



**5 . 10 . 2026**

## **PRELIMINARIES: WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## **WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP: "CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER"**

O Father of Lights, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift.

**Thank you for your grace towards us, O Father.**

In your sovereign goodness, you have seen fit to design motherhood and to create our mothers.

**Thank you for the gift of our mothers.**

Lord Jesus, your Gospels tell us that you pursue your wandering people like a mother hen who gathers her chicks beneath her wings.

**Thank you for your grace towards us, O Christ.**

How often have our mothers pursued us as you have pursued your people in love?

**Thank you for the gift of our mothers.**

Holy Spirit, you are our Comforter. You remind us of all that Christ has said and done.

**Thank you for your grace towards us, O Spirit.**

The comfort and the instruction which we received from our mothers points us to that which is found in you alone.

**Thank you for the gift of our mothers.**

True and living God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: we are gathered here to worship you for who you are and for what you have done.

**Thank you for your grace towards us, O God.**

As we offer this heartfelt prayer, we thank you for all that our mothers have done to bring us into the world and to put us in the position to be here today.

**Thank you for the gift of our mothers.**

## WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD THROUGH OUR FAMILY/CHILD DEDICATIONS

### **Three Foundations for This Celebration:**

- 1. Children are a good gift from God.** As our Statement of Faith reads, “Children, from the moment of conception, bear the image of God and are a blessing and heritage from Him.” (This comes directly from Psalm 127:3).
- 2. Parents play a primary role in discipling their children towards lifelong faith in Jesus Christ.** Also according to our Statement of Faith, “Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth.”  
**Ephesians 6:4:** “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
- 3. Discipling children isn't a role for parents only – it's a role for the local church.**

**Psalm 78:1-4:** “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”

### **Today's Family/Child Dedication: The Ensley Family**

Joshua and Krista Ensley are covenant members of Autumn Ridge Community Church. Today, they are coming forward to dedicate Augustine Phillip Ensley (3-years-old) and Josiah Joshua Ensley (2-months-old).



Augustine's name was chosen after hearing a heart-touching miracle story from a friend. Josiah's name was chosen in part due to the honorable King Josiah of Israel who reformed the nation back to biblical worship of God.

### **Vows for Parents, Foster Parents, and Guardians:**

Do you entrust your child to God and his providential plan and care, recognizing that they ultimately belong to him?

Do you commit to raising your child with God as your ultimate authority, as he has revealed himself in the Bible?

Do you commit to instruct your child by word and example of the truth of the gospel as it is found in God's Word, and to making the gospel central in your family's life?

Do you commit to pray for your child and to teach them to pray?

Do you commit to disciple, love, discipline, and care for your child in a way that points them to Jesus Christ?

Do you commit to providing for, to the best of your ability, this child's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs?

Do you commit to pursuing these vows not in isolation, but rather within the biblical community of the local church?

### **Vows for the Church:**

*While anyone is welcome to make these promises, we ask for covenant members of Autumn Ridge Community Church to stand during this time.*

The Autumn Ridge Community Church Membership Covenant says, "We will remain committed to lifestyles of personal disciple-making (cf. Matthew 28:18-20). We will walk in wisdom towards those who are outside the family of God (cf. Colossians 4:5), as well as towards those at all stages of Christian maturity (cf. 1 Timothy 3:15). By a pure and loving example, we will seek the salvation and maturation of our families, our friends, and others with whom we have opportunity."

Based on these covenant commitments,

Do you commit to partner with these parents as we all seek to instruct these children by word and example of the truth of the gospel as it is found in God's Word?

Do you commit to pray for these children – that they will grow to love Jesus and trust in him?

Do you commit to pray for these parents and encourage them as they face the trials of parenting?

And do you commit to follow the Spirit's leading as He gives you opportunities to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of these families as part of the body of Christ?

**[If so, please respond with, "I DO"]**

**WE MOURN THE REALITY OF SIN**

Our Membership Covenant also includes, “[We] will bear one another’s burdens with tender-hearted sympathy (cf. Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2).” This is based on Galatians 6:2, which reads, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

As joyful of a day as Mothers’ Day can be, it is important that we also take time to grieve with those for whom this day is twinged with pain and sorrow. For example,

- Let us grieve with those who long to become mothers, but who haven’t been able to do so
- Let us grieve with those who have a painful relationship with their mothers
- Let us grieve with those who have lost their mothers
- Let us grieve with those who are struggling in their experience of motherhood

Motherhood is a good gift – and like all good gifts, it has been distorted and broken by the effects of sin in this world. For all the ways in which this is true of us, may we offer this heartfelt prayer based on 2 Corinthians 1:3-4:

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – we thank you that you are the God of all comfort. Would you please comfort us in our afflictions this morning, and as we receive your comfort, would you also equip us to comfort others with the overflow of the very comfort you have bestowed on us. By the powerful work of your Holy Spirit, please make us willing and able to bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. We ask these things in His matchless and powerful name – Amen.

## **HYMN OF HOPEFUL LAMENT: "IN CHRIST ALONE"**

In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home—  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

**WE CELEBRATE CHRIST AS OUR REDEEMER**

## **HYMN OF REDEMPTION: "HE WILL BE"**

God is faithful to His word, Even when there seems no way  
Though time may pass, His memory will not fade  
His promises will never fail

### **Chorus 1**

Faithful He has been faithful He will be  
Time and time again His Word returns complete  
To His truth I cling when the night is deep  
Faithful He has been faithful He will be

God is gracious when I doubt, He draws near though I retreat  
Though I may wander, Through the wilderness  
He goes with me and gives me peace

### **Chorus 2**

Gracious He has been gracious He will be  
What I don't deserve the Father gives to me  
Where He leads my feet I shall not want or need  
Gracious He has been, gracious He will be

God is worthy of my song, Countless are His awesome deeds  
His mighty hand has parted raging seas  
For those He loves He has redeemed

### **Chorus 3**

Worthy He has been worthy He will be  
Crowned in endless praise all earth and heaven sing  
Holy is the Lord who reigns in majesty  
Worthy He has been worthy He will be

### **Bridge**

He is my provider covenant protector  
All my hope is in the Lord my God  
He is my sustainer merciful redeemer  
All my hope is in the Lord my God  
Worthy He has been worthy He will be - **Chorus 3**

## **5-MINUTE BREAK**

In addition to taking children to Ridge Kids and using the restroom, take time to meet/greet one another. “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

## **SCRIPTURE READING: “PSALM 131:1-3”**

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. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. 3 O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

## **SERMON: “A MOTHERLY IMAGE OF A MELLOW SOUL”**

### **DAVIS LACEY - PSALM 131:1-3**

**Main point:** when our experience of the Lord **increases**, our experience of anxiety **decreases**.

- Experience the Lord’s Simplicity (v. 1)
- Experience the Lord’s Self (v. 2)
- Experience the Lord’s Security (v. 3)

**Genesis 3:4-7:** <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,<sup>[b]</sup> she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**Charles Spurgeon (paraphrase of Ps. 131:2):** “My soul lies in [the Lord’s] bosom like a child that has done crying and fretting, and is weaned altogether.”

(Passages for further reflection: Hebrews 6:19, Psalm 55:22, and Romans 8:28)

Check out [SeeingJesusTogether.com](http://SeeingJesusTogether.com)

**John 12:17:** “Now my soul is troubled.”

# WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

## HYMN OF RESPONSE: "ABIDE WITH ME"

Abide with me fast falls the even tide  
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile  
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile  
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee  
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be  
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death, Where grave they victory  
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Though Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Thy morning breaks and earthly shadows flee  
In life in death Lord abide with me

## **HYMN OF NEW CREATION: "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 that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

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 first begun.

# WAYS TO GIVE

- **Cash:** place cash securely into one of the offering boxes at the back of the room. If you would like a record of your contribution, please be sure to place the cash into one of our offering envelopes and fill out the appropriate contact information.
- **Check:** place checks securely into one of the offering boxes at the back of the room. Alternatively, you may mail a check to Autumn Ridge Community Church, 208 Victory Cir. Ste. 300, Ellijay, GA 30540. End of year giving statements will be issued based on the contact information provided by the check.
- **Online Giving:** facilitates offerings made by bank account, credit/debit card, and stock. Simply scan the "GIVING" QR code below, or click the "GIVE" tab at the top of our church's website ([autumnridgecommunitychurch.com](http://autumnridgecommunitychurch.com)).
- **Stock:** arrangements for donation of stock can also be made by contacting Jill Connor with Charles Schwab at [jconner@jamisonwealth.com](mailto:jconner@jamisonwealth.com) or (678) 273-7320.

## QR CODES FOR DIGITAL ACCESS

IT'S EASY AS 1,2,3!

### **To access the following items:**

1. Open the camera on your digital device
2. Hover over the QR squares below
3. A yellow link will appear on the screen. Tap the yellow link and you will be taken to an online site where you can access the following.



GIVING



CONNECT

## **Roster of Missional Communities**

*Reach out to one of the leaders listed below to learn the specific rhythms of our different Missional Communities!*

### **Sunday Mornings (8:45a)**

Scott and Jeannie Miller (jeanniem165@gmail.com | 678.320.8310)

Doug and Leigh Colburn (770.364.5325) and Janice and Randy Durden (706.273.9147)

Bryan and Shannon Thomas ([StPatrick1330@yahoo.com](mailto:StPatrick1330@yahoo.com) | Bryan: 808-342-4288 | Shannon: 808-342-4287)

### **Sunday Afternoons (1-2:30p at the Kiscunas')**

Pete & Maria Kiscunas (Pete: 678-480-6096 | [mkiscunas5@gmail.com](mailto:mkiscunas5@gmail.com) - Maria: 678-524-0424) and Pete Westrick (731-607-6962 | [pjw629@icloud.com](mailto:pjw629@icloud.com))

### **Wednesday Evenings (5:30p)**

Damon and Samantha Gabriel (404-408-0673 | [samantha@artfulellijay.com](mailto:samantha@artfulellijay.com))

## **NEW WITH US? GET CONNECTED!**

If you are new or visiting with us, make sure to fill out a connection card. There is a digital version available via the QR code above.

## **UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:**

Grab a Missions Memo to keep up with other dates/opportunities to be involved

**May 13** - Generations of Grace Women's Event

