



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



August 24, 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: Greg Coggins

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Revelation 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 19:9: And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Psalms 34:8: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Jonathan Edwards: The difference between believing that God is gracious and tasting that God is gracious is as different as having a rational belief that honey is sweet and having the actual sense of its sweetness.

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Revelation 19:6-8

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

The Sands of Time are Sinking

The sands of time are sinking, the dawn of heaven breaks,
the summer morn I've sighed for, the fair, sweet morn awakes.
Dark, dark had been the midnight, but dayspring is at hand,
and glory, glory dwelleth, in Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the Fountain, the deep sweet well of love,
the streams on earth I've tasted, more deep I'll drink above.
There to an ocean fullness, His mercy doth expand,
and glory, glory dwelleth, in Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment but her dear bride-groom's face.
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace,
not at the crown He giveth, but on His pierced hand,
The Lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel's land.

Oh! I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner into His house of wine.
I stand upon His merit I know no other stand,
not even where glory dwelleth in Emmanuel's land.

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*Chorus: He will hold me fast; He will hold me fast;
 For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
Chorus

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!
Chorus (2x)

Corporate Confession of Sin

adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

Merciful Father, I have no robe to bring to cover my sins, no loom to weave my own righteousness; I am always standing clothed in filthy garments, and by grace am always receiving a change of raiment, for You do justify the ungodly. I am always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal. I am always saying, "Father, forgive me." And You are always bringing forth the best robe. Every morning let me wear it, every evening return in it, go out to the day's work in it, be married in it, be wound in death in it, stand before the great white throne in it and enter heaven in it shining as the sun. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hearing from the Savior

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the

reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

Daniel & Courtney Hightower, RUF @ Clemson University

§ Songs of Preparation*

Nothing But the Blood

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

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Chorus: Oh! Precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

For my pardon, this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing, this my plea, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Chorus

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Chorus

This is all my hope and peace, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Chorus (2x)

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of His glory and grace.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Luke 15:20-24

²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul L. Sanders

"A Celebratory Feast"

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Responding to the Savior

Bread & Cup

Please hold elements until all are served so that we may partake together

§ Song of Response

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

*Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
"He has done great things," we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood Upheld, protected, gathered up.
Chorus

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid;
For the promised morning, Oh how long! O God of Jacob be my strength.
Chorus

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One;
And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.
Chorus (2x)

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

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 VII · Luke 15:20-24 · “A Celebratory Feast”

1. Ice Breaker: What has been the most enjoyable celebration and/or feast in your life and why?
2. Especially for the children:
 - a. What is the best meal you have had with family and what did you enjoy most about the food and the people?
 - b. What questions do you have about the Lord’s Supper?
3. What was your top takeaway from this sermon?
4. Help one another recall all the feasts/meals of Scripture you can think of.
5. What should the feast and celebration in Luke 15 remind us of?
6. If you have had a more individualistic approach to the Lord’s Supper, why do you think that is?
7. When do you personally most “taste and see that the Lord is good?”
8. In what ways is the Lord’s Supper both individual and communal?
9. Why is relationship to Jesus without relationship to His church contradictory?

Why Do That in Worship?

Guidelines for the Lord’s Supper

Not all churches handle invitations to the Lord’s Table in the same manner. Please understand that while we are not so dogmatic as to condemn those with other practices, we do have convictions for why we administer the Supper in the way we do. What follows is our Church’s and Denomination’s view on just who the Lord’s Supper is for.

First, the Lord’s Supper is for believing people. It is a family meal for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have repented of their sins and trust in Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life. It is a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. If you are an unbeliever visiting with us, we are glad you are here. Consider this day whether or not you are ready to embrace Jesus Christ as He is offered in the Scriptures. See a pastor or elder if you would like to talk about faith and life.

The Supper is also for a prepared people, those who have examined themselves concerning their sins before partaking. 1 Corinthians 11:18, 27-32 warns all participants to carefully examine their hearts and lives to make certain they are participating in a worthy manner. Are you converted? Is there any sin that you continually live in and refuse to repent from? Is there someone that you have not done all you can to be at peace

with God by offering and/or requesting forgiveness? These are indications that you have business to attend to before you can come to the table in a worthy manner. If you discern you are not repentant in some area, we encourage you to deal promptly with the sin that is keeping you from such a gift from our Lord that you may with joy participate next month.

Finally, the Supper is also for an informed people, those who are able to discern the body rightly, that is to understand the significance of the holy mystery of Christ crucified and of His body, the church. Thus, while we do not require that a person be a member of Christ Community Church to participate, we do ask that each participant be a baptized member of an Evangelical (i.e., Bible-believing) Church and that you are in good standing (i.e., you are not running from Church discipline).

Let us also remember that, though we believe, prepare, and are informed, our faith is never perfect, our preparation is never flawless, and our understanding is never complete. We do not come to the Lord's Table to claim that we are righteous in ourselves, but we come only because God regards us as righteous on the basis of the work of Christ through His incarnation, redemptive death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession on our behalf. Therefore, we encourage weak Christians, struggling disciples, and doubting believers to receive this Sacrament to gain spiritual strength and renewed hope.

Note to those seeking a church home: If you are not from a Bible-believing church, yet you desire to connect soon to one but realize it may take a while; and if you have interest in being invited to the Lord's Table with us while you discern your future church home; please see an elder today to talk more about that possibility.

Note to Parents: To receive communion, a child must be formally examined and received by the governing body of the church to which you belong (that would be the Session in our context). This will assure that your child has been baptized, professes faith in Jesus, and understands the Sacrament. From time to time, we offer Communicants Classes for older children to help them understand the essentials of the gospel and Sacraments. Please take advantage of those classes when offered. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.

Note to Non-Christians: If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal (see 1 Cor. 11:18, 27-32), please use this time to reflect on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for those searching for truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life.

Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so.

If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are.

Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life you promise.

Amen.

Prayer of belief:

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.

I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, and taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead,

I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord.

Mark your calendars:

August

- **24:** New Comers' Lunch, right after the service
- **24:** SPUR Groups resume, 5pm
- **27:** JOY Fellowship BBQ, 11:30am
- **28:** Men's Night Out, 6pm, Coach House

Use these QR codes to register for the upcoming luncheon:

JOY Fellowship BBQ



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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