CHRIST THEKING

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. -1 John 4:16a

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 4, 2022 10:30 Am Morning Worship

Prelude

In and through and by Jesus Christ, with whom Christians have been united by the Holy Spirit, we can praise, lament, petition, and discover that the story of our loss is not the only, or most important, story that encloses our lives. We discover that this spacious place – of living in Christ – is wide and deep enough for us to petition, to rejoice, and also join our laments to those of Jesus Christ, who intercedes on our behalf. – J Todd Billings, Rejoicing in Lament

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation: Deliver us when we draw near to You,

from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind: Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

Call to Worship

Leader: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Congregation: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Congregation: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Leader: He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

All: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. — *Psalm 107:1-9*

Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

Liturgist | Call to Worship

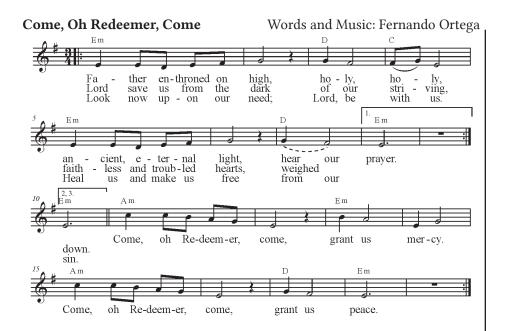
God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

Invocation

God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Words: Joseph Hart; Music: The Southern Harmony D/F♯ Em Em Am D G G e poor and need - y, weak and wound ed, 1.Come ye sin - ners, come and wel - come, God's free 2.Come, thirst y, boun-ty ye la - den, 3.Come, ye wea-ry, hea - vy lost and ru - ined make you lin - ger, 4.Let not con-science nor of fit - ness th'In - car - nate 5.Lo! God as - cend - ed, pleads the mer - it): # Еm D7 G Am Bm Еm D sick and sore; Je - sus stands save read - y to you, be lief and true glo - ri - fy; true re pen - tance, the fall: if till δv you tar - ry vou're bet ter. fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re quir - eth of his blood; ven - ture on him. ven ture whol - ly, С G/B Am Bm Еm Bm Em 0 D P of love. pow'r. full and pi ty brings ev' ry grace tĥat you nigh. will you nev er come at all. of to feel need him. is your let no oth er trust in trude. .



Confession of Faith

Leader: Christian, what do you believe?

All: 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, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the quick 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. – Apostles' Creed

Confession of Faith

We join the global and historic church in professing what we believe as Christians, to remind ourselves of the hope we have and the life that hope invites us to live.

*In this context, 'catholic' refers to the global, historic church.

Confession of Sin

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

Declaration of Absolution

God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

Confession of Sin

All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen. — from the *Book of Common Prayer*

Declaration of Absolution

Leader: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- John 3:17-18a, 2 Corinthians 5:21

To those who repent and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, the absolution of sins is effected in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

Congregation: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

Congregation: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church.

Prayers of the People

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

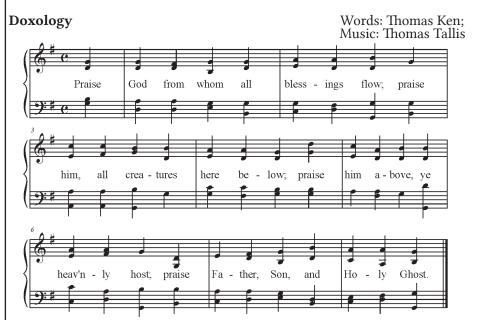
Passing of the Peace

We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other.

Life Together

We share important announcements and prayer requests for our church community.

Offertory



Prayers of the People

All: Our Father 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, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Life Together

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 1:1-2:8, p398 in pew Bible

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Travis Drake

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Scripture Reading

The public reading of God's Word is integral whenever God's people gather to worship. The first step to faith is listening to his Word.

Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit

Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

Servers come forward as liturgy begins.

We ask that those in the balcony come forward first; those seated in the outer pews can then come forward, starting from the back rows; finally, those in the center pews can come forward, starting from the back row.

Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and gluten-free wafers are in the center of each bread tray for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.

At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup as you exit the sanctuary.

Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: What do you believe?

All: In this supper God declares to us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which he himself finished on the cross once for all.

Minister: He also declares to us that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ, who with his very body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where he wants us to worship him. — from *Heidelberg Catechism*, *Q&As 75, 80*

Words of Institution

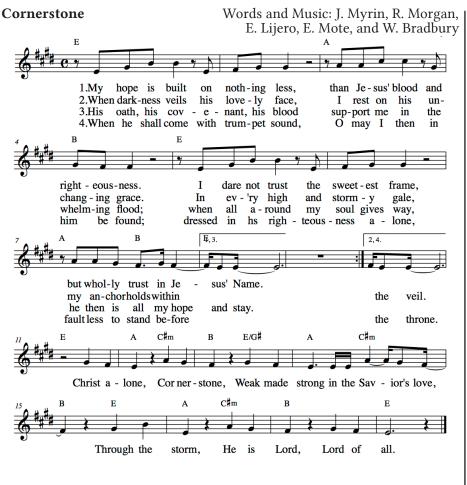
Distributing of Elements

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving



Benediction

Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

Welcome

Welcome visitors! We're glad you could join us. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctkcambridge. org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org.

SUNDAYS

Adult Education & Sunday School Classes

Adult Education and Children & Youth Sunday School classes are currently on hiatus for the summer. Classes for Kindergarten thru Grade 8 will begin on September 18th. High School Sunday School as well as Adult Education will begin later in the Fall.

For Families

Nursery

- Open during the service for up to 8 registered participants ages 6 months (and sitting) to 3 years, with a waitlist available. The room is behind the sanctuary through the doors on the right.
- Please contact Lara Kastelein (lara@ctkcambridge.org) with questions or to cancel if registered and unable to make it.

Children's Worship

- Children age 4 thru 2nd grade are dismissed from the service prior to the sermon to classes that teach about worship suited to their age. Parents must escort kids to class in order to check them in.
- Pick up from Children's Worship comes after the sermon, during the song prior to the Lord's Supper. A parent can head to the back foyer outside of the social hall; pick up will take place at the door at the top of the stairwell. Please remember your security tag during pick up.
- Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions.

During the service

- Encourage children to participate in each part of the service. For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.
- There are 'Pew Pouches' containing writing and drawing supplies in the front foyer of the church, and sermon worksheets available for kids to pick up during the Passing of the Peace to the right of the stage.

During the week

- Reread the Scripture passage. For younger children, read from a storybook Bible or more accessible translation like International Children's Bible (ICB) or NIrV available at biblegateway.com.
- Discuss the parts of the service as a family using the worship guide (ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids). Have everyone recall a part of the service that stood out to them.
- Listen to and discuss the songs from the service at ctkcambridge.org/songs. Visit this page to also pre view songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Community Groups

Now as always, Community groups are central to our life together at CTK as a way to study and pray together and serve each other and our communities. Some groups are meeting in person and some are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

Fellowship Groups and Ministries

Men's Bible Study: Andy Stuntz (astuntz@gmail.com)

Women's Ministry: Martha Olson (women@ctkcambridge.org)

Youth Ministry: Ariana Smartt (ariana@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships BU: nathan.dicks@ruf.org, serena.jones@ruf.org Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org, catherine.cook@ruf.org MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org

Meals Ministry: Erin Ward (meals@ctkcambridge.org)

Overseas Partner Liaison: Morgan Crago (missions@ctkcambridge.org)

Online Resources

Samples of the songs for Sunday's worship service are posted on the website by the Wednesday before the service, along with **the coming Sunday's bulletin and Scripture passage**, at ctkcambridge.org/songs.

For online giving, visit ctkcambridge.org/giving.

Sermon recordings and Adult Ed classes can be found on the website at ctkcambridge.org/sermons and ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation, respectively.

For recommended **daily Bible reading plans** selected by pastoral staff, visit ctkcambridge.org/daily-bible-readings.

To sign up for the CTK Reader, our weekly e-newsletter, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please note: the **Congregational Meeting has been postponed** until October. More details to follow.

Registration Reminder: We ask folks to please register to attend on Sunday mornings if they would like **distanced seating** or if they would like to **register children for nursery** (ages 6 months through 3 years). Space is limited, but wait lists are available. Registration is no longer required for children's worship.

Attention parents and children's ministry volunteers: Starting September 1, **updated COVID guidelines will go into effect for all children's programs** (including Nursery, Children's Worship and Sunday School). Most notably, masks will be optional for both children and volunteers/staff. All guidelines may be found at ctkcambridge.org/policies-children including updated protocols for volunteers/staff and children. Any questions can be directed to dana@ctkcambridge.org.

Children's Worship Update: On Sunday, September 11 Children's Worship will resume with two classes (aged 4-5 years and 6 years to grade 2).

CTK's music ministry is looking for instrumentalists to join the Sunday music team! Volunteers serve on a rotating basis, based on need and availability. Please contact amanda@ctkcambridge.org to learn more.

The **Women's AM Bible Study** starts back up on Thursday, September 15! We will be meeting on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11a in the church social hall. This year we will be studying the gospel of Luke. Books (and hopefully childcare!) will be provided. All women are welcome! For more information, contact Kelly Sawyer at bostonkelly@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/calendar, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

- Wed, Sep 7, 7p :: **Women's PM Bible Study** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women
- Thu, Sep 15, 9:30a :: Women's AM Bible Study :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/women
- Sat, Oct 15 :: **Discovering CTK** :: Social Hall ctkcambridge.org/discovering-ctk

WEEKLY EVENTS AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

- Tue, 7a :: Morning Prayer :: Online ctkcambridge.org/prayer
- Fri, 6a :: **Men's Morning Bible Study** :: Online ctkcambridge.org/men

Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 864-5464 or by email:

Senior Pastor Church Administrator Music Director Children's Ministry Director Children's Ministry Coordinator Youth Ministry Intern Rev. Travis Drake Laura Bullock Amanda Holley Dana Russell Lara Kastelein Ariana Smartt travis@ctkcambridge.org office@ctkcambridge.org amanda@ctkcambridge.org dana@ctkcambridge.org lara@ctkcambridge.org ariana@ctkcambridge.org

99 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA - www.ctkcambridge.org