



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



December 7, 2025  
10:30 am

# Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature  
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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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

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congregation  
Standing

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CCC Simpsonville  
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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: Bruce Drebenstedt

*Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler*

## ***Reflections***

**The Westminster Shorter Catechism:** “The only redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.”

**John 1:14:** “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.”

**Galatians 4:4-5:** “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

**1 Corinthians 9:22b:** “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.”

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

## Gathering Song

## Welcome & Announcements

### *Hearing from the Savior*

#### § Call to Worship

Psalm 8:1-6

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

### *Responding to the Savior*

#### § Prayer of Invocation

#### § Song of Praise

*Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; This, the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God, Most High in a manger laid. Lift your voices and now proclaim,  
“Great and glorious, Love has come to us.” Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless, He lay, the Invincible. Maker of Mary, now Mary’s son.  
O, what wisdom to save us all. Shepherds, sages before Him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility. Come on bended knee, adore Him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel. Joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads for your King has come. Sing, for the Light overwhelms the dark.  
Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world His name is Jesus.

## **§ Silent Confession of Sin**

### ***Hearing from the Savior***

## **§ Assurance of Pardon**

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### ***Responding to the Savior***

## **Tithes & Generous Giving**

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**

**Rob & Jenny Ilderton, church planting in London, England**

### ***Hearing from the Savior***

## **Scripture Reading**

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### ***Responding to the Savior***

## **Choral Special**

*Come, Adore the Humble King*

## **§ Song of Preparation\***

*My Savior Left His Throne Above*

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

My Savior left His throne above, exchanged His wealth for poverty.  
He took my hate and gave His love, all this and more He did for me.  
Because He chose the lowly way, and bowed before His Father's will  
I can with all assurance say, My God is near and loves me still.  
My God is near and loves me still.

He felt the storms of human pain. He felt temptation's whelming seas.  
He felt the tears of sorrow's rain all this and more He felt for me  
Because He knows my every strife and is acquainted with my grief  
I can't be shaken in this life, the Friend of Sinners walks with me.  
The Friend of Sinners walks with me.

He kept His Father's every word, the Law He followed perfectly.  
So all God's pleasure He secured, all this and more He earned for me.  
Because His righteous life is mine and all His merits now I own  
I am a child of God on high, I am adopted, loved, and known.  
I am adopted, loved, and known

When Jesus left His heavenly home His face was set on Calvary.  
The steepest hill He climbed alone, all this and more He did for me.  
Because He died once for all time and bore the curse of death and hell  
Final forgiveness here is mine, so it is finished, all is well.  
Yes, it is finished, all is well.

### ***Hearing from the Savior***

#### **Sermon Text**

Hebrews 2:9-18

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup> saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

#### **Preaching of the Word**

Rev. Paul Sanders

#### ***"Before There Was Time"***

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

## *Responding to the Savior*

### **Bread & Cup**

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

### **§ Song of Response**

*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, in the dawning of the King.  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, He the perfect Son of Man.  
In His living, in His suff'ring, never trace, nor stain of sin.  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ the Lord upon the tree.  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.  
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death, the God of life.  
But no grave could e'er restrain Him. Praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

## *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:*

## Questions for Families & Community Groups

“God in the Flesh: The Wonder of the Incarnation” # 2  
*Philippians 2:5-11, Hebrews 2:9-18 · “He Took On Flesh”*

1. Especially for the children (BUT ALSO FOR EVERYONE!): Try to memorize this Q & A from the shorter catechism and discuss what it teaches us about Jesus. “The only redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.”
2. What was your top takeaway from this week’s sermon?
3. Have you ever come into contact with false teaching about the nature of Jesus Christ?
4. What strikes you most about Jesus, the eternal God, becoming man and dwelling among us?
5. The application was made that the incarnation of Christ should move us to consider how we might do ministry that is “incarnational”, which is humble, relational, selfless, sensible, contextual, spiritual, and Christ exalting. Which of these qualities is most difficult for you?
6. In the incarnation, Jesus was able to relate to us in every way. Read Paul’s passage about “incarnational ministry” in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.
  - a. What are some examples of appropriate “incarnational ministry” where we live, work, and play?
  - b. What are some examples that might “cross the line” of what is appropriate for a Christian when seeking to approach the lost in an incarnational way?
7. Share with one another opportunities where you live, work, and play for gospel ministry. Now, pray for one another to take steps related to incarnational ministry this week.

## ***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. Amen*

*Thank you to all who provided funds for the poinsettias that have been used to decorate our church for the Advent Season.*

**Poinsettias placed in memory of:**

- ◆ Tom Davies (the Davies Family)
- ◆ Ralph & Marion Hendricks (John & Victoria Hubbard)
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. William Iannone (Joanne Iannone Terrell)
- ◆ Bob & Nona Liddell (Roy & Felicia Liddell)
- ◆ Our 2 babies with Jesus (Martha Jo Moore)
- ◆ Larry & Paige McCarty (Martha Jo Moore)
- ◆ Robert Sams (Judy Sams)
- ◆ JoAnn Shaw (Linda & Larry Taylor)
- ◆ Rosa Lee Taylor (Linda & Larry Taylor)
- ◆ Col. Judson M. Terrell, Jr, Pat Terrell & Jud Terrell, III (David Terrell)
- ◆ John & Helen Thornton & brothers, John & Joe (Roy & Felicia Liddell)

**Poinsettias placed in honor of:**

- ◆ Our priceless CCC Staff (Martha Jo Moore)



*Mark your calendars:*

## ***December***

- **7:** Meet the Nominees, 9:30am, Joint ADS class in the sanctuary
- **9:** Women's Ministry Christmas Gathering, 6pm
- **14:** Congregational Meeting, 9:30am, Joint ADS class in sanctuary
  - Election of officers
  - Church-life update
- **21:** No ADS
- **24:** Christmas Eve Service, 6pm
- **28:** No ADS

*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
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	
	Robbie McCoy, Chair of Diaconate	707.499.1560	