



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, February 8, 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: Chip DeLaet



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

2 Kings 1:7-8: “He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?” They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tisbite.”

Malachi 4:5-6: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

John 1:21-23: And they asked him (John the Baptist), “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

Luke 1:16-17: And he (John the Baptist) will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

Matthew 11:13-15: (Jesus said), For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 16:15-16: He (Jesus) said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Hebrews 1:1-9

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Song of Praise

There is One Gospel

There is one Gospel on which I stand for all eternity.
It is my story, my Father's plan, the Son has rescued me.
Oh, what a Gospel, oh, what a peace. My highest joy and my deepest need.
Now and forever, He is my light. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel to which I cling, all else I count as loss.
For there, where justice and mercy meet, He saved me on the cross.
No more I boast in what I can bring, no more I carry the weight of sin.
For He has brought me from death to life. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel where hope is found, the empty tomb still speaks.
For death could not keep my Saviour down, He lives and I am free.
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes, my life is His and His hope is mine.
For he has promised I too will rise. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And in this Gospel, the church is one, we do not walk alone.
We have His Spirit as we press on to lead us safely home.
And when in glory still I will sing of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ending

And when in glory still I will sing of this old story that rescued me.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life. I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Introduction of New Communing Members

Brandon & Kara Martin, and Elise & Ellie
Manuel & Ari Garcia, and Sarah (Alex), Natalie, Isaak, Abby & Rebekah

Hearing from the Savior

Covenant Baptisms

Ellie Martin, daughter of Brandon and Kara Martin
Sarah (Alex), Natalie, Isaak, Abby, and Rebekah, children of Manuel and Ari Garcia

Responding to the Savior

Song of Praise

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

The Doxology

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

William & Judy Castro, Emmanuel Upstate

§ Song of Preparation*

Prepare Him Room

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

O behold, the mystery now unfolds;
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky,
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry;
Swing wide, you ancient gates
For Christ is born today!

*Chorus: Prepare Him room, prepare Him room;
Let the King of Glory enter in.*

God with us, the promise has come to be;
This, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light,
To the hungry the words of life;
His kingdom now is near
For those with ears to hear.

Chorus

Oh, our hearts as busy as Bethlehem,
Hear Him knock; don't say there's no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
See the love of God displayed;
Now He's risen and He reigns.
Praise the Name above all names!

Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"The Gospel Dawning"

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

Confession of Sin

A Liturgical Prayer from Martin Luther

"O Lord, I do not deserve a glimpse of heaven, and I am unable with my works to redeem myself from sin, death, the devil, and hell. Nevertheless, you have given me your Son Jesus Christ, who is far more precious and dear than heaven, and much stronger than sin, death, the devil, and hell. For this I rejoice, praise, and thank you, O God. Without cost and out of pure grace you have given me this boundless blessing in your dear Son. Through him you take sin, death, and hell from me, and do grant me all that belongs to my Savior Jesus Christ. Through Him I pray, Amen."

Hearing from the Savior

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Chorus: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression and rule in equity.

Chorus

He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turned to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

Chorus

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, that name to us is Love.

Chorus (2x)

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

1 Timothy 1:17

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and 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:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Good New Breaking #1 · The Gospel of Mark (1:1-8) · "The Gospel Dawning"

1. What is the best "breaking news" you've ever received?
2. This series highlights the breaking of the best news ever. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
3. Especially for the children and youth:
 - a. What were the scary circumstances Christians endured in the first-century Roman Empire?
 - b. How might it had helped them to hear that Jesus was God and Savior?
4. Discuss all the ways the group can think of about how Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT story.
5. The early Christians risked everything to gather and worship. What are your potential "risks" socially, relationally, or professionally if you follow Jesus more fully? What risk can you take this week?
6. With the reality of Christ's Kingdom being now, identify one "frozen" area of your life (a relationship, habit, fear, or sin) and pray specifically for Jesus to "melt the snow" and for His Kingdom to overrule that area of life.
7. What difference should the presence of His Kingdom make when (pick one):
 - a. We are faced or confronted with our sin
 - b. We are made fun of or ostracized for following Christ
 - c. We are tempted to not speak truth during a worldview discussion at school or with neighbors
 - d. We have the opportunity to speak about what Jesus has done but worry about how someone will view us
 - e. We are tempted to cheat in school or at work
 - f. We are weary of the hard work it takes to pursue healthy family or marital relationships.

Why Do We Do That?

Covenant Baptism

“Every time we baptize an infant, we bear witness that salvation is from God, that we cannot do any good thing to secure it, that we all enter the Kingdom of heaven therefore as little children, who do not do, but are done for.” (B.B. Warfield)

Our view of Baptism emphasizes and pictures who God is and what God alone can do for His elect. It points us to what God proclaims and promises. Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s covenant promise to His people, directly instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in which Jesus has directed that water is to be applied, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies the glorious realities of union with Christ, forgiveness of sins by His blood, regeneration by His Holy Spirit; our adoption, our hope of resurrection to everlasting life, our engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s, and the admission of a person into the visible church. It is a seal from the King that assures us of the authenticity of the gospel and the benefits we receive in Christ. Baptism fulfilled and replaced the OT sign of God’s covenant of grace, which was circumcision, ending the shedding of blood in gospel signs and picturing the circumcision of the heart to which circumcision pointed.

The waters of baptism do not save anyone. Yet it is a picture of what God says He will do for His people in Ezekiel 36:25-27: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” It is a new and better sign of God’s covenant of grace to be administered to believers and their children as was circumcision (see the Genesis 17 and Acts 2:39 parallels along with Colossians 2:11-12). Biblical accounts as well as the earliest evidence of church history also affirm the inclusion of households in baptism (Acts 16:11-15, 25-34, 2 Cor 1:16). Covenant Baptism (and especially “infant” baptism) beautifully points to the initiative of God’s love. He reached out to us, when we could not reach out to Him. It is thus a perfect picture of sovereign, saving grace. We pray that God will do for our children what is pictured in their baptisms and we call them early and often to faith and repentance.

Thus, at Christ Community Church, we baptize the children of believers, as well as adult professing believers who have not been previously baptized, in accordance with Scripture. Adults, in this way, are recognized as disciples of Jesus Christ through the means of baptism and profession of faith (see Acts 2:38, 8:35-37, Romans 10:9). It is our great joy and privilege from time to time, to hear new Christians profess their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of sinners, as He is offered in the gospel, and to see them receive the mark of membership in the covenant community. And yet, even in their baptisms, the emphasis remains on who God is and what He has done.

Mark your calendars:

February

- **8:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm, bring a dish to share with 8-10 people
- **13:** JOY Fellowship Lunch, 12:30pm, Youth Room
- **13-16:** Youth Ski Trip
- **18:** Ladies' Night Out, Portofino's, 6pm
- **19:** Men's Night Out, Chili's, 6pm

Men and Women: consider joining a Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 9:30am. The men meet in the Conference Room and the Women are meeting in the atrium. See our website for more details.

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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