



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



August 17, 2025
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 Sunday School 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 Room 2 in 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

Ephesians 4:18: “They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”

Psalms 103:13: “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.”

Proverbs 14:26: “In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

1 John 3:1: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

Romans 8:20-21: “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Revelation 7:9-12

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Song of Praise

And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain an int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Chorus: Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above so free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for all His chosen race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.

Chorus

Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

Chorus

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Chorus

Introduction of New Members

Daniel, Emily, and Isaiah Adams (communing); Evie, Levi, & Ariella (guests)
Chris, Darby Stouffer (communing) Michael, Gideon, & Leah (non-communing)
Tracy Williams (communing), Briley, Westelin, Ella (non-communing)

Hearing from the Savior

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 8:7-9

But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you — see that you excel in this act of grace also. I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Responding to the Savior

Tithes, Generous Giving & Moment of Contemplation

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

Matt & Janelle Heiser, Relational Ministry in Spain

Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 74

Leader: What is adoption?

All: Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have His name put upon them, the Spirit of His Son given to them, are under His fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory..

§ Songs of Preparation*

Arise, My Soul, Arise

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. old children to Room 2 for Children's Church.

Arise my soul arise; shake off your guilty fears.
The bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears.
Before the throne my surety stands,
Before the throne my surety stands;
My name is written on His hands.

*Chorus: Arise, (arise) arise, (arise). Arise, arise my soul arise.
Arise, (arise) arise, (arise). Arise, arise my soul arise.
Shake off your guilty fears and rise.*

He ever lives above for me to intercede,
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead.
His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.
Chorus

Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me.
Forgive him, O, forgive they cry,
Forgive him, O, forgive they cry;
Don't let that ransomed sinner die!
Chorus

My God is reconciled; His pard'ning voice I hear.
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear.
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh
And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.
Chorus (2x)

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails and hung him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer, who crushed the pow'r of sin and death;
My only Savior before the Holy Judge, the Lamb who is my righteousness.
The Lamb who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer my life he bought, my love he owns.
I have no longings for another I'm satisfied in him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer, His faithfulness my standing place
though foes are mighty and rush upon me, my feet are firm, held by his grace.
My feet are firm, held by his grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness, His triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer, who waits for me at gates of gold.
And when he calls me it will be paradise, His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Luke 15:11-24

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul L. Sanders

“Alienated. . . Restored”

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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go; I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,

and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

O Love that will not let me go. . .

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Adapted from Colossians 1:10-14

Now go and walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to be benefactor of the inheritance of the saints; knowing He has delivered you from the power of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

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 and Community Groups

The Call of the Gospel Series Part VI · Luke 15:11-32 · “Alienated...Restored”

Ice Breaker: Has anyone experienced restoration to someone you were alienated from? What served that restoration?

Especially for the children:

- a. Do you know what it means that we are alienated from God because of our sin?
 - b. Read Ephesians 2:4-5. What did God do to restore us to Himself?
1. What was your top takeaway from this sermon?
2. What is so sad about the younger brother’s alienation from the father?
3. How did he seek to remedy his situation? How did the father respond to that?
4. Think together about the whole of the Bible. Where do you see the theme of alienation from God show up? Where do you see the theme of restoration to God show up?
5. Name all the ways you can think of that Jesus has changed our situation that sin caused.
6. How does the doctrine of adoption relate to this restoration?

Why Do That in Worship?

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!

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:

August

- **20:** Ladies’ Night Out, 6pm, PF Chang’s
- **24:** New Comers’ Lunch, right after the service
- **24:** SPUR Groups resume, 5pm
- **27:** JOY Fellowship BBQ, 11:30am
- **28:** Men’s Night Out, 6pm, Coach House

Use these QR codes to register for the upcoming luncheons:

New Comers



JOY Fellowship BBQ



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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