



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, May 17, 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 >
guest2020

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.

This facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a Sound Technician for a receiver.

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.

Hymns and worship songs are used by permission.
CCLI # 187771

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.

S - denotes congregation Standing

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)

Download the CCC Simpsonville app today!

Building Attendant for today: Samuel Streit



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Hebrews 6:19-20: We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Tim Keller: "The resurrection means not merely that Christians have a hope for the future but that they have a hope that comes from the future. The Bible's startling message is that when Jesus rose, he brought the future kingdom of God into the present."

John Calvin: "The word hope I take for faith; and indeed hope is nothing else but the constancy of faith... when hope animates us there is a vigour in the whole body."

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Jonathan Williams, Assistant Pastor of Adult Discipleship
- Mr. John Hubbard

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

John 15:4-5, 8-11

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

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

Oh how good it is when the family of God dwells together in spirit,
In faith and unity; Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

*Chorus: So, with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
 And with one heart we'll live out His word;
 Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
 For He dwells in the presence of His people.*

Oh how good it is on this journey we share to rejoice with the happy,
And weep with those who mourn; For the weak find strength,
The afflicted find grace, when we offer the blessing of belonging.

Chorus

Oh how good it is to embrace His command to prefer one another,
Forgive as He forgives; When we live as one, we all share in the love
Of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit.

Chorus

Recognition of High School Graduates

Prayers of the Church

Mikael & Zuzanne Römer, MTW

Hearing from the Savior

Scripture Reading

2 John 1

¹ The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ² because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:

³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.

⁴ I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. ⁵ And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. ⁶ And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver

and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. ¹² Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

¹³ The children of your elect sister greet you.

Responding to the Savior

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

§ 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

Colossians 1:3-14

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins..

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Ben Clarke

“Grown and Growing”

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

The Power of the Cross

Oh, to see of the dawn of the darkest day; Christ on the road to Calvary,
tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.

*Chorus: This, the power of the cross: Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath - we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow.
Chorus

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; “Finished!” the victory cry.
Chorus

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live won through Your selfless love.

*Chorus 2: This, the power of the cross Son of God - slain for us.
 What a love! What a Cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, 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:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. For the children and young people:
 - a. Who do you know that you are sure is praying for you?
 - b. Does the way that you are living today give them a reason to be super thankful or to be sad in their prayers?
 - c. If your life was like a grocery store, what kind of “spiritual groceries” would be in it?
3. If you had to grade your life in these three crucial areas that we see in verses 4 and 5—faith in Christ, love for the saints, and your hope for the future, what kind of “grade” would you give yourself? Bear in mind that this are not separate “classes...”
4. Who was the faithful servant of God who first shared “the grace of God in truth” with you? Follow up from last week—have you shared with them how the Lord used them in your life?
5. How does a person get “filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding?”
6. Like I asked the children and young people, if your life was a fruit stand, what would be the quality of the spiritual “fruit” in that stand?
7. Read verses 10-14 together and discuss which of these areas is growing best, and where you need the encouragement and prayers of other saints.

Why Do We Do That?

The Prelude

“The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him.”

~Habakkuk 2:20

Perhaps the most easily overlooked element of our worship service is the instrumental prelude. After all, the service hasn't really gotten underway yet and the very name suggests that it's not really a part of the service to come, but more like the preface to something important. Besides, if we don't say “hello” to each other during the prelude, we might not have a chance to do so after the benediction, right?

But wait! While the prelude is less important than the reading of Scripture, the singing of hymns and the preaching of the Word, it serves an important purpose in our preparation for worship. Habakkuk 2:20 says, “The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him.” When does that silence descend on God's gathered people? During the prelude. These brief moments before the service begins help us to “come into His presence with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise” (Psalm 100).

If you're used to entering the sanctuary when the meeting between God and His people is already well underway, make it a point to be in your seat a few moments before worship begins next Sunday. During the prelude ask the Lord to inhabit your praises, to empower the preaching, to enrich the singing, and to send His compelling Word out into our community through the congregation of Christ Community Church, Presbyterian. Then see if He will not “open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10). Amen.

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

Mark your calendars:

May

- **17:** Children's Ministry Teacher Training, 8:30am
- **17:** SPUR Groups meet, 5pm
- **20:** Ladies' Night Out, Chuy's Mexican Restaurant, 6pm
- **21:** Men's Night Out, Sheriff Burger, 6pm
- **28:** JOY Fellowship Needed & Loved Luncheon, 12pm
- **29:** VBS Workday, 12noon

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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