



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures
True to the Reformed Faith
Obedient to the Great Commission



July 27, 2025
10:30 am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2020

This facility is
equipped with a
hearing
assistance
system. Please
ask a Sound
Technician for a
receiver.

Hymns and
worship songs
are used by
permission.
CCLI # 187771

S - denotes
congregation
Standing

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Sunday School hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-5 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to Room 2 in the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Building Attendant for today: Will Coggins

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Tim Keller: “If you believe that God ought to bless you and help you because you have worked so hard to obey him and be a good person, then Jesus may be your helper, your example, even your inspiration, but he is not your Savior. You are serving as your own Savior.”

Keller: “The elder brother’s sense of superiority...creates an unforgiving, judgmental, spirit... it is impossible to forgive someone if you feel superior to him or her.”

Richard Lovelace: “People who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons... Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce, defensive assertion of their own righteousness, and defensive criticism of others.”

Keller: “By putting a flawed elder brother in the story, Jesus is inviting us to imagine and year for a true one.”

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 143:1-2

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Bring Praises

If we could count the blessings God has given,
If we should number every grace,
Our hearts would burst within with pure thanksgiving,
Now, let our voices do the same.

Bring praises, bring praises forever to the Lord!
Bring praises, bring praises together!
To Him who is worthy, to Him be endless thanks,
Forever, to His name, bring praise!

If we could see the ways that God is working,
If we could trace His sovereign hand,
What mind could grasp the height of that great wisdom?
Oh, who of us could understand?

Bring praises, bring praises forever to the Lord!
Bring praises, bring praises together!
To Him who is worthy, to Him be endless thanks,
Forever, to His name, bring praise!

If we could now repay the Lord of Heaven
What is that gift that we would bring?
All that is ours is that which once was given
Oh, let our grateful hearts now sing
With joy, we give this offering, bring praise!

Bring praises, bring praises forever to the Lord!
Bring praises, bring praises together!
To Him who is worthy, to Him be endless thanks,
Forever, to His name, bring praise!
Oh, forever, to His name, bring praise!

Hearing from the Savior

Sacrament of Baptism

Acts 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Covenant Baptism of George Clarence Sexton, son of Andy & Sallie Sexton

Song of Comfort

Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In green pastures He makes me lie down.
He restores my soul and leads me on
for His name, for His great name.

*Chorus: Surely goodness, surely mercy
Right beside me all my days.
And I will dwell in Your house forever
And bless Your holy name.*

You prepare a table right before me
In the presence of my enemies.
Though the arrow flies and the terror of night
is at my door, I'll trust You, Lord.
Chorus

*Bridge: And even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.
(And) even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death You are on my side. (oh)*

Chorus

Scripture Reading

Matthew 23:23-28

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Responding to the Savior

Tithes, Generous Giving & Moment of Contemplation

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

Prayers of the Church

Jegar & Jemima Chinnavan, serving in VA

§ Song of Preparation*

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

**Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. old children to Room 2 for Children's Church.*

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name,
He has hushed the law's loud thunder, He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame,
He has washed us with His blood, (3x)
He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies
called us by his grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with His blood, (3x)
He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptation threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord our strong salvation holds in view the conqueror's crown.
He who washed us with His blood, (3x)
Soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice, join and point to mercy's store,
When through grace in Christ our trust is justice smiles and asks no more.

He who washed us with His blood, (3x)
Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us now their praises fill the sky.
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood, (3x)
Thou art worthy Lamb of God.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Luke 15:25-32

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul L. Sanders

“Older Brother Syndrome”

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your heart and it will not let you down.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

All Glory Be to Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive;
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow’s gain, tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn; all glory be to Christ.

Chorus: *All glory be to Christ our king!*
 All glory be to Christ!
 His rule and reign we’ll ever sing,
 All glory be to Christ!

His will be done, His kingdom come, on earth as is above,
Who is Himself our daily bread; Praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet; All glory be to Christ.

Chorus

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e'er his people be; All glory be to Christ!

Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.

Space for Notes:

Questions for Families and Community Groups

The Call of the Gospel Series Part IV · Luke 15:11-32 · “Older Brother Syndrome”

1. What was your top takeaway from this sermon?
2. What symptoms of “elder brother” syndrome can you identify with?
3. As those who belong to Jesus, how can we combat these tendencies personally?
4. How can we help each other combat them in community?
5. What are the most striking contrasts between the elder brother in the parable and Jesus as our elder brother?

Why Do That in Worship?

Covenant Baptism

“Every time we baptize an infant, we bear witness that salvation is from God, that we cannot do any good thing to secure it, that we all enter the Kingdom of heaven therefore as little children, who do not do, but are done for.” (B.B. Warfield)

Our view of Baptism emphasizes and pictures who God is and what God alone can do for His elect. It points us to what God proclaims and promises. Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s covenant promise to His people, directly instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in which Jesus has directed that water is to be applied, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies the glorious realities of union with Christ, forgiveness of sins by His blood, regeneration by His Holy Spirit; our adoption, our hope of resurrection to everlasting life, our engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s, and the admission of a person into the visible church. It is a seal from the King that assures us of the authenticity of the gospel and the benefits we receive in Christ. Baptism fulfilled and replaced the OT sign of God’s covenant of grace, which was circumcision, ending the shedding of blood in gospel signs and picturing the circumcision of the heart to which circumcision pointed.

The waters of baptism do not save anyone. Yet it is a picture of what God says He will do for His people in Ezekiel 36:25-27: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” It is a new and better sign of God’s covenant of grace to be administered to believers and their children as was circumcision (see the Genesis 17 and Acts 2:39 parallels along with Colossians 2:11-12). Biblical accounts as well as the earliest evidence of church history also affirm the inclusion of households in baptism (Acts 16:11-15, 25-34, 2 Cor 1:16). Covenant Baptism (and especially “infant” baptism) beautifully points to the initiative of God’s love. He reached out to us, when we could not reach out to Him. It is thus a perfect picture of sovereign, saving grace. We pray that God will do for our children what is pictured in their baptisms and we call them early and often to faith and repentance.

Thus, at Christ Community Church, we baptize the children of believers, as well as adult professing believers who have not been previously baptized, in accordance with Scripture. Adults, in this way, are recognized as disciples of Jesus Christ through the means of baptism and profession of faith (see Acts 2:38, 8:35-37, Romans 10:9). It is our great joy and privilege from time to time, to hear new Christians profess their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of sinners, as He is offered in the gospel, and to see them receive the mark of membership in the covenant community. And yet, even in their baptisms, the emphasis remains on who God is and what He has done.

Mark your calendars:

July

- **28-31:** Created for a Purpose Camp
- **30:** Youth Mystery Lunch, 12pm
- **31:** SPUR Group Cook-Out

August

- **3:** Summer ADS Session #2 begins, 9:30am
- **6:** Youth Mystery Lunch, 12pm
- **9:** Youth Back-to-School Cook-Out
- **10:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **17:** SPUR Groups resume, 5pm
- **24:** New Comers' Lunch

More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.

- * *The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.*
- * *Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons' office.*

Church office: 864.967.2815

Staff

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