

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. + 7:00 p.m., Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Revelation 4–5

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

*"Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."*

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."*

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

*“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.”*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”*

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

*“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”*

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

GATHERING

Prelude: O Lord, You Are My Light

Jess Alldredge

God's Greeting and Call to Worship

inspired by Revelation 1:4–8

Before the Throne of God Above

Charitie Lees DeCheney Bancroft, Vikki Cook

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Reginald Heber, John B. Dykes

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Confession

Sanctus

Bethany Brooks

Assurance

All Things New

Green Carpet Players

Prayer: "Thou Who Wast Center"

Christina Rossetti, based on Revelation 5

Lord Jesus, holy and majestic are you in your high places.
You are the Center of all life, and from you all life flows.
Beautiful and majestic were you also while you dwelled with us,
even when you were the Center where humiliations and sorrows met.

You who were the Center of a stable,
with two saints and harmless cattle and some shepherds for your court.

Grant us lowliness.

You who were the Center of Bethlehem when Magi worshiped you.

Grant us wisdom.

You who were the Center of the temple.

Grant us purity.

You who were the Center of Egypt which harbored your people in exile.

Be our refuge.

You who were the Center of all waters at your baptism in the river Jordan,
still sanctify water to the mystical washing away of sin.

Help us to remember our baptism.

You who were Center of all desolate places during the forty days and forty nights.

Comfort the desolate.

You who were Center of the marriage feast at Cana.

Bless our rejoicing.

You who were the Center of a funeral procession at Nain.

Bless our mourning.

You who were Center of Samaria as you sat on the well.

Bring back strayed souls.

You who were Center of all heights on the Mount of Beatitudes.

Grant us to sit with you in the heavenly places.

You who were Center of sufferers by the Pool of Bethesda.

Heal us.

You who were Center of all harvest ground when you went through the cornfields with your disciples.

Make us bring forth the harvest thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

You who were Center of humankind when you called unto yourself whom you would.

Grant us grace to obey your call.

You who were Center of love in the Upper Room.

Forevermore give us that Bread.

You who were the Center of sorrows in Gethsemane.

Console the sorrowful.

You who were the Center of the whole earth on Calvary.

Reign over north and south, east and west.

You who were the Center of Life even while in the tomb.

Forget not our dust.

Remember us, remember all, O our All in all.

Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Amen.

Jesus at the Center

Israel Houghton

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Revelation 4 and 5

Message: "The Mountains Are Out"

Revelation Song/Digno y santo

Jennie Lee Riddle

Prayers of the People

The Lamb Has Overcome

Luke Morton

SENDING OUT

Valediction

from Revelation 22

Behold, Jesus is coming soon.

Blessed is the one who keeps the words of this book.

Behold! Jesus is coming soon to judge the earth
with righteousness and truth.

**He is the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

And let the one who hears say, "Come,"

and let the one who is thirsty come;

let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Jesus is coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Benediction

Conference Welcome

8:30 a.m. service only. Please be seated.

Passing of the Peace

As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other saying, "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you."

Postlude: *Hear the Sound*

All Sons and Daughters

Leaders: Trygve Johnson, preaching; Hope College Campus Ministries Team, led by Bruce Benedict, James Ellis, and Lauren Taylor

Song Notes

O Lord You Are My Light: Written and orchestrated by Jess Alldredge, worship director and composer-in-residence at Grace Church in Seattle, WA. Jess also leads the Emerald Hymn project. Jess will be in attendance at Worship Symposium 2017.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty: Orchestrated by Minna Choi, composer-in-residence at City Church in San Francisco, CA.

Sanctus: Written and orchestrated by Bethany Brooks, Worship Director and accompanist at City Church in Philadelphia, PA. Bethany also leads the Quarry Street Hymnal project.

All Things New: Text by Horatius Bonar, "retuned" by Clint Wells (Red Mountain Music). Orchestration by Minna Choi.

The Lamb has Overcome: Words and Music by Luke Morton, a worship pastor in Seattle, WA. Orchestration by Sarah Majorins, co-worship director and composer-in-residence at Christ Church in Davis, CA.

"Thou Who Wast Center" by Christina Rossetti: This prayer comes from "The Face of the Deep" a devotional commentary on the book of Revelation published in 1893. You can download the whole book in various formats here:

<https://archive.org/details/thefaceofthedeep00rossuoft>