



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

May 28, 2023 AD

Call To Worship

Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name. **Make known his deeds among the peoples!** Sing to him, sing praises to him. **Tell of all his wondrous works!** Glory is his holy name. **Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!** Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually. **Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.** So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. **Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 105)

Singing Together

This Is My Father's World

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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

John 14: 1-21

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

Confessing Together

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life, he says, 'Your sins are forgiven.' He also says, 'Follow me.' Now to the one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

Singing Together

Come Ye Sinners

Joseph Hart | Sovereign Grace Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Come ye sinners poor and needy
Weak and wounded sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity, love and power

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty glorified
True belief and true repentance
Every grace that brings you nigh

*Chorus I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
O there are ten thousand charms*

Come ye weary, heavy laden
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you're better
You will never come at all (Chorus 2x)

Lift High The Name

Ed Cash, Fionán De Barra, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty | @2013 Alletrop Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our King
Make known the power of His grace, the beauty of His peace
Remember how His mercy reached and we cried out to Him
He lifted us to solid ground to freedom from our sin

*Chorus Oh sing my soul and tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory*

Lift high the name of Jesus of Jesus our Lord
His power in us is greater than, is greater than this world
To share the reason for our hope to serve with love and grace
That all who see Him shine through us might bring the Father praise (Chorus 2x)

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Light
No other name on earth can save can raise a soul to life
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest He has grown
We labor in His fields of grace as He leads sinners home (Chorus 2x)

Praying Together

The Collection

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

John 20: 11-23

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.

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.**

Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy. You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you. You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ. For these gifts of your love we thank you, and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

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

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Jesus Shall Reign

Isaac Watts, John C. Hatton, Keith & Kristyn Getty | @2018 Getty Music Publishing | CCLI License # 11280377

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till sun shall rise and set no more!

Blessings abound where'er He reigns
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains!
The weary find eternal rest
And all the sons of want are blessed!

*Chorus To our King be highest praise
 Rising through eternal days!
 Just and faithful He shall reign
 Jesus shall reign!*

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name! (Chorus)

Let every creature rise and bring
Blessing and honor to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud amen! (Chorus 2x)

Benediction

John 20: 11-23

- A. Don't Cling to Me? (The Memorializing Dilemma)
- B. A Temple Salutation and Mission
 - a. The Blessed "Peace" they the ancients would literally kill for.
 - b. The Sacred Calling: Reconciliation with God
- C. Redemptive Context: There has never been a time in all of redemptive history when salvation was without God's real and salvific presence!
- D. Ascension Presence Explained And the Church as an Essential Element of the Gospel (cf John 14 especially)
- E. A Few Take Homes

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