

Announcements

Welcome New Members

Jason and Holly Eldred come to us from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, VA. Jason is a Santa Barbara native, and Holly is a native of Morganton, NC. Jason and Holly met while attending graduate school at the University of Virginia, where Holly received an M.A. and Jason a Ph.D. in European History. Next weekend they will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. They have a 17-month old daughter named Fiona.

Membership Meeting—Today

All members are asked to attend a meeting after worship today. The general agenda for the meeting includes a vote on bylaw changes, a vote to reaffirm Will Frye as an active elder after his sabbatical and discussion of a membership matter.

Security Team Meeting—September 4th

There will be a meeting for the security team members next week after worship. Please RSVP the church office (info@cpcsb.org) with whether you can attend or not.

CPC Connect—Membership Class

Come consider with us whether confirming your relationship to Christ Presbyterian Church through membership is right for you. We'll meet after worship on September 11, 18, 25 and October 2nd. Lunch will be provided. Please let us know you're coming by contacting the church office at 957-4200 or info@cpcsb.org.

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers! Each week our faithful hospitality volunteers prepare Communion and provide us with food after worship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Darlene Frye at 957-4200 or darlene@cpcsb.org.

Service of Worship August 28th, 2011 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

A word about our worship: We believe that in worship we actually meet with God. Therefore, our services are interactive and dynamic, retelling the gospel through a five-act drama: Approach, Renewal, (re)Commitment, Communion, and Commissioning. In this drama, we all have a part. In each act, we are placed in dialogue with God himself: He speaks and we respond. In our liturgy (script), you will find your lines designated in **bold**.

PREPARATION AND REFLECTION

The story has gone from bad to worse: from rebellion in the Garden of Eden (chapter 3) to the first murder (chapter 4) to widespread violence (chapter 6), and now to the crazy idea of building a tower with its top reaching right up to heaven (chapter 11). The story of the Tower of Babel is an account of a world given to injustice, spurious types of spirituality, failed relationships, and the creation of buildings whose urban ugliness speaks of human pride rather than the nurturing of beauty. It all sounds worryingly familiar. That is the scene within which, in Genesis 12, we find the great turning point. God calls Abraham... Abraham and his descendent are somehow to be the means of God putting things to rights, the spearhead of God's rescue operation.

—*N.T. Wright*

ACT 1: APPROACH**GATHERING SONG***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Words and Music: Charles Wesley Arr: Mark Jean

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise.
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
It's music in the sinner's ears,
It's life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood availed for me!**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of your name!**

**To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of your name!**

ACT 5: COMMISSIONING

Our Great God

Words and Music: Mac Powell and Fernando Ortega

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious and unknown,
Your boundless love, unfailing, in grace and mercy shown,
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight around your glorious throne,
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone.

Chorus Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God! (2x)

Lord, we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm.
Surround us with your angels, hold us in your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Chorus

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth,
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by his word.

Chorus

CCLI Song #3493094; ©2002 New Spring Word Music, LLC

BENEDICTION: *God sends us out in His power.*

Act 1: Approach

CALL TO WORSHIP: *God summons us.*

From Psalm 115:16-18

Praise the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth!

Praise the Lord, who gave the earth to us and our children!

If you are alive today, then praise the Lord!

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Words and Music: Paul Baloche and Brenton Brown

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to you.
We turn to you.
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for you,
We long for you.

Chorus 1 Hosanna, hosanna, you are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.

Hear the sound of hearts returning to you.
We turn to you.
In your kingdom broken lives are made new,
You make all things new.

Chorus 2 Hosanna, hosanna, you are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises.
Hosanna, hosanna, come have your way among us,
We welcome you here, Lord Jesus.

Bridge When we see you we find strength
To face the day.
In your presence all our fears
Are washed away, washed away.

Chorus 2

CCLI Song #4662491; ©2005, 2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Let God Arise

Words and Music: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

**Hear the holy roar of God resound,
Watch the waters part before us now.
Come and see what he has done for us,
Tell the world of his great love.**

**Our God is a God who saves,
Our God is a God who saves.**

Chorus **Let God arise,
Let God arise.
Our God reigns now and forever,
He reigns now and forever.**

**His enemies will run for sure.
The church will stand, she will endure.
He holds the keys of life, our Lord,
Death has no sting, no final word.**

**Our God is a God who saves,
Our God is a God who saves.**

Chorus

CCLI Song #4822413 ©2006 worshiptogether.com

INVOCATION: *We ask God to meet us.*

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

- ❖ Please hold the elements until we can all partake together. (For those with diet restrictions gluten-free bread is offered).

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT COMMUNING**Prayer for those searching for truth**

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and 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 from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may I turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

ACT 4: COMMUNION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: *God invites us to a meal.*

- ❖ Christ Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin, trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel, to receive the Holy Communion with us.
- ❖ If you are not sure if you should take Communion, or if you have come to believe in Jesus today, you are encouraged to meet with one of the elders who will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service.
- ❖ If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the prayers on page 13 as a guide.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR APPROACHING THE TABLE

We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercies. In ourselves, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But You, Lord, delight to show us mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, that by faith we might be nourished and edified by Jesus Christ, that we may dwell in him, and he in us.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Hallelujah, let us keep the feast.

The gifts of God are for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Act 1: Approach

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:27–28; 2:15–17; 3:1–15, 21–23

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"

²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,

and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²²Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 21:1–4; 22:1–5

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ!

THE PREACHED WORD: *God brings us good news.*

Reading: Genesis 12:1–9

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sermon— "Father Abraham: Setting the Stage"

Sermon Notes

How Great Thou Art

Words and Music: Carl G. Bober, R.J. Hughes and Stuart K. Hines

- ❖ *During the last verse of the following song, children from age three through first grade are dismissed for a time of teaching.*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
 How great thou art, how great thou art! (2x)

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Chorus

CCLI Song #14181; ©Manna Music, Inc.

ACT 2: RENEWAL**CONFESSION OF SIN: *We own our faults.***

Almighty God, we confess that, like Adam, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone.

You are compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and merciful; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus Paid It All

Words: Elvina M. Hall; Music: John T. Grape

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray; find in me thine all in all.”

Chorus Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe.
 Sin had left a crimson stain;
 He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find thy power, and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.

Chorus

When from my dying bed my ransomed soul shall rise,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” shall rend the vaulted skies.

Chorus

Bridge O praise the one who paid my debt
 And raised this life up from the dead

And when before the throne I stand in him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down, all down at Jesus' feet.

Chorus

CCLI Song #22331; © Public Domain

ACT 3: COMMITMENT**CONFESSION OF FAITH: *We commit our allegiance.***
From Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 7

God's first covenant was one of works in which Adam and all humans after him were promised life. This covenant required perfect and personal obedience on our part.

We believe that Adam and Eve sinned against God making themselves and all humans after them incapable of life by that first covenant.

But God was pleased to make a second covenant, the covenant of grace. This covenant freely offers to sinners, life and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

GIVING: *We commit our resources.*

- ❖ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). As Christians, we give because Christ gave, and because he continues to give us freely all that he is by his Spirit.*
- ❖ *If you are a visitor, please do not feel obliged to give. At this time, you may fill out the perforated form on the back of today's bulletin and place it in the offering bag. You may also use this form if you have prayer requests or praises to share with the elders, would like information about Christ Presbyterian Church or would like to update your contact information.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: *We commit our concerns.*

- ❖ *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).*