



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, March 29, 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

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.

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

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 the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

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

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.

S - denotes congregation Standing

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)

Download the CCC Simpsonville app today!

Building Attendant for today: Bryan Beeson



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Matthew 6:16-18: “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Matthew 15:8-9: ““This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

Zechariah 8:19: “Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.”

Colossians 2:21-23: “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”

John Calvin: “Tradition is a guide and not a jailer.”

R.C. Sproul: “Legalism is the attempt to gain or maintain favor with God by our own efforts, rather than resting in Christ alone.”

John Piper: “Fasting is not about abstaining from food, but about feasting on God.”

Sinclair Ferguson: “The Christian life is not about patching up the old self, but putting on the new self in Christ.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Mr. Randy Gordon, Ruling Elder

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 16:5-11

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our Brother – All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;

Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Come, Thou Fount

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer hither by Thy help I'm come.
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God.
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood.

O to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be.
Let thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Hearing from the Savior

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 8:14-19

For thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord." And the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.

Responding to the Savior

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

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

Brian & Missy Howard, RUF-I @ Clemson University

Hearing from the Savior

New Testament Reading

Matthew 15:1-9

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Preparation*

Thou Lovely Source of True Delight

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

Thou lovely source of true delight whom I unseen adore
Unveil thy beauties to my sight that I might love Thee more,
Oh, that I might love Thee more.

Thy glory o'er creation shines but in Thy sacred Word I read,
in fairer, brighter lines my bleeding, dying Lord,
see my bleeding dying Lord.

'Tis here, whene'er my comforts droop and sin and sorrow rise,
Thy love with cheering beams of hope my fainting heart supplies,
Oh, my fainting heart's supplied.

Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light, Oh come with blissful ray.
Break radiant through the shades of night and chase my fears away,
won't You chase my fears away.

Then shall my soul with rapture trace the wonders of thy love.
But the full glories of Thy face are only known above,
they are only known above.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 2:18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"Don't Fence Me In"

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

Blessed Assurance

All my attempts to be satisfied were vain and empty.
Until the moment You rescued me, and Your love filled me.
My soul sings, now my soul sings:

*Chorus: What blessed assurance I've found in You, I've found in You.
 I won't be shaken; I will not be moved.
 How steadfast Your strong hand is keeping me, is keeping me.
 I won't be shaken; I will not be moved.
 (O blessed assurance)*

No other love that I've ever known compares to You, God.
No other love that I've ever found has done what You've done.
My soul sings, now my soul sings:
Chorus

*Bridge: Ever my anchor, ever my strength,
 Ever my portion and all I need.
 Ever my healing, ever my hope,
 Ever the truth that leads me home,
 That leads me home.*

Sing Chorus (2x)

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:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Good New Breaking #8 · Mark 2:18-22 · “Don’t Fence Me In”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. Can you name a Christian tradition that the Bible commands?
 - b. Can you name a Christian tradition that the Bible does NOT command?
 - c. Why are these two categories different and what difference does it make?
3. In what ways are Christian traditions helpful and in what ways might they be harmful?
4. Are there any man-made rules or standards for holiness that you have struggled with or seen in the church context? How can we avoid imposing these on others?
5. How do you distinguish between biblical mandates and Christian traditions in your own faith practice?
6. Have you ever fasted? Why and from what? How did this discipline serve God’s purposes?
7. How does the “joy aspect” of Christian fasting differ from Old Testament fasting?
8. How can fasting help us express longing for Christ and His Kingdom?
9. What does it mean for Jesus to be “not a patch for your life, but your new life”? How is this evident in your daily walk?
10. What might keep us from fasting or earnestly seeking the Lord’s Kingdom and advancement? Are there areas in your life where worldly satisfaction might be replacing your hunger for God?

Why Do We Do That?

The Prayer of Invocation

With the Call to Worship, a Biblical dialogue between God and His people begins and continues throughout the service of worship. The Prayer of Invocation is whereby God's people respond to His call by imploring Him to assist us as we worship. In this way we acknowledge our inability to offer acceptable worship in our own strength, and claim the promise that by His Spirit where two or three are gathered together Christ will be present also (Matthew 18:20).

While the exact contents of the Invocation have varied through the centuries, The Westminster "Directory for the Public Worship of God" (1644) still stands us in good stead as a benchmark:

"The congregation being assembled; the Minister, after solemn calling on them to the worshipping of the great name of God, is to begin with Prayer; In all reverence and Humility acknowledging the incomprehensible Greatness and Majesty of the Lord, (in whose presence they do then in a special manner appear) and their own vileness and unworthiness to approach so near him; with their utter inability of themselves, to so great a Work: And humbly beseeching him for Pardon, Assistance, and Acceptance in the whole Service then to be performed; and for a Blessing on that particular portion of his Word then to be read: and all, in the Name and Mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ."

But we should keep in mind that the pastor or elder who prays isn't someone we hire to do our praying for us! It is our responsibility to pray with him as he leads us, and to fervently add our "amen" to his prayers throughout the service.

Taken with permission from Christ Church Presbyterian, Evans, GA.

Mark your calendars:

March

- **29:** No SPUR Groups

April

- **2:** Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- **5:** Easter Sunday Services, 8:30 & 10:30 am; Childcare services will be provided (birth through 2yrs old for both services, Children's church for the 2nd service only)
- **12:** Spring ADS classes begin, :30am
- **12:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm

Men and Women: consider joining a Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 9:30am. The men meet in the Conference Room and the Women are meeting in the atrium. See our website for more details.

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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|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor | 864.431.6688 | Rachel Beeson, Dir. of Children's Ministry | 864.617.6768 |
| Jonathan Williams, Ass't. Pastor/Discipleship | 803.629.2952 | Felicia Liddell, Dir. of Assimilation | 813.335.7320 |
| Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor/Youth | 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 | |