



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

July 30, 2023 AD

Call To Worship

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. **Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.** Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his; **We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.** Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. **For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Singing Together *Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Merker, Matt Papa | © 2020 Getty Music | CCLI # 11280377

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ in which we stand

*Chorus O sing hallelujah
 Our hope springs eternal
 O sing hallelujah
 Now and ever we confess
 Christ our hope in life and death*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh?
Unto the shore the rock of Christ (*Chorus*)

Unto the grave what will we sing?
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore (*Chorus*)

Hearing God's Word

Luke 19:11-27

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

Confessing Together

Almighty God who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: before you and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins. We have ignored the presence of your Spirit. We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge. We have been blind to your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned. In your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

If you confess your sin with a repentant heart and depend on God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven. Trust in the work of Christ and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. **Amen.**

Singing Together

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth Byrne, Russell Mauldin | CCLI License # 112803777

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of Heaven my treasure Thou art

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

High King of Heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

Communing Together

Invitation

All who are weak, feed on the bread of life. All who thirst, come to the waters. Come, all who are weary, come, all who yearn for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us, and our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses. Drink deeply of these living waters. From east and west, from north and south, people will come and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.

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 but deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

What is your only comfort in life and death?

That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully paid for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil, and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; moreover, that all things must work together for my salvation, and by His Holy Spirit, Christ also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready, henceforth, to live for Him. (Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1)

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

Gracious God, we thank you for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son 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 *In Your City*

Phil Wickham | 2009 Phil Wickham Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Oh the glorious day when we arrive
And Heaven's gates are open wide
All our fear and pain will fade away
When we see You face to face
Our great and awesome King!

Love will reign and joy will have no end
When the saints go marching in
God we pray that You would please come soon
'Cause we were made to be with You
Our great and awesome King! (*Chorus*)

*Chorus You will reign in brilliant light
Forever glorified in Your city!
We Your daughters and Your sons
Will see the Kingdom come
In Your city!*

*Bridge When we've been there
For ten thousand years
Our song will be the same
Praise to the One
Who has brought us here
Jesus is His name!
Jesus is His name! (*Chorus*)*

Benediction for Mission

Sermon Series: Grace Under Pressure

The Waiting Church
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Introduction: Do we really believe Jesus will return? Is it hard to believe? Is it hard to wait?

1. When will Jesus return? (1-3)

2. How to wait for Jesus to return? (4-8)

3. Why wait for Jesus to return? (9-11)

Application

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