

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Nicodemus Series: Same – But, Different
 August 22, 2021
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PRELUDE

Jesus Got a Hold of My Life/I Won't Leave Here Like I Came¹
Now Thank We All Our God²
Make Us One (Paris)³

ANNOUNCEMENTS**GREETING****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: The Spirit of God calls us from many places.
 Some of us come from busy homes with many people
 Some of us live alone, yet...

All people: We are all part of a family.

Pastor: This week has been different for each of us.
 Some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate.
 Some of us have faced grief and the need to cry, yet...

All people: We are all members of God's household.

Pastor: We come to into time of worship -
 All of us seeking God's presence in our lives,
 Community and a deeper purpose, because...

All people: Together we are a community of faith.

Pastor: We gather to worship the Lord,
 Who knows us intimately,
 loves us eternally,
 teaches us through Word and Spirit,
 and comforts us in times of need.

*All people: Blessed by the Spirit, we thank Christ, for the family of God.
 Amen.*

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name⁴

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ACT OF CONFESSION

Pastor: When we gather as God's people, the church, we remember that we have preferred our will to God's. Accepting the power of the Spirit to be renewed in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All people: God of grace, we grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken community in a broken world. The one body

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mdPJz5Qu-I>

² Public Domain. Author and composer: Martin Rinkert. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sR6Kajdt3M>

³ CCLI Song # 4000637. Twila Paris © 2003 Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1528365
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWyJNLV0770>

⁴ Public Domain. Author: Edward Perronet (1779) Composer: Oliver Holden (1793)

spans all time, place, race, and language, but in our fear, we have fled from and fought one another, and in our pride, we have mistaken our part for the whole. Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work, that you bless us with joy, with growth, and with signs of unity. Forgive our sins and help us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Ephesians 4:32)

Pastor: Now that we have let go of the pain, the bitterness, the anger of our lives, let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other, forgiving as God has forgiven us.

All people: *We are God's beloved children,
and will model God's grace and love in our hearts.
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 36:24-28

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

GOSPEL READING

John 17:20-26

SERMON & PRAYER

Same, But Different

Rev. Laura C. Bair

NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed is one of the most famous and influential creeds in the history of the church, because it settled the question of how Christians can worship one God and also claim that this God is three persons (Doctrine of the Holy Trinity) It was also the first creed to obtain universal authority in the church, and it improved the language of the Apostles' Creed by including more specific statements about the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. What we call the Nicene Creed is the product of two ecumenical councils—one in Nicaea (present-day Iznik, Turkey) in AD 325, and one in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in AD 381—and a century of debate over the nature of the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The offering you made last week empowered ministry within our congregation and in response to the needs of our community. It also helped support the work of ministries beyond the local church that reach people who are in desperate need to feel the touch of God's love and reconciliation. I invite you once again, to give generously, as we worship God through the sharing of our gifts, tithes, and offerings and may we dedicate all we give with a prayer, saying:

OFFERTORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Using the words: trespass and trespass against us)

All people: *Patient and Merciful God, we hear your call to live in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Our ears hear these words in our worship; our minds know what they mean; our hearts long to follow them; but we know that tomorrow we will be tempted to slip into the familiar life where we ourselves are at the center of our world and the needs we focus on are almost entirely our own. In our giving this day, help us strengthen our resolve to love as Christ loves us, for it is in the name of Jesus that we pray. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: In Luke's Gospel we read that Jesus, at the table with two of the disciples, took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. In the Acts of the apostles, we read that as the early church was gathered, often in the homes of the believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

All people: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

All people: With your faithful people, in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name, saying: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PRAYER OF BLESSING (EPIKLESI)

Pastor: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

All people: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Pastor: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.
Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All people: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN

*O Church of God, United*⁵

Tune: Aurelia (The Church's One Foundation)

O Church of God, united
to serve one common Lord,
proclaim to all one message,
with hearts in glad accord.
Christ ever goes before us;
we follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps
along the upward way.

From every land and nation
the ordered ranks appear;
to serve one valiant leader
they come from far and near.
They chant their one confession,
they praise one living Lord,
and place their sure dependence
upon his saving word.

Though creeds and tongues may differ,
they speak, O Christ, of thee;
and in thy loving spirit,
we shall one people be.
Lord, may our faithful service
and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power
of thy redeeming name.

May thy great prayer be answered
that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united
in thee, God's blessed Son:
to bring a single witness,
to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness
may find the one true light.

Amen.

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huV0FAu-b6U>. Words © 1954, Ren. 1982 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the strength of God sustain us.
 May the power of God preserve us.
 May the hands of God protect us.
 May the way of God direct us.
 May the love of God go with us this day and forever.

All people: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

*In Christ There is No East or West*⁶

⁶ Public Domain. Author: Robert Reinagle. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DumvCAO-rP8>

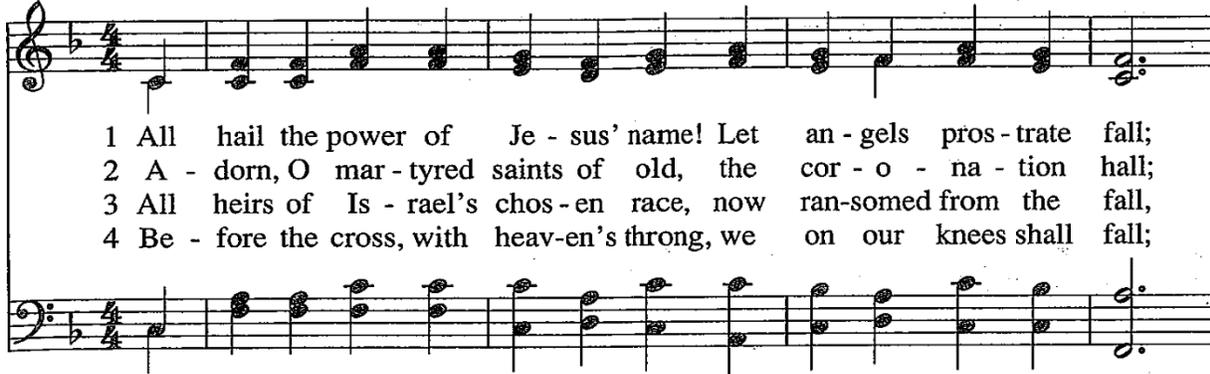
REIGN OF CHRIST

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

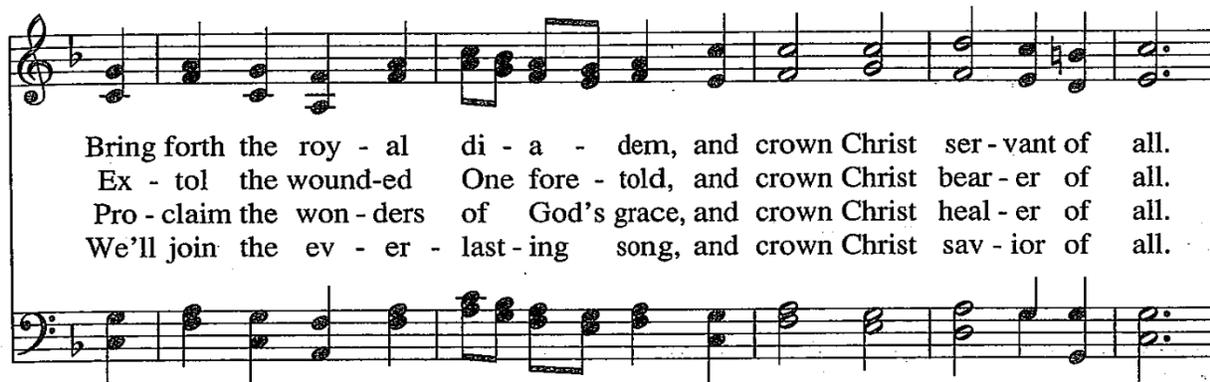
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St. 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt.
St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.

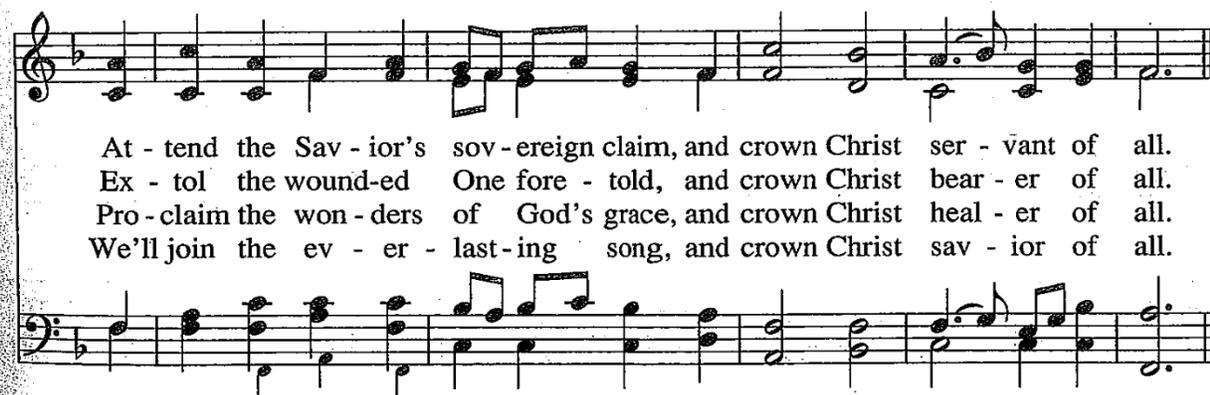
Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9-11



1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 A - dorn, O mar - tyred saints of old, the cor - o - na - tion hall;
3 All heirs of Is - rael's chos - en race, now ran - somed from the fall,
4 Be - fore the cross, with heav - en's throng, we on our knees shall fall;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.



At - tend the Sav - ior's sov - ereign claim, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

Edward Perronet, long a worker for English Methodism, later became a Congregational minister near Canterbury. John Rippon, an English Baptist minister, wrote more than 1,000 hymns. The tune is by Oliver Holden, an early American carpenter, legislator, musician, and hymnal editor.

Tune: CORONATION C.M.
Oliver Holden, 1793