



Grace Church Stamford welcomes you
to our Sunday Service
where our aim is to meet Jesus Christ
through his Word and Spirit

August 14, 2022 AD

Call To Worship

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.** Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!**

Singing Together *Rejoice, The Lord Is King*

Philip Percival, Charles Wesley, Alanna Glover | Public Domain | © 2020 Emu Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Rejoice the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore
Mortals give thanks and sing
And triumph ever more!

*Chorus Lift up your heart
Lift up your voice rejoice
Again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus the Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above (Chorus)

His Kingdom cannot fail
He rules o'er earth and heaven
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given (Chorus)

He sits at God's right hand
Till all His foes submit
And bow to his command
And fall beneath his feet (Chorus)

Rejoice in glorious hope,
Jesus the judge shall come
And take his servants up
To their eternal home (Chorus 2)

*Chorus 2 We soon shall hear
The angel's voice
The trump of God shall sound,
rejoice!*

Hearing God's Word

Deuteronomy 10:1-22

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Confessing Together

Minister: Blessed Jesus, you offered us all your blessings when you announced: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

People: but we have been rich in pride.

Minister: Blessed are those who mourn. **People: but we have not known much sorrow for our sin.**

Minister: Blessed are the meek. **People: but we are a stiff-necked people.**

Minister: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. **People: but we are filled to the full with other things.**

Minister: Blessed are the merciful. **People: but we are harsh and impatient.**

Minister: Blessed are the pure in heart. **People: but we have impure hearts.**

Minister: Blessed are the peacemakers. **People: but we have not sought reconciliation.**

Minister: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness. **People: but our lives do not challenge the world.**

Minister: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **People: but we have hardly made it known that we are yours.**

Minister: Your Law is holy and your benedictions are perfect, but they are both too great for us. You alone are blessed.

People: We plead with you to forgive our sins and give us the blessing of your righteousness.

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Singing Together *O God Of Mercy Hear Our Plea*

Brittany Kauflin, Michael Bleeker | © 2017 Sov Grace Music. | CCLI License # 11280377

O God we've seen Your faithfulness
You brought us from the wilderness
But now our faith is frail and weak
O God of mercy hear our plea!

We join creation's longing groan
To take Your ransomed children home
For then the eyes of all will see
The God of mercy hears our plea! (Chorus)

When will You comfort our distress?
How long until the promised rest?
We cry to You from deepest need
O God of mercy hear our plea!

*Chorus Abba Father our Redeemer
In this barren land be our hope and strength
Until glory we will trust and sing
Abba Father hear our plea!*

You Alone Can Rescue

Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman | 2008 Atlas Mountain Songs | CCLI License # 11280377

Who O Lord could save themselves
Their own soul could heal?
Our shame was deeper than the sea
Your grace is deeper still (2x)

*Bridge We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes
You're the giver of life!
We lift up our eyes lift up our eyes
You're the giver of life! (2x) (Chorus 2x)*

*Chorus And You alone can rescue
You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave!
You came down to find us
Led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise!*

You O Lord have made a way
The great divide You healed
For when our hearts were far away
Your love went further still
Yes Your love goes further still! (Chorus)

Praying Together

The Collection

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Colossians 2:6-23

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Communing Together

Invitation

Brothers and sisters, this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of our Lord. So let a person examine themselves, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Prayer of Praise

Glory to God the Father, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ and crowned him with glory and honor. Glory to God the Son, who lives to plead our cause at the right hand of God and who will come again to make all things new. Glory to God the Holy Spirit, who brings us the taste of the good Word of God and the power of the age to come. Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our Lord forever. Amen.

*** Prayer for those searching for truth** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. While I find that hard to believe, help me to believe your claims. Guide me, teach me, open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

*** Prayer of belief** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before 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, I turn away from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Singing Together

And Can It Be

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And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died he for me, who caused his pain
For me who him to death pursued?
Amazing love, how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love, how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

He left his Father's throne above
So free so infinite his grace
Humbled himself, so great his love!
And bled for all his chosen race
Tis mercy all, immense and free
For O my God, it found out me
Amazing love, how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off, my heart was free
I rose, went forth and followed Thee
Amazing love, how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in him, is mine
Alive in him, my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own
Amazing love, how can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?

Benediction for Mission

Sermon Series in Colossians: The Elephant In The Room

Gospel Rituals
Colossians 2:6-23

Introduction: Basic Christian Living

1. The Power of Rituals

2. The Spiritual Power Behind the Rituals

3. The Temptations of the Rituals

Application