



A Christ Hymn

Colossians 1: 12-20

The Blueprint

- Today's passage includes some of the most important doctrines in the Christian religion regarding who Jesus is, what he has done, and why that matters.
- A "Creed": a listing of core beliefs, often in response to a "heresy"—an unorthodox belief
- Example: The Nicæan Creed (325 A.D.)

“The Center Holds: The Christ-Centered Life in the Book of Colossians”



Last Week's Sermon

Colossians 1:1-12

- Paul writes Letter to the Colossians from Roman prison c. 60 A.D.
- Epiphras: disciple of Paul's who planted the church at Colossae
- Good report: Colossians faithful to the gospel message
- But some trouble: "Colossian Heresy" is circulating
- Paul gives THANKS for the Colossians
- Paul PRAYS for the Colossians

A Definition of “Christology”: It answers two main questions

- Who is Jesus? (The question of his identity)
- What is the significance of what Jesus accomplished in the incarnation?
(The question of his work)

Christian “Haves” #1:

**been qualified by God the Father
(verse 12)**

Christian “Haves” #2:

**been transferred to the Kingdom
of God’s Beloved Son
(verse 13)**

Christian “Haves” #3:

Redemption in God’s beloved Son, Jesus
(verse 14a)

Christian “Haves” #4:

Forgiveness of Our Sins

(verse 14b)

1. Jesus Is . . .

God

(verses 15, 19)

2. Jesus Is . . .

The Creator of the universe

(verse 16)

A “Syllogism”

- *A syllogism (Greek/Aristotelian philosophy—very systematic)*

Example: Jason owns a bike

A bike is a two-wheeled vehicle

ergo: Jason owns a two-wheeled vehicle

- God created the universe (Genesis 1:1)
- Jesus = God (Colossians 1:15,19)
- Therefore, Jesus created the universe

3. Jesus Is . . .

The Center-that-holds

(verse 17)

“The Center Will Not Hold”

Documentary on the writer Joan Didion (2020)

- Didion's essay collection: *Slouching Toward Bethlehem* (1968)
- The title for Didion's book is taken from a line in a poem by William Butler Yeats, Irish poet and writer, 1865-1939
- Didion chose her title to capture the grand scope of how she feels about the era [the 1960s] and her life, a time in which “things fall apart”
- Analogy: “Ring Around the Rosy”

“The Second Coming” (1919)

By William Butler Yeats

*Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world . . .
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand . . .
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?*
—W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

From: <https://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2017/06/didion/>

Joan Didion's Questions

- “Her questions are questions of order and chaos, history and trajectory, truth and shadows. Her questions, in other words, are the selfsame questions asked by all faiths of all ages.”
- In the article “The Faith and Loss of Joan Didion” by Laura Turner for *Religion News Service* (2013)

4. Jesus Is . . .

The Head of the body, the Church

(verse 18)

5. Jesus Is . . .

The Reconciler

(verse 20)

**The Good News:
What Jesus Has Done for Us**

Restored our *personal relationship* with God

By the blood of the cross

(verse 20)

What are we called to do in response?

1. Accept Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives
2. Remember Jesus in the sacrament of Communion

Preparing Our Minds and Hearts for Communion:

- **Having been reconciled to God
by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross,
we celebrate our restored relationship with God
by giving thanks to Jesus
through the sacrament of Communion**

Communion:

I Corinthians 11:23-26

- **The body of Christ broken for us**
- **The blood of Christ shed for us**

Sing Praise/Pray to the Lord!

- “Worthy is the Lamb”
- The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gae-n0Pb7Q>

Announcements

- Annual Meeting: Sunday 13 February
- We are all given “Gifts of the Spirit” (talents)so . . .
- Will you fill in occasionally for Dan by running the Power Point presentations? (see Dan)
- Is the Spirit leading you to be a “Trustee”?

Description for “Trustee”

- *Do you have the spiritual gift of "Giving" financially to those in need (Romans 12:8) while practicing good stewardship with God's resources?*
- The elders are looking for volunteers to serve as trustees. This position is open to any men and women willing to review quarterly financial reports, meet with the elders at least once a year, and use discernment to distribute monies from the "Helping Hands" fund. The position may also involve other tasks as assigned.

Benediction:

(Numbers 6:24–26)

- *The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and
give you peace.—*