



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



September 21, 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: Samuel Streit

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Genesis 12:3: “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 1:2-4: “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. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.”

Proverbs 4:19: “The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

Matthew 8:11-12: “I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

John 3:19: “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

Isaiah 9:2: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”

Galatians 3:29: “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

John 8:12: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 148:1-6

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

*Chorus: Come and behold Him,
 The One and the Only.
 Cry out sing holy,
 Forever a Holy God.
 Come and worship the Holy God.*

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God.
Chorus (2x)

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice; Ye lights of evening find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright, thou givest man both warmth and light,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Introduction of New Members

The Cloar Family

Hearing from the Savior

Covenant Baptisms

Eastyn, Bemmy, and Londyn Cloar

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-13

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. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of 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

Steve & Julie Jessen, MNA Disaster Response

§ Affirmation of Faith

from Westminster Shorter Catechism, #9

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 6 days, and all very good.

§ Songs of Preparation*

Our God

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

Water You turned into wine, opened the eyes of the blind;
There's no one like You, none like You.

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes, we rise;
There's no one like You, none like You.

*Chorus: Our God is greater, our God is stronger;
God, You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power, our God, our God.*

Into the darkness You shine, out of the ashes, we rise;
There's no one like You, none like You.

Chorus

Bridge: And if our God is for us then who could ever stop us,

And if our God is with us then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us then who could ever stop us,
And if our God is with us then what could stand against?
What could stand against?

Chorus (2x)

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Exodus 10:21-29

²¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. ²⁴ Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the Lord; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." ²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God. ²⁶ Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the Lord our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the Lord until we arrive there." ²⁷ But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. ²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." ²⁹ Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul L. Sanders

"The Eclipse of Pharaoh"

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

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound - that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved:
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

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 and Community Groups

Living Out Our Callings--Exodus Series #20 - Exodus "The Eclipse of Pharoah"

Especially for the children:

- a. What is the darkest place you have ever been in? How did you feel?
- b. What do you think it means that Jesus is referred to as the "light of the world?"

1. What was your top takeaway from this sermon?
2. Recount the ways you see a "de-creation" through Exodus. What does this teach about God?
3. What are common areas that Christians are tempted to try and "negotiate with God?"
4. Does anyone have any personal convictions on their own compromising or negotiating to share and receive prayer to surrendering to Christ?
5. What comfort is there for the Christian due to Christ's promise that His church will endure?
6. Take time as a group to pray for the light of Jesus to shine upon the darkness that is pressing in on our world. Name specific areas of darkness and evil.

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:

September

- 21: SPUR Groups meet, 5pm
- 25: Men’s Night Out, Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Mauldin, 6pm

October

- 5: Bridal Shower for Stephanie Gilliam, 2pm
- 12: Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- 19: Children’s Ministry volunteer 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

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		