

## **Our Connectedness to *Christ***

### **Beginning with a recognition of God's holy beauty...**

...and God's commitment to His own glory...

...we are confronted by the fact  
that we do not in ourselves share  
these commitments with God...

...and that we are rather enamored with  
our own beauty and seek to advance  
our own glory.

### **...we celebrate God's desire to communicate that beauty...**

...that is, God has not chosen to keep himself  
hidden from humanity...

...but rather, by His grace, has displayed His  
magnificence through His Son...

### **...through "the radiance of his Glory," which is Christ Jesus.**

...Further, far from being mere spectators of  
the glory of Christ...

...we participate in the divine nature  
through union with Him...

...we are thereby assured of God's  
love and forgiveness.

This is our joy, our glory, and our hope.

## **Our Connectedness to *New England Church History***

### **Drawing upon a rich and nourishing theological heritage...**

...the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments...

...Saint Augustine (4th century)...

...16th century reformers such as Martin Luther,  
John Calvin, and John Knox...

...English Puritans such as John Owen,  
Jeremiah Burroughs, and Thomas Goodwin...

...Scottish theologians such as Thomas Boston,  
James Durham, and Samuel Rutherford...

...New England Puritans such as Jonathan Edwards...

### **...we are strengthened by its richness and depth...**

...through the writings of these great Christians,  
we are enabled to see the depths of God's  
mystery revealed...

### **...chastened by its weakness and imperfection...**

... we do not claim a perfect or sinless tradition...

...but rather hope to learn from the mistakes of  
the Christians who have gone before...

### **...and thereby, through strength or weakness, we are led back to Christ.**

...our mistakes, perhaps even more than  
our triumphs,  
remind us of our need of Jesus.

## **Our Connectedness to *One Another***

### **The Gospel of Christ offers answers to the most persistent problems of modern American life...**

Leading contemporary thinkers (such as  
sociologists Darryl Hart, Robert Bellah, and  
James Davison Hunter) have long bemoaned the  
radical individualism and "porous institutions"  
that undermine community, commitment,  
and character in America.

### **...and the most pressing needs of the human heart.**

The desire for community and belonging is  
among the strongest of human desires...

### **United to the same Christ, we are, as the Scripture says, partakers of the same loaf and members of the same body.**

...thereby united, we taste of true community...

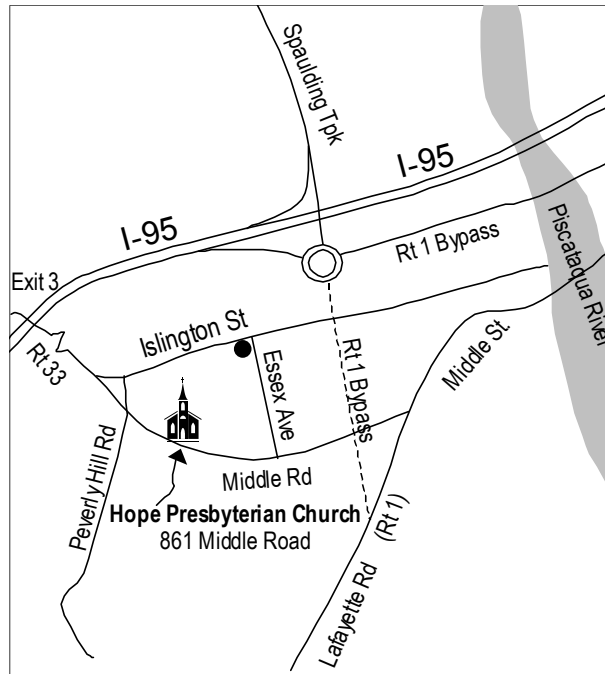
...despite our diverse backgrounds...

...and despite the American individualism that we  
feel so deeply within us..

“...Grace is nothing but a company of nothings, and a company of alls... It makes the heart to be nothing in its own righteousness, but Jesus Christ to be all. It makes the heart to be nothing in its own abilities...but Jesus Christ to be all... It makes the heart to be nothing, in respect of being accepted for anything in itself, but to be graciously accepted in the beloved, to be all in that respect... It makes the heart to be nothing in valuation of itself, but Jesus Christ to be all. These things indeed we all fall short of, but this will be your pitch, that there shall be nothing but Christ in you, not you in Christ, but Christ in you, if your spirits be truly and fully turned to the gospel... ‘That you may know,’ saith he, ‘the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you.’”

-Thomas Goodwin (1600-1679), English Puritan, on Colossians 1:27.

“A Discourse of the Glory of the Gospel,” *Works*, vol. 4, p. 359.



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Connectedness and life  
in light of  
God's mystery revealed....

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“...which is Christ in you,  
the hope of Glory.”  
-Colossians 1:27b