

CPC **CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

W A L L I N G F O R D

WELCOME TO CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WALLINGFORD

Our desire is that every human being would belong to a community that is shaped by the Gospel and that exists for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. We believe that a church is the best way to bring the Gospel to a community. The Gospel is the good news that through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ we are free to live at peace with God and with each other. As we start to believe the Gospel it changes everything from the way we live as neighbors and friends, the way we parent our children, and how we interact with the world at large.

WE ARE A LOCAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOCAL

We are a church in and for our community. We want to celebrate its goodness, serve its specific needs, and work towards the flourishing of all its citizens. We worship in the voice of our community and seek to be a church that grows out of the soil of our neighborhoods. We are committed to working for the common good. We look to serve, not to be served. We look to give, not to take. We are eager to bless others because we have been blessed by God.

PRESBYTERIAN

Being Presbyterian means we are led by elders and connected with other churches. There is accountability, oversight, and real pastoral care that happens. We are part of the Reformed Tradition which means God wants to know us and be known by us. We believe that life with God is possible and not only possible but vibrant. That God is the initiator of this relationship and the whole thing is based on grace and forgiveness offered to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

CHURCH

We believe that church is not an event or a program but rather a family. A place where you no longer have to choose between being really known or really loved. Within the family of God we don't need to perform in order to be accepted. We no longer relate to each other based upon our past histories or future potential but rather we relate to each other as brothers and sisters who have been loved by God in Christ!

WE LOVE FAMILIES

We believe that experiencing the presence of God in worship is the most important thing that we do all week and we welcome families to participate in worship together. We invite children of all ages to join us in worship. Nursery care is available for children from 0-4 years old should parents desire to use it. We encourage kids to grab a sermon sheet and crayons from the kids table in the lobby to help them participate in worship.

Meditation

A time to quiet your heart and mind in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.

— **C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves**

Love; it will not betray you
Dismay or enslave you, it will set you free
Be more like the man you were made to be
There is a design, an alignment, a cry
Of my heart to see
The beauty of love as it was made to be
- **Mumford and Sons, Sigh No More**

God Gathers Us.

God gathers us by His grace. We are not here by chance. God is our gracious initiator. He calls us together and to himself. God really and truly wants to be with us. He calls us to worship Him, the living and true God, and away from the worship of the false gods of this world.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 118:1, 14-5, 23-24*

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

WE SING IN PRAISE TO GOD: *Who You Say I Am*

**Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me**

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

**Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me**

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God Yes I am**

**In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God Yes I am**

**I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am**

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

**In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am (2x)**

PRAYER ADORATION

*Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!
-Psalm 150:1,2*

God Invites Us.

God's invitation is to stop pretending. God makes it safe to be honest, real, and transparent about our moral failures and brokenness because we have nothing to prove or hide in Christ.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS TOGETHER:

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

God Promises Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

ABSOLUTION: *Titus 3:4-7*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

WE SING IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD: *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

***We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more***

***We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up***

***We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more***

***In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength***

***We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more***

***Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom***

***We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more***

God Speaks to Us in His Word.

He tells us who He is, who we are, and how we ought to find ourselves in His story.

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 29:4-7

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 John 4:7-21 (Sermon Text)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: A New Church That Loves Wallingford! , Rev. Mike Brunjes

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.



*During this song parents may retrieve their children to join them for worship.
You may proceed directly to your seat from the nursery.*

WE SING IN RESPONSE TO THE PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL: *Multiplied*

***Your love is like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us we cannot contain
Your love will surely come find us
Like blazing wild fires singing Your name***

***God of mercy sweet love of mine
I have surrendered to Your design
May this offering stretch across the skies
And these Hallelujahs be multiplied***

***Your love is like radiant diamonds
Bursting inside us we cannot contain
Your love will surely come find us
Like blazing wild fires singing Your name***

***God of mercy sweet love of mine
I have surrendered to Your design
May this offering stretch across the skies
And these Hallelujahs be multiplied
(2x)***

God Renews Us in His Presence.

God provides for us a feast where Jesus Himself feeds us, nourishes us, and heals us. It's not for perfect people, it's for broken people. As a meal it tangibly represents the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We eat together to show our bond of love and identity as a community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Please feel free to use the Welcome Card in your bulletin to share your prayer request by filing it out and placing it in the offering basket.

OFFERING

You may also give online by visiting www.cpcwallingford.org/give

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. - Matthew 26:26-28

WE PROFESS OUR FAITH TOGETHER:

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

People: That I, with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His precious blood has fully paid for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil, and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; moreover, that all things must work together for my salvation, and by His Holy Spirit, Christ also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready, henceforth, to live for Him.

APPROACHING THE TABLE

We serve wine in the Lord's Supper, believing it to be the Biblical element used. We provide grape juice for those who, out of conscience or reasons of health, do not partake of wine. Grape juice is in the purple cup in the outer rim.

Should you join the meal?

This is a “means of grace”— a method of encouragement from God, a sign and symbol for those who entrust themselves to Jesus Christ and have been baptized into his Church. It's for you if you affirm that because of your sins, you are worse and more messed up than you even realize; and yet you are more loved and accepted than you had ever dared hope—by God's mercy given through faith alone in the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for you.

Children

Should talk with a pastor about personal faith in Christ before taking the Lord's Supper. If your child has not been baptized or professed personal faith before a church community, they're still encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

If you're not joining the Supper

We don't want this to be an awkward time. You can come forward for prayer or a blessing. You can also remain seated and reflect on or pray about the service, including the use of the included guided prayers. We're glad you're with us.

Prayer for those searching: Oh God, I am discovering that the more I have, the more I need to have, the more I am loved, the more I need to be loved, the more I achieve, the more I need to achieve. Nothing seems to satisfy me. Could it be, as someone once said, that “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” Dear God, if this is true, and if as the Bible teaches there is life and life eternal in Christ alone, please guide me to Him. Open me to the reality of the One who alone can satisfy my restless heart. Give me the courage to believe that which I cannot see but can understand, feel and touch through the Word, sacraments and church family. Lord I want to believe, please help me in my unbelief! Amen.

Prayer for belief: Lord God, I now see that I am weaker and more flawed than I ever before believed, but in Christ, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. Even as I have not loved You or my neighbor with all of my heart, You have shown Your love for me in that while I am still sinning, Christ died for me and took upon Himself the condemnation that I deserve. I now know that You owe me nothing for my efforts, but You offer acceptance, love and blessing into all eternity because of Christ's efforts on my behalf. I therefore ask that You would enable me to turn away from trusting in my own efforts to gain Your acceptance and forgiveness, and trust in the perfectly righteous efforts of Christ on my behalf in order to be accepted by You and entered into Your holy family. And just as You raised Christ from the dead, so too I ask that You would give me a new life in Christ, one that will lead eventually to Heaven itself. Thank you for Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit to believe in Him alone for my salvation. And as 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

God Blesses Us.

God concludes our worship with a benediction (literally “good word”), and we receive our rest in Christ. It is finished!

SONG OF CELEBRATION:

**O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow,
May richer, fuller be.**

**O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day,
May brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee
I lay in dust life’s glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.**

**O Life that will yet swallow death, I glory in thy victory;
My flesh will find eternal breath, for Jesus burst the bonds of death,
And reigns in heav'n for me.**

BENEDICTION: *Ephesians 3:16-19*

That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Coming Up:

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Please stick around and join us for lunch after the service.

LIVING ON MISSION SMALL GROUP // MARCH 7TH 7:30-8:30AM // THE EATERY

Joins us for a six week conversation about how to talk to our neighbors and friends about faith. Each week there will be a short reading and then we will meet for discussion at 7:30am at The Eatery in Wallingford.

CPC WOMEN'S RETREAT // STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY // MARCH 29 & 30

We will begin at 6 pm Friday with a heavy appetizer/dessert reception and end with dinner together on Saturday evening

Location: The Guest House Retreat Center, 318 West Main Street, Chester CT 06412

Cost: \$165 for the entire retreat or \$95 for just the day on Saturday. Please pay what you can and do not let the cost keep you from fellowshiping with your sisters in Christ. If you are able to contribute an additional amount to help one of you fellow sisters, thank you!

To register online visit www.cpcwallingford.org/events.

Connect:

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RESOURCES

Visit our Welcome Table! We have Bibles for adults and kids as well as information about our church and some books we recommend. If it's not nailed down, it's probably free for you to take. So stop by the Welcome Table after the service, and help yourself.

LET'S TALK

Joining a new community is not always easy. We would love to make ourselves available to answer any questions you may have or just to get to know each other over a cup of coffee. Please email mike@cpcwallingford.org if you would like any more information or would like to meet with our pastor to learn more.