



1 & 2 Samuel

THE HOPE OF A BETTER KING

PRELIMINARIES: WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 95:1-7

Leader: 1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! **Congregation:** 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! **Leader:** 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods! **Congregation:** 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. **Leader:** 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before LORD our Maker! **Congregation:** 7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep of His hand.

SONG OF ACCLAMATION: COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Verse 1

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King.
He the theme of Heaven's praises,
Robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.

Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous mystery;
He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering,
Never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law; in Him we stand.

Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous mystery:
Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption;
See the Father's plan unfold,
Bringing many sons to glory—
Grace unmeasured, love untold.

Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous mystery:
Slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him;
Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance,
How unwavering our hope!
Christ in power resurrected,
As we will be when He comes.

WE MOURN THE REALITY OF OUR SIN

SONG OF CONFESSION: COME, YE SOULS BY SIN AFFLICTED

Verse 1

Come, ye souls by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross behold the crown;
Look to Jesus;
Look to Jesus;
Look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through him alone.

Verse 2

Take his easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make obedience sweet;
Christ will give you strength to bear it,
While his wisdom guides your feet
Safe to glory;
Safe to glory;
Safe to glory,
Where his ransomed captives meet.

Verse 3

Blessed are the eyes that see him,
Blest the ears that hear his voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust him,
And in him alone rejoice:
His commandments,
His commandments,
His commandments
Then become their happy choice.

Verse 4

Sweet as home to pilgrim's weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Or full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest the cross supplies:
All who taste it,
All who taste it,
All who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

READING OF THE LAW: MATTHEW 5:43–48

43 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

CORPORATE REFLECTION & CONFESSION

Please engage reflectively and prayerfully. You are welcome to stand, sit, bow, or kneel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: O merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned. You have shown us steadfast love and covenant kindness, yet we have often met Your grace with pride and hardened hearts.

Congregation: **You gave us a place at Your table though we were undeserving, yet we have turned away and failed to extend that same kindness to others.**

Leader: Renew us, Father. Soften our hearts to receive Your steadfast love with humility. By Your Spirit, make us a people who welcome the weak and walk in the same covenant kindness You have first shown us in Christ.

Congregation: **Restore in us a deep gratitude for the seat You have given us at Your table, and empower us to reflect the gracious heart of our King.**

Leader: We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate, who has brought us near by His blood. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: REVELATION 7:15-17

Leader: Hear now the comfort of the Gospel: 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple;

Congregation: **And He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence.**

Leader: 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

Congregation: **17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

Leader: Therefore, as a minister of the Gospel, I can remind you that your sins are forgiven in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

WE CELEBRATE CHRIST AS OUR REDEEMER

SONG OF REDEMPTION: YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer?
There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine! I can sing, "All is mine,"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 2

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior—He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome—
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 3

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven.
The future's sure—the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released!
I can sing, "I am free"—
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Verse 4

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus—
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Tag 1

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus—
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Tag 2

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me



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)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: “2 SAMUEL 9:6-8”

6 And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, “Mephibosheth!” And he answered, “Behold, I am your servant.” **7** And David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always.” **8** And he paid homage and said, “What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?”

SERMON: “TWO RESPONSES TO THE COVENANT KING”

DAVIS LACEY - 2 SAMUEL 9-10 (PGS. 196-200 IN THE ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE JOURNALS)

In both 2 Samuel 9 and 2 Samuel 10, David sought to show *chesed* (**חֶסֶד**): to Mephibosheth (ch. 9) and to Hanun (ch. 10).

There are only two responses to the Covenant King:

1. To fall (in surrender . . . chapter 9)
2. To fight (in opposition . . . chapter 10)

1 Samuel 20:14-17: **14** *If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; 15 and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” 16 And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD take vengeance on David’s enemies.” 17 And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.*

Romans 5:6-11: **6** *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

As we fall in humble surrender to the Greater Covenant King (Jesus), we receive what Mephibosheth received to a greater degree:

- Protection
- Provision
- Position

Philippians 2:9-11: 9 *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Applications:

- Lessons from Hanun
- Lessons from the other kings of 2 Samuel 10
- Lessons from Mephibosheth and Jesus

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

During this time, we encourage you to respond to the Gospel in various ways. There will be a lady and a gentleman in the back of the room to pray with you, there will be an offering box also in the back of the room for any financial offerings or to give us your connection card, and there will be four stations in the sanctuary to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you are a baptized Christian who is following Christ the Lord and are not seeking to tear apart other Christians or other Christian churches, please approach the table most convenient for you, receive the elements, and return to your seats where you can take the supper when you are ready.

SONG OF RESPONSE: HOW SWEET AND AWFUL IS THE PLACE

Verse 1

How sweet and awful is the place
With Christ within the door,
While everlasting love displays
The choicest of her stores.

Verse 2

While all our hearts and all our songs
Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue,
“Lord, why was I a guest?”

Verse 3

“Why was I made to hear Thy voice
And enter while there's room
When thousands make a wretched choice
And rather starve than come?”

Verse 4

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast
That sweetly drew us in.
Else we had still refused to taste,
And perished in our sin.

Verse 5

We long to see Thy churches full
That all the chosen race
May with one voice and heart and soul
Sing Thy redeeming grace.



WE ARE SENT BACK INTO THE WORLD

SONG OF NEW CREATION: COMMISSION DOXOLOGY

To the tune of Old 100th

Verse 1 (1 Timothy 1:17)

Now to the King of ages be
All honor, power, majesty,
Immortal, unseen, only wise;
All glory through eternal skies.

Verse 2 (I Bind Unto Myself Today)

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One In Three.

BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING

Having been reminded of the future grace which is ours in Jesus Christ the Lord,
may you now be refreshed by the grace which is yours already:

You are loved by God the Father – there is no one left to please.

You are saved by God the Son – there is nothing left to prove.

You are comforted by God the Spirit – there is nothing left to fear.

Autumn Ridge Family, you are sent into the world to make disciples of all
nations. Go, therefore: in the love of God the Father, in the resurrection of God
the Son, and in the comfort of the God the Spirit; now and forevermore. **Amen.**

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).
 - **Stock:** arrangements for donation of stock can also be made by contacting Jill Connor with Charles Schwab at jconner@jamisonwealth.com or (678) 273-7320.
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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 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

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES (AUGUST – DECEMBER, 2026)

Sunday Mornings (8:45 AM, upstairs at Victory Christian Center)

Scott and Jeannie Miller/Preston and Laney Porter
(jeanniem165@gmail.com, castleco@live.com or
prestoncporter21@gmail.com)

Ted and Leslie Murphy (tedmurphy@etcmail.com – or contact Peggy
McNash at Peggy.mcnash@gmail.com)

Bryan and Shannon Thomas (StPatrick1330@yahoo.com)

Wednesday Evenings (5:30p, upstairs at Victory Christian Center)

Davis and Charis Lacey (davis@autumnridgecommunitychurch.com or
charislacey@gmail.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.

- **September 9** - Generations of Grace
- **September 13** - Pastor of Families Candidate weekend
- **September 20** - Members Business Meeting
- **September 25** - Barn Dance
- **October 23** - Men and Boy's Campout

Youth Transformation Groups

Starting on **Sunday, August 23**, students in 6th - 12th grade are invited to participate in gender-specific Transformation Groups! Adult leaders will be on site (upstairs at the Victory Christian Center) at 8:45a, and the **youth Transformation Groups will begin at 9 AM**. For more information, please email Damon or Samantha Gabriel (damon@artfulellijay.com, samantha@artfulellijay.com).

Ridge Kids Is Growing and We Need You!

Ridge Kids is growing and we need 14 more teachers to reach our goal of 37, each serving just one Sunday a month. Curriculum is provided. Contact Leigh Colburn at 770-883- 9001 or colburn65@gmail.com.

Meet our Pastor of Families Candidate

Exciting news from our elders! During the August 23 Church Members update meeting, our elders announced Adam Downer as our candidate for Pastor of Families. Adam and his wife Penny will join us for a candidate weekend on Sunday, September 13, when Adam will preach during worship, followed by a luncheon where you can meet the Downers personally. A church members' business meeting to formally affirm Adam's prospective service will follow worship on September 20.