



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, August 9, 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 >
guest2019

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 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. 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: Robbie McCoy

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Charles Spurgeon: “God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, casts with a hand which never fails. Bless His name.”

Isaac Watts: “The heav'ns declare Thy glory, LORD; in every star Thy wisdom shines; but when our eyes behold Thy word, we read Thy name in fairer lines.”

Colossians 1:15-17: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ”

Hebrews 1:3a: “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...”

Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

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

Psalm 33:1-3

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

O Praise the Name

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
My Saviour on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone.
Messiah still and all alone.

*Chorus: O praise the Name of the Lord our God.
O praise His Name forevermore.
For endless days we will sing Your praise.
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King.
Chorus

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.

And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.
Chorus

Coda: Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

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

Tom & Chané Hart, RUF @ Furman University

Hearing from the Savior

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light...

John 1:1-3, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...

Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

Responding to the Savior

§ Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism #9 & WCF 1.4

Leader: What is the work of creation?

All: *The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.*

Leader: Why should we believe the Scripture?

All: The authority of the holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God (who is truth itself), the Author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.

§ Song of Affirmation

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.

§ Song of Preparation*

Speak, O Lord

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

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.

Words of power that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Psalm 33:4-9

⁴ For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm,

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"An Upright and Powerful Word"

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

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles, to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;

The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to His foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Colossians 3:16a & Romans 15:33

(May) the word of Christ dwell in you richly...May the God of peace with you all. 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: Word-Driven: Second Sunday Psalms #3

Psalms 33:4-9 · “The Upright and Powerful Word”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. When you hear our church is a “*Word-driven church*,” what do you think that means?
 - b. Can you think of a time when your feelings or circumstances tell you something different than Scripture tells you? What should we do in those situations?
3. Which aspect of uprightness (straight, morally straight, reliable, just, consistent) is hardest for our culture to accept today?
4. What examples can you think of where culture’s moral compass has shifted, but Scripture has not?
5. What cultural messages do you hear that contradict Scripture? How can you guard your heart against them?
6. What does it mean to “expect Scripture to work in you”? Have you ever seen the Word change you or someone else?
7. What is one area of your life that needs to “bend” to Scripture’s straightness?
8. If you committed to your calendar and life commitments reflecting biblical priorities, what would change?
9. What Scripture should you intentionally speak into your fears, family, and prayers this week?

Why Do We Do That?

Congregational Singing

Perhaps the shortest answer to the question of why we sing congregational songs is, “because that’s what Christians have always done.” The singing of congregational hymns and songs extends back into the Old Covenant. For instance, we find Moses and the children of Israel singing to the Lord a great hymn of deliverance (Exodus 15): “The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!” The Old Testament is also peppered with the command, “Sing to the Lord!” We can safely assume that a command given nearly seventy times was indeed obeyed by God’s people.

In the New Testament it is clear that singing songs and particularly hymns was a regular part of Christian worship, likely carried over from the pattern of the Synagogue. Most famously, we read in Matthew’s gospel (26:30) that following the institution of the Lord’s Supper Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn before they went out to the Mount of Olives. Pliny the Younger, Roman governor of Pontus, provides extra-biblical evidence in a letter he sent to Emperor Trajan in 112 or 113 A.D.

“They [Christians] were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god.”

Simply defined, a hymn is a song of praise to God. A more useful definition includes the following qualifications, born out over the history of the church: 1) a metrical poem of several stanzas, 2) filled with truth that is in accord with the Holy Scriptures, 3) possessing a tune appropriate to be sung by a congregation. Why should a hymn have several stanzas? Even though we live in a culture of sound bites and 15-second news summaries, the truth of the gospel requires thought and meditation upon significant truths. If our hymns don’t foster such truth-thinking, what will prepare our minds and hearts to hear the Word read and preached?

The sermon is the primary means of communicating the gospel in worship, but if it is surrounded with simplistic elements that neither embody nor encourage developed thought, the preaching of the Word will come off as obsolete. This may explain why many churches so easily replace the sermon with a skit or some other emphasis other than preaching – as it fits the surroundings better!

Why should a hymn or song be filled with truth as taught in Scripture? While the sermon proclaims the gospel and the truth of God, so too should our songs. Hymns and songs teach our heads and our hearts at the same time. They are a means by which the Word of Christ dwells in us richly (Col. 3:16), and so it is of eternal importance that our hymns be rich with truth so that they might carry Biblical messages straight to our hearts permeating both our conscious and subconscious minds. It is impossible to overstate the need for theological care in selecting hymns and songs.

At CCC, we desire to incorporate a blended style of singing. And so, at times we will sing old hymns that date back centuries and at times we will sing newer songs that teach the truth of our God and His Word to our hearts and minds. Often you will find a blend of old lyrics to more modern tunes. Regardless of style and song choice, may God help us to preach, pray and sing the Gospel through means that ring true to His Word.

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

Mark your calendars:

August

- **9:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **16:** SPUR Groups resume, 5pm
- **19:** Ladies' Night Out, Capri's Italian Restaurant, Simpsonville, 6pm
- **20:** Men's Night Out, Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Mauldin, 6pm
- **23:** New Comers' Luncheon, 12noon
- **30:** Volunteer Teams' Training, 9:30am

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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