



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

February 26, 2023 AD

Call To Worship

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that I will seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life**, and to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble**; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Singing Together

This Is My Father's World

Maltbie D. Babcock, Franklin L. Sheppard, Arr. Norton Hall Band | Public Domain | CCLI License # 11280377

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise
This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair!
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet
This is my Father's world, The battle is not done!
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one!

Hearing God's Word

Exodus 33: 1-23

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

Confessing Together

Most gracious and most merciful God, we confess to you and to one another that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted our hands to you in praise, but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil. We have rehearsed your commandments but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbor. We pray, Lord, that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice. Grant us the healing that comes from your presence and the cleansing of your all-powerful Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death and has built us up into one body, with God. To all who repent and believe, he has promised reconciliation. So live as people reconciled. **Amen.**

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

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*

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)

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Matt Papa, Michael Bleeker, Matt Boswell | © 2012 Bleeker Pub. | CCLI License # 11280377

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

Praying Together

The Collection

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Ephesians 2:11-22

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.**

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 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

The Power Of The Cross

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend | © 2005 Thankyou Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood!

Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through your suffering I am free
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live
Won through your selfless love!

Oh to see the pain written on your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Every bitter thought every evil deed
Crowning your blood stained brow!

*Chorus 2 This the power of the cross
Son of God, slain for us,
What a love, what a cost,
We stand forgiven at the cross!*

*Chorus This the power of the cross
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross!*

Now the day light flees, now the ground beneath
Quakes as its maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life
“Finished”, the victory cry! (Chorus)

Benediction

Sermon Series: What is the Church?

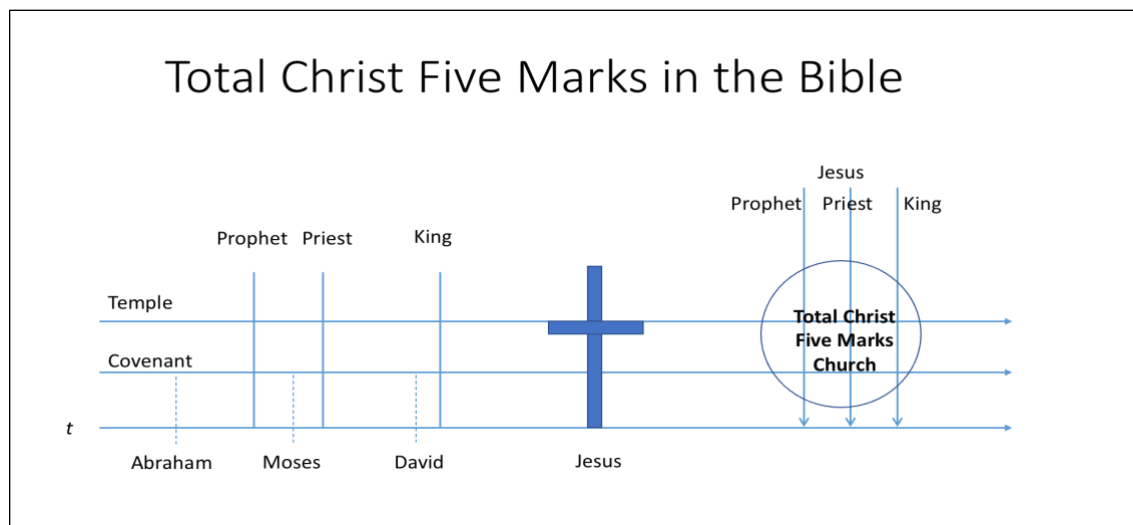
The Presence Of The Ascended King
Ephesians 2:11-22

Introduction: What does it mean to experience God's presence?

1. Far Off

2. Brought Near

Application: Dwelling together



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