



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, April 12, 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. during the 10:30 service. 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: Will Coggins



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Stephen Covey: The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!

P. W. Smuts: Mark's intention, then, is to use this Sabbath controversy to make a telling point about Jesus, the Son of Man—he is “Lord even of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28). It is worth noting that only Mark's rendition includes the word even, an indication that this pronouncement is part of a larger argument that Mark is building in the context concerning “the Son of Man”—not only does Jesus, “the Son of Man” have authority on earth to forgive sin (cf 2:10), he “is Lord even of the Sabbath!”

P. W. Smuts: ...the Gospels are primarily biographies of Jesus. The purpose of this incident, then, is to reveal Jesus' true identity—he is “Lord” of the Sabbath; it is not a ploy by the early church to justify a more lenient view of the Sabbath command...

J. Douma: “The impression is widespread that the Sabbath was an oppressive institution, from which we fortunately have been liberated after the coming of Christ.”

Isaiah 58:13-14: If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor
- Mr. John Hubbard

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my True Word;
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my Great Father, I Thy True Son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

*Chorus: Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness new every morn.
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
Chorus 2x

Introduction of New Members

Harper Clarke
Aubrielle Pendergrass

Prayers of the Church

William Castro, Emmanuel Upstate Presbyterian Church

Hearing from the Savior

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

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

§ Song of Preparation*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

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

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression and rule in equity.

*Chorus: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turned to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
Chorus

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is Love.
Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 2:23-3:6

²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time off Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

¹ Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴ And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath

to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Ben Clarke

"Lord of the Sabbath"

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

Not In Me

No list of sins I have not done, no list of virtues I pursue,
No list of those I am not like can earn myself a place with You.
O God! be merciful to me - I am a sinner through and through!
My only hope of righteousness is not in me, but only You.

No humble dress, no fervent prayer, no lifted hands no tearful song,
No recitation of the truth can justify a single wrong.
My righteousness is Jesus' life, my debt was paid by Jesus' death,
My weary load was borne by Him, and He alone can give me rest.

No separation from the world, no work I do, no gift I give,
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my hands; I cannot cause my soul to live.
But Jesus died and rose again - the pow'r of death is overthrown!
My God is merciful to me and merciful in Christ alone.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.
Amen.

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 #9 · Mark 2:23 - 3:6 · “Lord of the Sabbath”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. For the Young People Specifically:
 - a. If you had to judge who is right and who is wrong from these verses, who is wrong, and why?
 - b. How do you feel about Sunday, the Christian Sabbath? Does Sunday make you rejoice because it's God's gift, or do you only think about lots of rules?
3. How does Jesus' claim that he is Lord, even of the Sabbath, challenge or encourage you to remember and keep the Lord's Day holy?
4. What are the “easy” ways that we dishonor the Lord's Day?
5. What are the “extra-biblical” rules that we place on the Lord's Day and so dishonor it by our legalism?
6. What are some specific ways that you personally, your family, or your friend group can reverence the Lord's Day and view it as God's gracious gift?
7. Read Isaiah 58:13-14 together and reflect on the if/then statements there. How does this provide encouragement in your desire to honor the Lord's Day?

Why Do We Do That?

Church Membership

Question: Where do you find church membership in the Bible?

Answer: While the words “church membership” is not in the Bible, the practice of “church membership” is blatantly clear.

Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Two questions arise from Hebrews 13:17. If there is no biblical requirement to belong a local church, then to which leaders should an individual Christian obey and submit? The Scriptures clearly command Christians to submit to and honor an elder body (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17). If there is no understanding of local church membership, then to whom are we to submit and obey? Is it anyone with the title “elder” from any church? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED leadership to whom we are accountable!

The second question is this: For whom are the leaders of the church (i.e. Elders) responsible to give an account? The Scriptures clearly command an elder body to care for specific people (See 1 Pet. 5:1-5; also, Acts 20:29-30). Are the Elders at CCC to be held accountable for all the Christians in Simpsonville, SC? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED membership that we are responsible to shepherd and lead. Church shepherding and discipline will not work if local church membership doesn't exist.

Other evidences for membership include the following:

- Acts 2:37-47 - numerical record of those who have professed Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 41) and an acknowledgement that the church was tracking the growth (v. 47)
- Acts 6:1-6 - we see elections take place in order to address a specific problem and accusation.
- Romans 16:1-16 – Example of an awareness of who is a church member.
- Timothy 5:3-16 - In this text we see criteria for who would or would not qualify for Ephesus' widow care program. The local church in Ephesus is organized, and they are working out a plan. There is a clear distinction of what widows belong to the church.

Obedience to commands in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 imply membership being necessary!

“When church is just a place you attend without ever joining, like an ecclesiological buffet, you just might consider whether you're always leaving whenever your heart begins to be exposed by the Spirit, and the real work is beginning to happen. When you begin to look at these texts it becomes clear that God's plan for his church is that we would belong to a local covenant community of faith. This is for our own protection and maturation, and for the good of others.”

~Matt Chandler

Local church membership is a question of Biblical obedience, not personal preference.

Is it time you considered church membership? If you have an interest in pursuing membership at CCC, please see one of our elders to discuss this further.

Mark your calendars:

April

- **12:** Spring ADS classes begin, :30am
- **12:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **15:** Ladies' Night Out, Stax Omega Diner, 6pm
- **16:** Men's Night Out, Anthony's Pizzeria, 6pm
- **19:** Bridal Shower for Lilly Carroll, 2pm

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	864.617.6768
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