

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 58 January 10, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Corporate Church-wide Gathering on January 17**

We will have a corporate church-wide gathering on **Lord's Day, January 17**, beginning with the Lord's Table meeting **at 10:00am**, followed by fellowship for the whole church related to the going on of the church in the new year. This meeting will be held online via Zoom. Translation in Chinese, Spanish and Korean will be provided.

Time: Jan 17, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96384328158?pwd=azZjRW1PZk9iV1YzQkpKSjZlYWg1UT09>

Meeting ID: 963 8432 8158

Passcode: 2021

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,96384328158# US (New York)

- **Service Office Hours**

Service Office hours are available for saints to call in to fellowship or to pray with some serving ones.

Day & Time: Monday through Saturday (except Wednesday), 11AM-12PM.

Join via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/3785123114?pwd=dEpzN2ZGZ21aaGV5dTFob3AwQlBodz09>

Dial-in by Phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 378 512 3114 (Password: 3131)

The burden for holding these office hours is that the hearts of the saints can be comforted and that their souls would be restored.

PRAYER BURDENS

- Thanksgiving to the Lord for His covering and blessing during the past year and a fresh consecration for the new year
- The mutual shepherding of all the saints and new ones and that not one saint would be overlooked or feel isolated (John 21:15-17; Isa. 49:15-16)
- The strengthening of the families and all the households in the church life:
 - a. The peace and harmony in every home
 - b. The arrangements in the families who have children engaged in remote (at home) learning
- The gathering of the whole church on Lord's Day, January 17
- The advance of the Lord's move in the United States, particularly in the Heartland and in the Bible Belt, and that the Lord would preserve this country for His testimony
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MORNING WATCH

HWMR: International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones—October 2020

Subject: The Christian Life, The Church Life, The Consummation of the Age, and The Coming of the Lord

Week 1: The Consummation of the Age—the Age of Mystery

Portions from Days 2 & 3:

The divine mystery is first the mystery of God and second the mystery of Christ. We need to read, study, and pray over Colossians and Ephesians, for they unveil to us the mystery of God, Christ. The Jews have God in name, but they do not have God in reality. They have God in a mystery. They do not have God in reality, because they do not know the mystery of God. The mystery of God is Christ! If you do not know God and if you have not met God, just come to

Christ, because God is embodied in Christ. All the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in this Christ (Col. 2:9). If you do not believe in Christ, you miss God. Without Christ, although you may say that you believe in God, you believe only in terms. You believe God as a mystery. You could never realize God. You could never touch God, get God, or get into God except through Christ. The Muslims and Jews have God without Christ, but eventually they have nothing. The very God is in Christ. If you do not have Christ, you do not have God. Christ is wonderful because He is the mystery, the answer, the definition, the embodiment, and the reality of God. He is nothing less than God, but He is God with something more. Christ is God-plus. ...He was a little man who came from a despised region called Galilee, yet this man is the mystery of God. Outside of Him and without Him you could never see God. Whether you believe it or not, He is God. He is just God! In the whole universe God is in Christ. Where Christ is, there is God. Apart from Christ, you could never find God. (CWWL, 1977, vol. 2, "The Two Great Mysteries in God's Economy," pp. 225-226)

According to Ephesians 3:4, the church has a particular title—the mystery of Christ. God is a mystery. He is real, living, and almighty, but invisible. No one has ever seen God (John 1:18a), and therefore God is a mystery. This mysterious God is embodied in Christ; hence, Christ is the mystery of God (Col. 2:2). In Ephesians 3:4 Paul used the expression the mystery of Christ to explain the church as the Body of Christ in God's eternal economy, indicating that the church is the mystery of Christ.

The believers have Christ, the mystery of God, dwelling in them (Col. 1:27), but worldly people do not realize that He is in the believers. To them, this is a mystery. The all-inclusive Christ is the mystery of the mysterious God. Such a Christ as the mystery of God produces a mysterious Body, the church (Eph. 1:22b-23). Thus, the church is the continuation of the mystery, which is Christ. Mystery surely produces mystery. Christ, who is the mystery of God, brings forth the church, the mystery of Christ. The church, the mystery within a mystery, is the mystery in God's economy.

Corporate Readings: "The Mystery of Christ" Ch. 5
The Protection, Limitation, and Ministry of the Body
& Ch.6 *Authority in the Body*

A Ministry Portion from "The Prayer Ministry of the Church"

We must remember that prayer is not the first thing. Prayer is something that comes after harmony. If the church is to have this kind of ministerial prayer on earth, every brother and sister must learn before the Lord to deny the fleshly life. Otherwise, nothing will avail. ..." If we are in harmony, the heavens will be open to us!

The prayer ministry of the church is a prayer on earth that results in a move in heaven. Brothers and sisters, we must remember that the prayer in Matthew 18 can never be covered by prayers that are in the nature of spiritual edification. It can never be covered by personal prayers. ... We must also see that prayers are not just for individuals and for spiritual edification. Prayer is for ministry and work. This prayer is the ministry of the church on earth; it is the work of the church. It is the responsibility that the church bears before God. The prayer of the church is the outlet of heaven. The prayer of the church means that when God wants to do something, the church prays about that matter first so that it can be fulfilled and God's goal can be accomplished.

The ministry of the church is the ministry of the Body of Christ, and the ministry of the Body of Christ is prayer. This prayer is not just for spiritual edification and personal needs but for "heaven." ... God has many things stacked up in heaven. He cannot accomplish any of them because there is no outlet for Him on earth. ... God cannot resolve them because the church has not exercised its free will to stand on God's side and fulfill God's goal. ... the highest and greatest work of the church is to be the outlet of God's will. The church becomes the outlet of God's will through prayer. This prayer is not a fragmentary prayer but a prayer that is in the nature of a ministry, a prayer that is in the nature of a work.

- Excerpts from "The Prayer Ministry of the Church", Chapter 1:
The Prayer Ministry of the Church (Section 6)