



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

Our Gathered Order of Service

January 17, 2021 Pastor Chip Anderson (203) 450-2299 / Email: ChipCPCtheHill@gmail.com

Imagine — *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart* (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

I. Rediscover God's Glory

Call to Worship — adapted from Psalm 24

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

Let us sing a song of adoration and offer up praise to our Ascended King.

II. Rediscover God's Grace

Our confession—together

Father, we have sung your praises and acknowledged your glory. We thank you for the privilege of bearing witness of you to our world. We confess we have often failed in this mission. We have neglected to offer love out of fear of rejection. Sometimes we have just been selfish. Forgive us for our disinterest and neglect of seeking the welfare of those unlike us. Rekindle our love. Restore us so we might bear witness of your salvation in this dark world. Amen

Bow your heads, take the time to offer your own confession of sins

The Word assures us of God's forgiveness:

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7).

III. Renewal in Christ, Our King's Word

OT Reading—Jeremiah 29:1-14 (our sermon text)

NT Readings—1 Peter 2:9-12

*The Word of the Lord . . . **Everyone:** Thanks be to God.*

Sermon: Exchanging Exile for Seeking the Welfare of Our Captures

VI. Renewal of Christ's Presence

Sharing our prayer requests and bringing them before our Father

Prayers for our children

Our profession of our faith together

Church, what do we believe?

We believe we are to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31).

Affirming Christ's Presence as we share the Lord's Supper

V. Restored in Christ's Supremacy

A Prayer and the Words of Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:11-14)

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And all God's people shout: Amen!

OT Reading—Jeremiah 29:1-14: These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

NT Readings—1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord // The people: *Thanks be to God*

Announcements

- ➔ **Jan 19th**— Bonfire Bible Study @ the Anderson's out back of 122 Carlisle Street (at 6pm)— *Portraits of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke: Learning to Follow Jesus a Little Deeper*
- ➔ **Jan 20th** — **Zoom** Ladies Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00pm. Zoom Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 843 6693 1861; Passcode: 661614
- ➔ **Jan 23rd** — Maxine's Children's Read Aloud continues at 14 Steven's Street, 1:00pm–3:00pm. A time for our neighborhood children to listen to a book read aloud together.
- ➔ **Jan 23rd** — Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast & Sidewalk Church Service (122 Carlisle Street) Breakfast starts at 10am; church service starts at 10:15. We do this no matter the weather. Come join us!
- ➔ **Jan 24th** — Come join us again for next Sunday's service of worship, instruction, and fellowship @ 10am (here at 158 Davenport Ave).
- ➔ **Feb 7th** — Join us for a brief congregational meeting after morning service this morning.