



*Grace Church Stamford welcomes you
to our church, where our vision is
to grow and connect gospel-proclaiming communities*

May 20, 2018 AD

Called Together

People of God, worship the living God today! Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth. Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of his right hand. Remember that not even the gates of hell can stand against God's purposes. Behold your God, who reigns now and forever. 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.**

Singing Together

Holy Holy Holy

John Bacchus Dykes | Reginald Heber | ©Public Domain | CCLI # 11280377

Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

Holy holy holy all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy holy holy though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power in love and purity

Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

He Will Hold Me Fast

Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker | 2013 Getty Music | CCLI # 11280377

When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast

*Chorus He will hold me fast
 He will hold me fast
 For my Savior loves me so
 He will hold me fast*

Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast (Chorus)

For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last (Chorus)

Confessing Together

Jesus, who sat at the table with outcasts and sinners, we confess that too often our words and actions are not consistent with our beliefs. Often we ignore the needy, show indifference to the lonely, and reject those who seem different from us. Forgive us, we pray. Empower us to reach out in love and acceptance through your name. Amen.

The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin in all who humbly repent and turn to his Son as Savior and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation. **Thanks be to God.**

Singing Together

Let Your Kingdom Come

Bob Kauflin | © 2006 Sovereign Grace Music | CCLI # 11280377

*Chorus Let Your kingdom come let Your will be done
So that everyone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done
Let Your kingdom come*

Your glorious cause O God engages our hearts
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are
We ask not for ourselves but for Your renown
The cross has saved us so we pray Your kingdom come (Chorus)

Give us Your strength O God and courage to speak
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak
Lord use us as You want whatever the test
By grace we'll preach Your Gospel till our dying breath (Chorus)

The Collection

Praying Together

Presentation of New Members

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Luke 15: 11-32. Thanks be to God.

Communing Together

*Invitation **

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

We proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament: **Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.** Praise to you, Lord Jesus: **Dying, you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life.** Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Joining with the saints throughout the ages, on heaven and earth, we profess our faith: **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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living 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.**

Communion

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread and after giving thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you

drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us, filling our plates with the bread of life and our cups with salvation. Send us out, O God, with tenderheartedness to touch an ordinary everyday world with the promise of your steadfast love and faithfulness. 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 *And Can It Be*

Charles Wesley | Thomas Campbell | Public Domain | CCLI # 11280377

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

*Chorus Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me?*

He left His Father's throne above
So free so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee (Chorus)

No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach th'eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own (Chorus)

Blessed For Mission Together

There are
'resources' available
for parents who
have their young
kids sitting in the
service

FYI
Work and Faith
Seminar
was postponed

Memorial Day
Ceremony
Roxbury Cemetery
This Saturday
May 26, 10 am

Writing Your
Personal Testimony
Workshop
Wednesday, May 30
at the church bldg.
6:30 for dinner
7:30 for workshop

Valuing and Celebrating God

Luke 15: 11-32