

Jun 21 Worship Service- The Church in Philadelphia

Rev 3:7-13

Jun 21, 2026

Summary

Hold Fast and Walk Through the Open Door

Scripture References

Primary text

- Revelation 3

Other references

- Psalm 1
- Micah 6
- Nehemiah 4
- 1 Timothy 6
- 2 Timothy 2
- Titus 2
- Colossians 3
- Isaiah 55
- Hebrews 12:1
- Psalm 115:3
- Isaiah 22:22
- Matthew 3:9
- Acts 16:14
- Luke 24:45
- John 17
- Romans 1:16
- Matthew 28

Overview

Jesus' letter to the church in Philadelphia is a word of courage for every believer who feels small, weak, or overshadowed. Christ – the Holy One who holds “the key of David” – sets an un-shuttable door of gospel opportunity before a congregation with

“little power” and calls them to patient endurance. Their security, fruitfulness, and future glory rest not in their resources but in His sovereignty. Because He is coming soon, they must cling to His Word, refuse to deny His name, and advance through the door He has already opened.

Context

- Philadelphia was a young, strategically planted outpost meant to spread Greek culture inland.
- Its “younger-brother” status and limited influence shaped how the local church viewed itself: small, under-resourced, and seemingly insignificant.
- Jesus writes to redefine their identity and mission in light of His rule, not their size.

Main Points

The Sovereign Christ (vv. 7-9)

- Identifies Himself as “the Holy One” and “the true One” – set apart from every earthly system.
- Holds “the key of David” → the sole right and authority to grant or refuse covenant access.
- Opens doors no one can close and closes doors no one can open; salvation and mission are in His hands.
- Exposes the “synagogue of Satan” – ethnic Jews who reject Messiah – promising to vindicate His church before them.
- *Illustration:* Upside-down kingdom – the unlikely Gentile church receives the open door while the privileged but unbelieving Jews are shut out.

The Little Church (vv. 8-10, 11b)

- Jesus knows their works and their weakness: “little power” = few people, scant resources, limited influence.
- Commends them for keeping His Word and not denying His name despite pressure.
- Opens a missional door: like their city exported Greek culture, they are to export the gospel.
- God's sovereignty + human responsibility: He opens hearts (Acts 16:14); they must walk through the door.
- Warns of coming global trial yet promises to “keep” (guard, watch over) them in it, not necessarily remove them from it.
- Crown imagery: perseverance guards the reward of faithful service; persecution, compromise, or negligence can rob present honor, not eternal salvation.

- *Story*: David's victory over Goliath – battle decided by one champion; Israel still had to advance. So Christ has won, yet the church moves forward.

The Glorious Hope (vv. 11-12)

1. Christ is coming soon – a fact (indicative mood) that sets a finish line for endurance.
 2. Conquerors become “pillars in the temple of my God” – permanent, unmovable fixtures in God's immediate presence.
 3. Threefold name written on them:
 - Name of God → identity as His own.
 - Name of the New Jerusalem → citizenship in His eternal city.
 - Christ's new name → eternal union with the risen Lord.
- Together these promises ground a small church's confidence in eternal belonging rather than present visibility.

Key Truths

- Christ's holiness and sovereignty guarantee that His plans are untouched by human strength or weakness.
- Gospel doors open and shut by Jesus' authority alone; our role is obedient entry, not forceful prying.
- Apparent insignificance does not limit kingdom impact when believers cling to Christ's Word and name.
- Trials refine and reveal; Jesus guards His people through them, not always from them.
- Future glory – secure identity, permanent place, and public vindication – fuels present perseverance.

Response

- Look to Christ, not circumstances, to define your worth and capacity.
- Walk through the gospel opportunities He places before you this week.
- Hold fast to Scripture; refuse every pressure to dilute or deny Jesus' name.
- Endure present trials with confidence that He is guarding you.
- Rehearse your coming identity, citizenship, and union with Christ to steady your heart.

Closing

The risen Lord who writes to Philadelphia still speaks: “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have.” Small or great, resourced or not, the decisive factor is the One who

holds the key. Because He has already won the battle and flung the door wide, His church can step forward, trust His keeping power, and labor in hope until the day every knee bows and His pillars stand forever.

Prayer

The pastor thanked God for fathers and mentors, asked that men be raised up to lead and reflect Christ, and pleaded that the whole congregation would rest in Jesus' completed work while working heartily for His glory.