



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

May 21, 2023 AD

Call To Worship

Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, **let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches**, but let him who boasts boast in this, **that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth**. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.

Singing Together *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Thomas O. Chisholm, William Marion Runyan | Public Domain | CCLI License # 11280377

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

*Refrain Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see!
All I have needed Thy hand has provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love! (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

Hearing God's Word

Hebrews 11:1-40

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

Confessing Together

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now 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.

Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

Singing Together

Before The Throne Of God Above

Charitie Lee Bancroft, Vicki Cook | Public Domain | CCLI License #11280377

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 heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
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 of all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
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
With Christ my Savior and my God

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

Won My Heart

Alana Glover, Liv Chapmen | © 2016 Glover, Alanna, Chapmen, Liv | CCLI License # 11280377

In the darkness there's a light before me
And it drives away my fear
In the silence there's a voice that calls me
And it tells me You are near

In the chaos there's a hand that holds me
And will never let me go
Yes I know that You are always for me
For Your word has told me so

*Chorus I will follow You, I will walk by faith
 You have brought me near
 By Your unrelenting grace!
 I will set my mind on the things above
 You have won my heart
 With Your everlasting love!*

I was lost but then You came and found me
And in love You brought me home
I was dead in sin but then You raised me
I am saved by grace alone! (Chorus)

*Bridge 2x For no height, no depth, no life
 No death, no power on earth
 Can take us from Your love!
 No height, no depth, no life
 No death, no power on earth
 Can take us from Your love!
 (Chorus 2x)*

Praying Together

The Collection

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Judges 6:25-40

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

Communing Together

Invitation

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament: **Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.** Praise to you, Lord Jesus: **Dying, you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Joining with the saints throughout the ages, on heaven and earth, we profess our faith: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us, filling our plates with the bread of life and our cups with salvation. Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to touch an ordinary everyday world with the promise of your steadfast love and faithfulness. 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

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson | 2018 CityAlight Music | CCLI # 11280377

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Savior he will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Benediction

Made Strong out of Weakness

Judges 6:25-40

Introduction

1. A Strong Allegiance

2. For Weak Faith

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