



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, April 26, 2026
10:30am

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

§ - denotes
congregation
Standing

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 Discipleship 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. during the 10:30 service. Those children participating can be dismissed to 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: Bill Gobeli

Download the CCC
Simpsonville app
today!



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

John 7:5: “For not even his brothers believed in him.”

Galatians 1:6-9: “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

Revelation 20:1-3: “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer...”

John Calvin: “Anyone who fears they committed this sin has not committed it, because the sin involves a total absence of concern for Christ.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Rev. Jonathan Williams, Assistant Pastor of Adult Discipleship

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1-3, 7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He.
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Introduction of New Communing Members

Julia Gobeli, Paige Grande, Solomon Sanders,
Autumn Seeger, Allie Snider, Camille Spigener

Prayers of the Church

Mark & Jane Kuo, Taiwan

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

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

§ Song of Rejoicing

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

§ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

*And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.*
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*This refers to Jesus taking upon
Himself the wrath of God for the sins
of His people while upon the cross.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church**,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

** This refers to the "universal
church" that includes all the true
elect of God from every tongue, tribe
and nation throughout past, present
and future history.

§ Song of Preparation*

Arise, My Soul, Arise

**Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.*

Arise my soul arise; shake off your guilty fears. The bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears.
Before the throne my surety stands, Before the throne my surety stands;
My name is written on His hands.

*Chorus: Arise, (arise) arise, (arise)
Arise, arise my soul arise.
Arise, (arise) arise, (arise)
Arise, arise my soul arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

He ever lives above for me to intercede, His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
Forgive him, O, forgive they cry, Forgive him, O, forgive they cry;
Don't let that ransomed sinner die!

Chorus

My God is reconciled; His pard'ning voice I hear. He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh, With confidence I now draw nigh
And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.

Chorus 2x

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 3:11-12, 20-35

¹¹ And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

28 “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — 30 for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.” 33 And he answered them, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

“Opposition Rising”

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

Jesus, With Thy Church Abide

Jesus, with Thy church abide; Be her savior, Lord, and Guide,
while on earth her faith is tried:

*Chorus: We beseech Thee, hear us,
We beseech Thee, hear us.*

Keep her life and doctrine pure; Grant her patience to endure,
trusting in Thy promise sure:

Chorus

May she one in doctrine be, One in truth and charity,
winning all to faith in Thee:

Chorus

*May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost until she find,
and the brokenhearted bind:*

Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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 & Community Groups

Series: Good New Breaking #11 - Mark 3:11-12, 20-35 - "Opposition Rising"

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. Try to memorize Ephesians 6:12
 - b. What are actions we can take that show we believe Ephesians 6:12 is true?
3. What would change in your prayer life if you took spiritual warfare more seriously?
4. Have you ever experienced misunderstanding or pushback from family or friends because of your faith? Are you willing to share?
5. In what ways has your church family been more of a family than your bloodline?
6. What are steps you can take to connect better with your church family?
7. Have you experienced opposition from fellow Christians to your Christ-centered convictions or commitments? Are you willing to share?
8. Where might you be tempted to soften your obedience to Christ to avoid criticism or conflict in your life and ministry?
9. What fears or misconceptions have you had about the "unforgivable sin"?
10. Why is it comforting to know that concern about committing this sin is evidence you haven't?

Why Do We Do That?

The Apostles' Creed

“Christian truth could not possibly be put into a shorter and clearer statement.”

~Martin Luther on the Apostles' Creed

Creeds and Confessions of faith have fallen on hard times in evangelical churches. Accused of creating divisions and erecting walls that keep people out of the church, many congregations have adopted a “no creed but the Bible” stance in which statements like the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are deemed outdated at best and, at worst, harmful.

It is true that creeds divide: they divide truth from error, and they divide true teachers from false teachers. It is true that creeds erect walls around a church: walls of protection and clarity within which Christians may pursue the Truth of God's holy Word in relative safety. The creeds of the church were developed to defend God's people against heresy and to define Christian orthodoxy.

The Apostles' Creed dates back at least to the second century A.D., and perhaps earlier. St. Ignatius, who was born about the time Christ's earthly ministry ended, wrote in familiar phrases that Christ was born “of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and died and was raised from the dead.”

Even though it was not likely written by the Apostles, the creed bearing their name is in full agreement with the New Testament teachings of the Apostles and specifically attacks the heresy of Gnosticism. Gnostics believe that the physical universe is evil and that God did not make it (“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth”). Because they believe that the physical realm is evil, they also deny that God took on a human body in Christ (“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary”). Gnosticism holds that the most important Christian doctrines were mysteries reserved for a select few (“the holy catholic church” stresses the universality of all of Christ's teachings) and they totally reject the resurrection of the body, because the body is part of the evil physical realm (“the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body”). If you think Gnosticism is no longer a threat to the church, read “The Da Vinci Code,” and then recite the Apostles' Creed at the top of your lungs!

There are two phrases in the Apostles' Creed that some folks find confusing. “The Holy Catholic Church” refers NOT to the Roman church but to all of the elect from every tongue, tribe and nation past, present and future. “He descended into Hell” refers to the reality that Jesus endured the wrath of God for the sins of His people in those hours upon the cross.

The creeds we use in worship are not the very Word of God, but they are distilled from it and true to it, and we recite them because they state in compact form all of the essentials for being a Bible-believing Christian. The creeds help us to pass along those essentials from one generation to the next, and they tie generations of believers together by laying down a specific set of fundamental truths.

Mark your calendars:

April

- **26:** SPUR Groups, 5pm

May

- **3:** SPUR Groups, 5pm
- **15, 29:** VBS Workdays, 12noon
- **17:** Children's Ministry Teacher Training, 8:30am
- **20:** Ladies' Night Out, Chuy's Mexican Restaurant, 6pm
- **21:** Men's Night Out, Sheriff Burger, 6pm

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

Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor	864.431.6688	Rachel Beeson, Dir. of Children's Ministry	864.618.6768
Jonathan Williams, Ass't. Pastor/Discipleship	803.629.2952	Felicia Liddell, Dir. of Assimilation	813.335.7320
Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor/Youth/Worship	770.328.6363	Kim Wallace, Dir. of Women's Ministry	864.981.2449
	Jim Perry, Church Administrator	864.449.5609	
	Joanne Heiser, Admin. Assistant	864.593.2424	
	Steve Britton, Clerk of Session	864.277.9248	
	Greg Coggins, Chair of Diaconate	904.472.9656	