



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



January 4, 2026
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 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: Andy Wallace

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

J.C. Ryle: “I have had a deep conviction for many years that practical holiness and entire self-consecration to God are not sufficiently attended to by modern Christians in this country.”

Hebrews 12:14: “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

Psalms 24:3-5: “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not lift up his soul to what is false

and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the Lord

and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

R.C. Sproul: “We are not to follow the world’s lead but to cut across it and rise above it to a higher calling and style. This is a call to transcendent excellence, not a call to sloppy “out-of-it-ness.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor
- Mr. Randy Gordon, Ruling Elder
- Mr. John Hubbard

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

1 Peter 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
to thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Allelu!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Allelu!

O may thy soldiers faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Allelu!

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way, Alleluia, Allelu!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lift High the Name of Jesus

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our King.
Make known the power of His grace, the beauty of His peace.
Remember how His mercy reached and we cried out to Him.
He lifted us to solid ground, To freedom from our sin.

*Chorus: Oh sing my soul and tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory.*

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Lord.
His pow'r in us is greater than, is greater than this world.
To share the reason for our hope, to serve with love and grace,
That all who see Him shine through us might bring the Father praise.
Chorus

Lift high the name of Jesus, of Jesus our Light.
No other name on earth can save, can raise us a soul to life.
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest He has grown.
We labor in His fields of grace as He leads sinners home.
Chorus

§ Confession of Faith

Westminster Shorter Catechism, #25

Leader: What is sanctification?

All: Sanctification is the word of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

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

Good News Club

Hearing from the Savior

Scripture Reading

Exodus 19:7-14

So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Preparation*

Behold Our God

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

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

*Chorus: Behold our God seated on His throne, come let us adore Him.
 Behold our King nothing can compare, come let us adore Him.*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave.
Jesus Savior risen now to reign.

Chorus

Bridge: You will reign forever (Let Your glory fill the earth)

Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

1 Peter 1:13-19

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the

grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Ben Clarke

*"A Calling from God to **Real** and **Actual** Holiness"*

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

Matthew 26:26-29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Responding to the Savior

Bread & Cup

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

§ Song of Response

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken. For by my side, the Saviour He will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus. For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. 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:

Questions for Families & Community Groups

1. What was your top takeaway from this message on personal holiness?
2. If you had to rate your desire for holiness on a scale from 1-10 (10 being the best), where would your desire be?
3. In what ways does that desire differ from your practice of pursuing personal holiness?
4. Write out below or share with others a prayer asking the Lord to increase your desire for holiness, and to give you the strength to pursue that desire.
5. Now, practically evaluate the ways in which you are pursuing holiness, and ask if you're "making every effort" toward holiness?
6. For the young people:
 - a. What does it mean to "be holy?"
 - b. How can you as a young person be hungry to get more holiness?
 - c. What is the reward of holiness?

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

Mark your calendars:

January

- **4:** Joint ADS - Installation of Officers, 9:30am
- **7:** Financial Peace University begins, 6pm
- **8:** Thursday Morning Harmony resumes, 9:30am
- **8:** Men's Bible Study resumes, 9:30am
- **11:** Winter ADS classes begin, 9:30am
- **11:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **24:** CPR & AED Training, 8:30am
- **31:** CPR & AED Training, 8:30am

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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