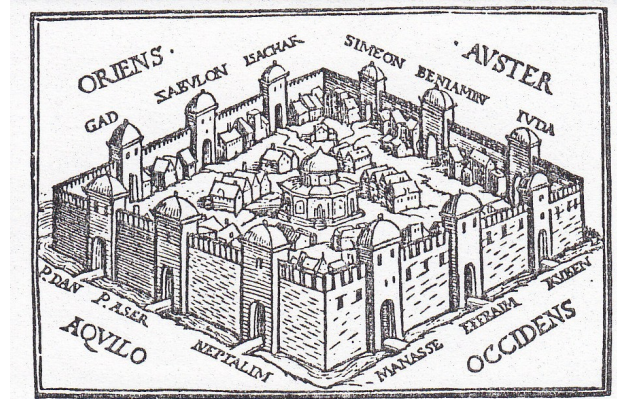


# How Great Is Our God

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash & Jesse Reeves

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You who call on the LORD,  
give yourselves no rest,  
and give him no rest  
till he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes her the praise of the earth.

—Isaiah 62:6b-7—

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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Old Orchard Church

November 22, 2009 – 10:15 to 11:45 am.

## Celebrating Jesus Christ: Pressing On to Know the Lord

### Let us know—let us press on to know the Lord!

So spoke the prophet Hosea in ancient Israel

To his brother and sister believers;

So we speak to one another—

We who live on this side of the incarnation of the Lord,

On this side of the cross, on this side of the empty tomb,

On this side of the ascension of that same Lord

To the seat of David's Throne in heaven.

We bank on the promises of God;

We hold him to his word

That he will come to us when we return to him,

When we return with all our stubbornness;

He will come, and he will heal us;

He will come and he will rain on us his Spirit,

To soften the hard ground of our heart;

He will revive and restore us, that we might live before him,

And be signs everywhere of the Kingdom of Love and Truth.

Alleluia!



### Today's Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 5:13-6:4

New Testament Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

### Today's Sermon

“The Cynical Response to God's Delays” Part 2

Matthew 25:14-30

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

## What Are You Leaning Into?

Next week is the first Sunday in the liturgy cycle of what's commonly called, the “Church Year.” It will be the first Sunday of Advent, the season of four weeks of preparing ourselves for a fresh celebration of the first great act of our redemption in Christ: the incarnation of God in human flesh.

So if next Sunday is the first Sunday in the Church Year, today is the last. And we picked this last Sunday to focus our praise, our confession, our joy on our 2-year theme: *Pressing On to Know the Lord*. We introduced that theme in September 2008, and it will be in front of us through June 2010, but we are realizing that there is so much more we can do to make it practical for people; so much more we can do to keep it in front of ourselves. What is the central thing in this theme? I would say it's *leaning toward God with determination, out of a thirst to know him better than I do now, and out of a sober awareness of how easily I go off the track—as Israel did—and elevate my priorities over his without knowing it*.

If that's at least close to the mark, what are some concrete things you can do to “lean into” the Lord of glory?

\*As I've suggested, memorize Hosea 6:1-3 and/or Philippians 3:10-14, its New Testament counterpart. What passion the Apostle Paul had to move toward Christ!

\*Spend a little time each week (till this theme ends in June) meditating on the repentance part of Hosea 6 (read also Hosea 5:13-14; 14:1-3), and use Psalm 19:12 (“**Who can discern his errors?**”) as a plea, asking God to show you what you need to see about yourself. And use this statement by novelist, Joseph Conrad, in his book, *The Heart of Darkness*:

*It is my belief that no man ever understands quite his own artful dodges to escape from the grim shadow of self-knowledge.*

How are you “artfully dodging” those things about yourself you know Christ wants to heal and change? (And if you *really* do want to know, ask a few people close to you who love you, but who know you, too).

And use this, by an author whose name I've forgotten:

*Remarkably often we do not see things because we are not prepared to find them.*

Spend some time considering what it might be that you can't see about yourself or your life right now because you are not prepared to find it.

Ask God to show you these things—and then stick around for his answer. (You probably won't hear an audible voice, but you *will* be able to discern him speaking to you, if you really want to know.)

\*Choose to see every form of spiritual discipline in your life as something that can help you know the Lord better, and offer that up to God as a prayer that he would use it in your life to that end: public worship, private worship, Bible study, family devotions, Sunday School, your accountability group, the ministry you serve, the orphan or missionary you support, community group, and on.  
\*And remember, God is the one at work in you to draw you toward himself, as he reassures us in Hosea 14:4-8. Look it up. And lean into him.

—Ron Lutjens