
 preparing our hearts

I love the LORD, because he has heard
 my voice and my pleas for mercy.
 Because he inclined his ear to me,
 therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

– Psalm 116:1-2 ESV

 ** call to worship

Leader: The LORD has made known his salvation;

All: He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Leader: They shall mount up with wings like eagles;

All: They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

– From Psalm 98:2-3 & Isaiah 40:31 ESV

Leader: We are gathered here to behold the Lord our God. Awesome and mighty is he.

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice.
Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend. To us he'll condescend.
His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, his goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Words: Christian Henry Bateman; Music: MADRID, Spanish melody. Public Domain.

Leader: God of our hope and salvation: For those who seek a Savior, lead them to that lowly manger, to the child born to bring freedom and forgiveness. For those who seek assurance, lead them to the Light of the World who opens eyes to understanding, hearts to God's Word, and souls to the truth. For those who seek forgiveness, lead them to a grace beyond comprehension, to wholeness, healing, and peace. Draw near us as we draw near to you in worship. Let us see that you are great, and let your greatness order our thinking, our feeling, our wanting, and our living. By the grace of the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FATHER, LONG BEFORE CREATION

Father, long before creation, thou hadst chosen us in love.
And that love, so deep, so moving, draws us close to Christ above.
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firmly fixed in Christ alone.

Though the world may change its fashion, yet our God is e'er the same.
His compassion and his covenant through all ages will remain.
God's own children, God's own children, must forever praise his name.

God's compassion is my story, is my boasting all the day.
Mercy, free and never failing, moves my will, directs my way.
God so loved us, God so loved us, that his only son he gave.

Loving Father, now before thee, we will ever praise thy love.
And our songs will sound unceasing 'til we reach our home above,
Giving glory, giving glory, to our God and to the Lamb.

Giving glory, giving glory to our God and to the Lamb!

"Father, Long Before Creation," Words: Chinese hymn, trans. by Francis Johnson, Public Domain.
Music: Andrew Osenga © 2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings. CCLI #3022711, #20579701, Song #4714349.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

– John 3:19-21 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Almighty and merciful God,**
We confess that we have sinned against you
And one another in both our actions and our inactions.
We recognize that in Jesus our light has come,
Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light.
Expose our sin that we might confess it, despise it, and finally deny it.
Gracious God, forgive our sins and
Remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives.
Illumine us by your Word so we may shine with the radiance of Christ's
glory. Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

All: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

– John 1:4-5 ESV

Thanks be to God!

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee; ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Havergal; Music: HENDON, H. A. César Malan. Public Domain.

Leader: Psalm 18:1-19
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

** passing the peace

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ while being careful to practice safe social distancing.

about our guest speaker | MATT SOUTHERLAND

Matt and Bonnie are from Fort Worth, Texas, and have lived in central Texas for the last 16 years. Matt has served as Assistant Pastor at CrossPointe Church in Austin since finishing at Redeemer Seminary in 2015. Bonnie taught 6th grade for 7 years and is now taking some time off to raise their children: Cole (born January 2015), Forrest (born June 2017), and baby (due June 2021). Matt and Bonnie love the outdoors, reading, and time spent with friends.

Sermon | “A Living Hope”

January 3, 2021

1 Peter 1:3-21 ^{ESV} | 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

sermon notes

**** affirmation of faith**

Leader: Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

All: (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians — a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, please wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. There are two tabs on the communion sets. The clear tab on top opens the bread. The tab underneath opens the grape juice.

Please hold on to your materials to dispose of on your way out of the sanctuary. If you have a gluten allergy, please indicate this when prompted and to your server, to receive a gluten-free wafer. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

Minister: Let us pray.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But it is your right, O God, to give mercy to whom you please. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink of him, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood; that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turned his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything – no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ – his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ransom.

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us,” Words & Music: Stuart Townend.

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**** offering
& song of thanksgiving**

As you are able, please continue to joyfully give to the work of the Lord through our church by giving [online](#) or depositing your offering in the box with the deacon.

Note: [Other ways to give](#), including mailing a check to the office, are available.

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all!

You chosen seed of Israel's race, you ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all;
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all!

Words: E. Perronet, J. Rippon; Music: CORONATION, O. Holden. Public Domain.

**** benediction**

**** doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him all creatures here below;
 Praise him above ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

for first-time visitors

Whether you are visiting us from out of town or looking for a church to call home, we're so glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor card, located at the entrance by the bulletins.

SESSION MEETING | JANUARY 5

The Session (CPC's elders) will meet on **Tuesday, January 5 , 5-7p**. If you would like to attend either in person or via zoom, **please let us know to expect you by e-mailing Adrienne Herron** (adrienne@cpcgeorgetown.org). If you have questions or concerns to be addressed but are unable to attend the meeting, please e-mail those to Adrienne or one of the elders.

TOWN HALL MEETING | JANUARY 6

Please join us for a virtual town hall meeting with Grace Academy headmaster Andy Cantwell **Wednesday, January 6 at 7p** to further explore the concept of constructing a church building on the Grace Academy campus. We will hear about Grace Academy's plans for the property and you will have the opportunity to ask questions. A zoom link will be provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES | JANUARY 10

Join us as adult Sunday school resumes on **January 10 at 1030a** via Zoom. This semester's study, "Salt and Light," will look at our call to understand and engage the culture with the gospel.

women's bible study

Join us beginning January 20 and 21 as we delve into the book of John and study the character of God! We can't wait to discover how Jesus explains what the Father is like in ways we can understand. We'll have both a Wednesday morning and a Thursday evening study available. **Contact Suzanne Joffrion** (women@cpcgeorgetown.org) for details.

register for cpc kids sunday school

It's time to register for spring kids Sunday school! Beginning on January 10, we will have a virtual children's class from 930 to 10a on Zoom each Sunday morning. Join us as we study the Shorter Catechism, read stories, and memorize scripture together. To receive supplemental materials (coloring sheets, take home pages, memory verse chart, etc.), **please contact Laura Short** (kids@cpcgeorgetown.org).

our nursery is open

We have room for kids from 6 months to 2 years old in the nursery. CPC Kids use the KidCheck security system to keep our kids safe. **Please see the nursery page at <https://www.cpcgeorgetown.org/nursery>** for details and to create an account.

worship service volunteers needed

Making our service happen on Sundays takes some doing, and a lot is going on behind the scenes. Would you like to help to make it happen? We currently need volunteers for sound and Zoom broadcasting. **If you are interested, please e-mail Adrienne Herron** (adrienne@cpcgeorgetown.org). We are very appreciative of our volunteers!

sign up to help by reading scripture

Would you like to participate in the worship service by being a Scripture Reader? **E-mail Adrienne Herron** (adrienne@cpcgeorgetown.org) to sign up.

2021 session changes

January marks the beginning of a new term for church officers, which means that it also marks the end of a term for some who have served faithfully and either need a break from service or have completed their three-year commitment. Please extend great gratitude to three elders who are rolling off active duty on the Session beginning in January — **Justin D, Shawn Horrall, and John Steele**. The following ruling elders will continue to serve for 2021: **Gary Britigan, Larry Lorimor, David Moore, and Bob Turner**. Please also extend thanks to these men and their families for their service to the Lord's church.