

Worship set (4 songs) (20 min)
PCCD / Baptism (5 min)
Members (7 min)
Outreach Video (5 min)
Devotional (13 min)
Communion (7 min)
Service Host (3 min)
Closing song (4 min)
Benediction (1 min)

Parent/Child Dedication

3 Things are happening:

- Parents are dedicating their children to the Lord
 - Recognizing that they are a gift from God (Ps 127:3),
 - Parents are committing to raise them according to the principles of God’s Word
 - Or as Eph 6:4 says – to *bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*
 - According to God’s way of living and thinking, as found in the Bible
 - We’re committing to help them as a church
 - To come along side them – to support, encourage, and spur them on
- Having said that, it’s important to understand – **this dedication doesn’t save them**
 - Nor does it indicate or foretell their salvation to be confirmed later in life
 - The Bible says that salvation comes only through personal faith in Jesus Christ
 - Parents making a commitment to do everything they can to *show* Christ to their kids
 - So that hopefully, when they understand, they too will give their lives to the Lord
- Intro each family/child**
- Zach and Moriah Rourke**
 - Argus – 4 years old - (Watchful and Vigilant)**
 - Oliver Rourke – 4 months – (Peace and Fruitfulness)**
Mark 10:14 – ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.
 - Based on your desire to dedicate your children to the Lord . . .
 - Is it your commitment to raise them according to the principles of his Word . . .
 - We’re committed to helping you
 - And look forward to the day when your child embraces Jesus Christ as their Lord/Savior

Baptism

Baptism...what it is and what it does:

- Baptism Expresses our Faith
- Baptism is a Picture of our Salvation
- Baptism Reflects our Obedience
- Baptism Encourages Fellow Believers
- Baptism Challenges those apart from Christ
- Baptism Glorifies God

Membership Explanation

- As more and more people make a formal commitment to membership here at Vertical, it’s important to emphasize its purpose so as not to dilute its effect.
- Bible doesn’t say much about how to formally express our commitment to one another in the body of Christ...
- Commitment is obvious there – we belong together in mutual partnership.
- So at Vertical, we have chosen to express that commitment in a formal, public way through membership.
- We live in a society where few make commitments and even fewer keep them
- And a formal membership helps to counter that, and actually solidify our commitments
- It also serves to tighten our bond between each other, and increase our unity...
- Moving us from mere spectates, to participants

Have all members stand...

That said...if this is you desire and intent you will respond ‘I have’ or ‘I will’

- I have, by faith, become a follower of Jesus Christ, and I have been baptized as a visible way of demonstrating that commitment...‘I have’
 - I will, with God’s help, seek to maintain my consistent disciplines of prayer, Bible study, quietness with God, and worship attendance...‘I will’
 - I will, with God’s direction, pursue an active role in building up the body of Christ at Vertical Church Albuquerque...‘I will’
 - I will commit to neither gossip, nor listen to gossip concerning any member(s) of this body and will, when personally offended, speak directly and lovingly to those involved...‘I will.
 - I will financially support the ministries of Vertical Church Albuquerque by faithfully giving back to the Lord a biblical portion of my increase...‘I will’
 - I will support our members to be fully vested in God’s work as I possibly can...‘I will’
 - I will support our members in living up these commitments in the strength God provides...‘I will’
- It is my privilege to welcome you to membership here at Vertical Church Albuquerque
 - We praise God for you...we’re excited to partner and build up the body of Christ with you

Outreach Video (Zach)

Communion

- As we go to The Lord’s Table – Reflect on what you just witnessed
- Fence the Table - No matter who you are – examine your heart
 - Get right with God; Commit to do so with others; Ask him for help; Rest in grace

Spend some time in reflection...

- So, hang on to your elements and I’ll lead us in taking them together (Pray)

Service Host

Celebrations Sunday – Lamentations 3:22-24

Beauty From Ashes – Powerful phrase...transformation we experience in Christ

What it captures is ruin to restoration...rubble to redeemed – [Picture of flower](#)

This is what God does...he makes things beautiful when the world is falling apart

If you need unshakable hope then these verses are for you...Lamentations for hope

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Jeremiah – Wrote Lamentations in the aftermath of Jerusalem’s destruction

- Everything around him – city, temple, nation, and people lay in ruins
- In the middle of this book of mourning comes a declaration of unshakable hope

Big Idea – [Endless Mercy Fuels Enduring Hope](#)

- How cool is that? God’s mercy is endless...you will commit a finite number of sins...

Give you four things that are true about God from this text

God’s Love Never Falters – The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

- *God’s love is Steadfast* – Loyal and covenantal – God has promised to love his people
 - When Israel was disobedient God was still faithful in His love – [Still with you](#)
- *God’s love is not based on your worth but on His character*
 - [1 John 4 - ‘God is love’](#) – [Imagine having attribute that is perfect and cannot change](#)
- *In the midst of loss, we remember who God is*
 - Jeremiah doesn’t focus on the ruins but on God’s reliability

[Imagine that everything lies in ruins around you and still being able to say...](#)

[When everything else falls apart, God’s love holds firm. You may lose possessions, people, or plans — but never His steadfast love.](#)

God’s Mercy Never Runs Out – His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning

- *God’s mercies are continual* – Like a sunrise = Constant / Faithful / Fresh
 - Yesterday’s failures don’t exhaust today’s mercy
 - *God’s mercy meets us in weakness* – Not just God sparing judgment...compassionate
 - [No matter how dark the night...the morning always comes](#)
- [Start each day not in guilt or fear, but in gratitude — because God has already prepared new mercy for you today.](#)

God’s Faithfulness Never Wavers – Great is your faithfulness

- *Jeremiah shifts from describing God to declaring to God* - His lament becomes worship
 - Faith is not ignoring pain, but choosing to trust in God’s character through it.
- *God is faithful to His promises* - What He says, He will do

[Numbers 23:19 - God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?](#)

- He kept His covenant to Israel, and He keeps His promises to us in Christ.
- God’s faithfulness is our anchor in changing times – [The seas get choppy...anchor](#)
 - [When people, plans, and seasons shift — He remains steady.](#)

[“Great is Your faithfulness.” Make it personal — not just a verse to quote, but a truth to live by.](#)

God Never Fails - “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

- *When everything else is gone, God Himself is enough.*
 - [“Portion” means inheritance, supply, or satisfaction.](#)
 - Jeremiah says, “I’ve lost everything else, but I still have God — and that’s enough.”
- *Hope is not found in circumstances but in the Lord.*

[Psalm 73:26 — “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”](#)

- *Real hope is rooted in relationship.*
 - [Not “I hope things get better,” but “I hope in Him.](#)

[You may not have control over tomorrow — but if you have the Lord, you have all you need for today.](#)

[Even in the ashes of Jerusalem, Jeremiah could say,](#)

[“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... therefore I will hope in Him.”](#)