



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, October 18, 2026
8:30am
11:00am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

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.

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2019

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

§ - denotes
congregation
Standing

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



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 3-4 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)

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Luke 11:43: “Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.”

Mark 10:45: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Proverbs 16:17-19: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Matthew 20:25-28: “But Jesus called them to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Mr. Steve Britton, Ruling Elder

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 131

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide;
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

*Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me;
How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!*

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

Chorus

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing, how great is our God!
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing, how great is our God!
Chorus

Jesus, Messiah

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah.

Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.
Chorus

Bridge: All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Chorus (2x)

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

Hearing from the Savior

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:2-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Prayers of the Church

Tony Rogers, Metanoia Ministries

§ Song of Preparation*

Lead On, O King Eternal

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-4 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home:
Through days of preparation thy grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing, nor rolling stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy, the heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning where e'er thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 9:30-41

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me." ⁴⁰ For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"Word-Driven Greatness"

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

from Matthew Henry - *A Method of Prayer*

Gracious God and King,

We have all reason to be humbled for the pride of our hearts, that we have thought of ourselves above others and above what you have given, and have not thought soberly, nor walked humbly with our God. We have sought our own glory more than the glory of him that sent us; and have been puffed up for that for which we should have mourned. We have sought great things for ourselves, when you have said, Seek them not.

Lord, give us all to learn of Christ to be meek and lowly in heart, that we may find rest to our souls; and that in this manner the same mind may be in us that was also in Christ Jesus. Hide pride from us, and clothe us with humility, and put upon us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in your sight is of great price.

*Let us learn from our Savior that true greatness comes from service, and that to be much is to be the least. Fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ, who emptied himself that we might be made great! May the greatness of our savior be our true exaltation, and his glory our greatest good.
This we pray in Jesus Great Name,
Amen.*

Hearing from the Savior

§ Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 55:6-9

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

Not in Me

No list of sins I have not done, no list of virtues I pursue,
No list of those I am not like can earn myself a place with You.
O God! be merciful to me - I am a sinner through and through!
My only hope of righteousness is not in me, but only You.

No humble dress, no fervent prayer, no lifted hands no tearful song,
No recitation of the truth can justify a single wrong.
My righteousness is Jesus' life, my debt was paid by Jesus' death,
My weary load was borne by Him, and He alone can give me rest.

No separation from the world, no work I do, no gift I give,
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my hands; I cannot cause my soul to live.
But Jesus died and rose again - the pow'r of death is overthrown!
My God is merciful to me and merciful in Christ alone.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Space for Notes:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Good New Breaking #30 · Mark 9:30-41 · “Word-Driven Greatness”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. How did Jesus treat those who the crowd thought were not important or of low worth?
 - b. How can you humbly serve someone this week in your family or at school?
3. Why do you think the temptation toward self-importance shows up even among sincere believers?
4. Has stepping into children’s ministry and childcare been a challenge for you? How does this passage challenge our sentiment or the burden we feel when called upon to serve in that capacity?
5. How can we appreciate our church and denomination without being arrogant?
6. How can we appreciate other churches and denominations that are seeking faithfulness to Christ?
7. Which part of Jesus’ teaching on humility most confronts your heart right now?
8. Where is God calling you to take the lower place and serve?

Why Do We Do That?

Expository Preaching

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)

That preaching has always been a fundamental part of true Christian worship is not debatable. However, it may be helpful to explain the type of sermon you will hear most Sundays at Christ Community Church. The preaching in our corporate worship is expository in nature. Expository preaching expounds upon the meaning and application of a particular passage of Scripture rather than starting with a topic and finding verses to support it. Sometimes this means preaching through an entire book of the Bible a few verses each week, but it could also be worked out in a sermon series on the Beatitudes that lasts just a few weeks and doesn't include the rest of Matthew's gospel. At times a series may be topical, but nevertheless, the preaching will be expository pulling from one or more key passages.

There are at least three things that you should expect the expository preaching at CCC to include. First is thorough preparation. In addition to the time the Pastor has invested in his rigorous theological education, he spends a great deal of time each week studying God's Word and praying in preparation for the morning sermons. John Calvin once said in a sermon about preaching,

“If I should climb up into the pulpit without having deigned to look at a book and frivolously imagine, ‘Ah well! when I get there, God will give me enough to talk about,’ and I do not condescend to read, or to think about what I ought to declare, and I come here without carefully pondering how I must apply the Holy Scripture to the edification of the people – well, then I should be a cock-sure charlatan and God would put me to confusion in my audaciousness.”

Be assured that what you hear from the pulpit at CCC is a product of serious preparation and much prayer. Second, you can expect that the preaching will include direct application to your Christian life. Expository preaching is not an abstract exercise because “Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

You should expect to leave worship knowing how the passage preached affects you as a Christian. Beyond preparation and application, you can expect the preaching at CCC to be Spirit dependent. The Prayer for Illumination that at times proceeds the Sermon each Sunday is a petition for the Holy Spirit to empower the preaching, open the hearts of the listeners, and apply God's Word to our lives. The Apostle Paul wrote, “my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

God commands preaching and promises to bless faithful exposition of the Word, and it is reckless to depend on any other method to grow the church and nurture the body of Christ. While the Pastor is always seeking to improve the preparation, delivery and application of the sermon, the essential methodology is not up for grabs because God works through preaching, and other methods are neither commanded nor sanctioned by Him in His word.

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior (Titus 1:1-3).

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:5).

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

Mark your calendars:

October

- 21: Ladies’ Night Out, Bonefish Grill, 6pm
- 30: CCC Youth Retreat

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.

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Staff

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