

~ August ~



Christ Community Church
Orlando, Florida

~ 2011 ~

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

This hymn has been called the greatest hymn ever written in English. Its author, Isaac Watts, stands with Charles Wesley as one of the two greatest English hymn-writers.



Isaac Watts was born in Southampton on the south coast of England. From here, in 1620 the Mayflower had sailed bringing pilgrims to the New World and freedom. Isaac's father was a Dissenting or Nonconformist Minister. That is, he dissented from the Church of England and refused to conform to the services of the Book of Common Prayer. This was the reign of Charles II. The rule of Cromwell and the Puritans had gone. The monarchy had



been restored in 1662 and the Church of England established as the National Church. Any worship service not according to the Prayer Book was illegal and minister and worshippers were severely punished. Isaac's father (also named Isaac Watts) was twice imprisoned for his Nonconformity. He was imprisoned in a tower in the old walls of Southampton, known as 'God's House Tower'. Isaac's mother would take him, as a baby, to God's House and hold him up so that his father could look through a window and see his son.



It appears that young Isaac had a natural talent for verse and would often speak in rhyme. This annoyed his father who thought Isaac was just doing it for fun. Time after time, when his father spoke to him, Isaac would reply in rhyme. At last his father had enough and threatened to beat the boy if he persisted in speaking this way. Young Isaac sobbed:

Pray, father, do some pity take,
And I no more will verses make!

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On another occasion, as a young man, he complained about the singing in worship services. At this time congregational singing was restricted to metrical versions of the Psalms and were very dreary, poetically crude and often ludicrous. Here is a verse from the psalms that was sung at the time:

Ye monsters of the bubbling deep,
Your Master's praises spout,
Up from the sands ye coddlings peep,
And wag your tails about.

Isaac's father asked him if he thought he could do better. He spent the afternoon writing a hymn and it was sung at the evening service. This is the first verse:

Behold the glories of the Lamb
Amidst His Father's throne;
Prepare new honours for His Name
And songs before unknown."

During the next two years he wrote a new hymn every Sunday.



Isaac Watts wrote 697 hymns as well as books of theology and philosophy. He had been educated at the Grammar School in Southampton but was unable to go to University because of his Nonconformity. At that time the English universities (Oxford and Cambridge) did not admit Nonconformists. Yet his book on logic became a standard text book and was used at Oxford for over a hundred years! However in 1728 the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, awarded Watts the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

And so to the hymn, *When I survey the wondrous cross*. It is based on Galatians 6:14 where Paul writes:

¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

It was written in 1707 to be sung at a Communion Service. Its original title was "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ".

When we sing this hymn, it is as though we were present at the crucifixion of Jesus and witnessing all that was taking place. Like Paul, we reject worldly possessions, status and personal pride. Paul called these things *rubbish!* All we desire, all we need is the saving blood of Christ. At the cross, in the blood of Christ, love and sorrow meet. Our response is that we are dead to the world and the world is dead to us. All we can do is give that which Christ's love, *so amazing, so divine*, demands: *my soul, my life, my all*.



What does it mean to you, all that Christ has done on the cross? Is it *wondrous*? It was there that Jesus poured out his blood, *His dying crimson* so that you might live – for ever. There is nothing in the world that can compare with that and yet how we struggle to gain so much of this world's goods. Jim Elliot, missionary martyr who lost his life in the late 1950's trying to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador said, "*He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*" And so our only response can be to give *my soul, my life, my all*. Have you done that?

AUGUST SERMONS

August 7 ~ Can I Have Some More?	1 Kings 17
August 14 ~ Great Balls of Fire!	1 Kings 18
August 21 ~ Am I the Only One?	1 Kings 19
August 28 ~ A Certain Justice	1 Kings 21/22

The hazy lazy days of Summer...

*Our minister makes a new Florida friend!
If this is the first time you've seen this picture,
you haven't visited our website lately. Check
us out at www.orlandoccc.org*



COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, August 14** following the worship service. Diane Reaves will give a presentation of the year in review and upcoming events. The meeting should not take too long, and the **Fellowship Committee** will be providing a light lunch immediately afterwards. Please plan on attending!

The **Land Use Committee** will meet this coming Thursday, August 4 to discuss new developments.



Shopping passes are now available for the **Macy's Shop For a Cause** event. 100% of the proceeds from the \$5 shopping passes goes directly to missions. **August 27** is the date of the special sale at every Macy's nationwide. In addition, the **Missions Committee** is continuing to collect food items for those in need. There is a basket available in the Narthex for you to drop off your non-perishable items.

Just a few of our committees are mentioned here. If you have an interest in joining a committee where you feel you can best serve the church, we are happy to have you join us. Please contact the church office, or any council or committee member for more information. Thank you for your Christian Service to CCC!



Janell Newton
Church Council Secretary

August 2011 Newsletter

Christ Community Church

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VISIT US ON THE WEB www.orlandoccc.org

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

A Smile for Seniors

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember... Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair.

'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, The old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs.. She stares at the plate for a moment, then asks,

'Where's my toast?'

And for the Younger Readers:



Thanks to Benoit Paquette 01-10-2001

PRESS 1 FOR TODAY'S SERMON, PRESS 2 FOR
HYMN SING, PRESS 3 FOR BIBLE CLASS,
PRESS 4 FOR THE SALVATION MESSAGE ...