help and their shield.

You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!

He is their help and their shield.

Leader

The heavens are the LORD's heavens,
but the earth he has given to the children of man.

Congregation

We will bless the LORD

from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the LORD!

Before the Throne of God Above

Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart...

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me...

Behold him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God...

The Lord, My God, My Salvation

Will Duvall

Sing praise for what the Lord has done,
Who freely gave His Son, to be our sacrifice
By His grace greater than all our sin,
I stand no more condemned, washed in the blood of Christ

CHORUS

The Lord, my God, and my salvation, I will call upon His name
The Lord, my God, and my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid,
I will trust and not be afraid

Sing praise and drink from the Well of Life
Drink deeply and without price and never thirst again
For there is rest for the weary soul
And peace that overflows
For all who come to Him

CHORUS

Sing praise and shout for joy in all the earth
As we await the King's return, who is making all things new
In that day every tear will be wiped away
And with one voice we'll say, "All glory be to You!"

CHORUS 2

The Lord, my God, and my salvation
He is my song and my strength
The Lord, my God, and my salvation
I will trust and not be afraid, I will trust and not be afraid

Confession of Sin

ADAPTED FROM *PRONE TO WANDER*, 44.

Leader

Almighty Lord, we find great delight in your creation and the good things you have given us to enjoy, but we rarely spend time delighting in you. We tend to enjoy you when you give us what we want, but we become anxious, fretful, and angry when life is hard and you seem unwilling to rescue us from uncomfortable or painful circumstances.

Congregation

We spend many days haunted by guilty fears over the sins that we have committed, forgetting the wounds that will forever scar the hands of your Son, and that plead forgiveness for us every moment of every day. We fail to bear grief and shame patiently, because we forget that you alone are our stronghold in times of trouble, and you are working all things together for our good. Father, forgive us. We thank you for your radiant and beautiful Son, who delighted in you above all else and perfectly committed all his ways to your sovereign will. We praise you that his flawless obedience is ours through faith, and we are forever reconciled to you as your beloved children. Thank you for uniting us to Christ and for loving us in the very same way that you love him. Amen.

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

Declaration of Pardon

Hebrews 10:19–23

Leader

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

In Christ you are forgiven, free, and restored!

Congregation

In Christ we are forgiven, free, and restored!

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)

Cornerstone

E. Mote, E. Liljero, J. Myrin, R. Morgan, W. Batchelder Bradbury

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name

CHORUS

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

CHORUS X2

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless, stand before the throne

Statement of Faith

EACH WEEK WE CONFESS HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN TRUTH AND ARE CURRENTLY WORKING FROM AN ADAPTATION OF THE “THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM” - A QUESTION AND ANSWER TEACHING TOOL THAT HAS BEEN SHAPING CHRIST’S CHURCH SINCE 1648.

(QUESTIONS 21–22)

Leader

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?

Congregation

The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Leader

Q. 22. How did Christ, being Son of God, become man?

Congregation

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

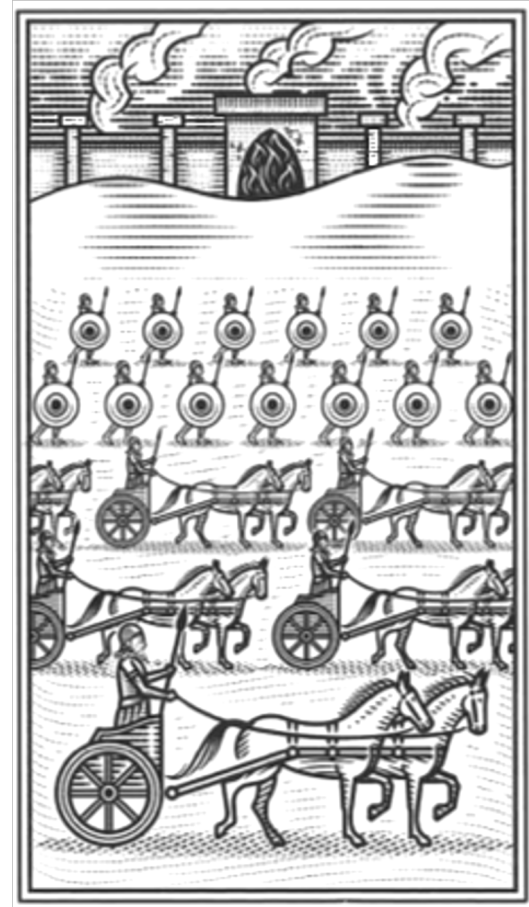


Illustration by Phillip Voth

Unfolding Grace

2022 Sermon Series

We are spending several weeks in 2022 exploring the unfolding grace of God in major portions of the Old Testament. This means we often cover large sections of Scripture and skip many otherwise important things. We encourage you to supplement these sermons with depth reading of the surrounding passages on your own.

Cycles of Sin and Renewal

March 27, 2022 | Judges 2 | Pastor Taylor Bradbury

The book of Judges (1) serves as an apologetic for Israel's monarchy, (2) encourages us with God's faithfulness in the midst of our unfaithfulness, and (3) warns us of the danger of idolatry.

Judges 2

Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you,'² and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you."⁴ As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

⁶When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land.⁷ And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel.⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years.⁹ And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

¹¹And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.¹² And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.¹³ They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.¹⁵ Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

¹⁶Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.²⁰ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice,²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died,²² in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not."²³ So the LORD left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

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.

Hope for Everyone

Matt Maher and Jason Ingram

Hear the angels sing, there's hope for everyone
To announce our King, there's hope for everyone
What good news they bring, there's hope for everyone
Angels sing there's hope for everyone

They came from afar, there's hope for everyone
Wise men saw the star, there's hope for everyone
Shepherds heard the choir, there's hope for everyone
From afar, there's hope for everyone

CHORUS

We are waiting on the promise
For the One who lights the darkness
Bending low to be among us
Bring Your glory in the highest, Jesus

Come let us adore, there's hope for everyone
On the manger floor there's hope for everyone
What are you waitin' for, there's hope for everyone
Come adore, there's hope for everyone

CHORUS

Come then, on the clouds, there's hope for everyone
Hear the trumpets sound, there's hope for everyone
All of heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone
On the clouds, there's hope for everyone

CHORUS X2

All of heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone
Heaven shouts, there's hope for everyone

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

Our God

Chris Tomlin

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You, none like You

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

CHORUS

Our God is greater, Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, Awesome in power
Our God, Our God

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

CHORUS

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against?
chorus

Benediction

1 Timothy 1:17

Leader

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory 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, 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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 **NEW CITY
CHURCH**