



1 & 2 Samuel



THE HOPE OF A BETTER KING



September 27, 2026

PRELIMINARIES: WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP: REVELATION 22:12-17

Leader: 12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Congregation: 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. **15** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Leader: 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Congregation: 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

SONG OF ACCLAMATION: COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

Verse 1

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the Mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by Thy great help I've come.
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Verse 2

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Verse 3

Oh, to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

WE MOURN THE REALITY OF OUR SIN

SONG OF CONFESSION: BE MERCIFUL TO ME, O GOD (PSALM 51:10-19)

To the tune of New Britian (Amazing Grace)

Verse 5

Create in me a heart renewed;
My spirit steadfast make.
O cast me not away from You;
Your presence do not take.

Verse 6

Restore to me salvation's joy;
Uphold me, gracious Lord.
Transgressors I will teach Your ways
Till sinners are restored.

Verse 7

Deliver me from guilt, O God;
Forget my bloody days.
My lips shall sing Your righteousness;
My mouth show forth Your praise.

Verse 8

Will sacrifices give You joy?
Burnt off'rings bring delight?
Your off'rings are a broken heart,
A spirit made contrite.

Verse 9

Do good in Your good pleasure, Lord.
Rebuild Your city's wall.
Then bulls and sacrifices burnt,
You will accept them all.

TIME OF LAMENT AND PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF GOD: REVELATION 21:22-27

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, **25** and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. **26** They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. **27** But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty Father, Lord God the Almighty, we praise you for the promise of bringing all tribes, tongues, nations and languages into fellowship with your Son – the Lamb, Jesus. We thank you for the gospel – the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and that through his saving work our names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

We also grieve that sin is so pervasive and persuasive in our world. We confess the ways that we have fallen prey to its schemes, and we ask for your mercy and forgiveness.

[Would you take a moment of silent confession to confess your sin before the Lord this morning]?

We cry out on behalf of the thousands of people in our community, and the billions of people throughout the world, who are presently dead in the trespasses of their sin because of their refusal to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus in their lives. We ask that you would soften their hearts, open their eyes, and lead them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Would you use us as people to bear witness to you in our community?

Would you use us as a people – Autumn Ridge Community Church – as well as other faithful churches in our community to make disciples in Gilmer County and beyond?

Would you use our church's missions partners – COR 3:6, Union Network, Operation Christmas Child, Christ the King Church in Hickory, North Carolina, the Church in Hard Places cohort in rural Guatemala, the Jung Family doing theological training in Southeast Asia, and others, to bring in the full number of those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Please grant to us, our partners, and our brothers and sister throughout the world, everything we need to bear witness to you – in our lives, in our community, and to the ends of the earth.

I pray these things in the name of The Lamb, Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF REDEMPTION: MATTHEW 24:14 (EMPHASIS ADDED)

And this gospel of the kingdom **will be** proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

WE CELEBRATE CHRIST AS OUR REDEEMER

SONG OF REDEMPTION: IN CHRIST ALONE

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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;

'Til 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.

Verse 3

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!

Verse 3 (continued)

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!

Verse 4

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;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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 13:20-29

20 And her brother Absalom said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart.” So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom’s house. **21** When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. **22** But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

23 After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king’s sons. **24** And Absalom came to the king and said, “Behold, your servant has sheepshearers. Please let the king and his servants go with your servant.” **25** But the king said to Absalom, “No, my son, let us not all go, lest we be burdensome to you.” He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing. **26** Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us.” And the king said to him, “Why should he go with you?” **27** But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king’s sons go with him. **28** Then Absalom commanded his servants, “Mark when Amnon’s heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon,’ then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant.” **29** So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king’s sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled.

SERMON: “THE HOPE OF GOD IN A PASSAGE ABOUT GODLESSNESS”

DAVIS LACEY - 2 SAMUEL 13-14 (PGS. 212-224 IN THE ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE JOURNALS)

Godlessness identifies problems only Jesus can solve!

- The problem of **desolation** (2 Samuel 13:1-20)
- The problem of **justice** (2 Samuel 13:21-14:24)
- The problem of **restoration** (2 Samuel 14:25-33)

Deuteronomy 22:28-29: *If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.*

Hebrews 12:1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Revelation 21:5: *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Other cross-references:

- 2 Samuel 3:2-5
- Leviticus 18:6-18

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: WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Verse 1

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Verse 2

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through His blood.

Verse 3

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.



WE ARE SENT BACK INTO THE WORLD

SONG OF NEW CREATION: PSALM 117

To the tune of Nettleton (Come Thou Fount)

Praise Jehovah, all ye nations,
All ye people, praise proclaim;
For His grace and loving kindness
Oh, sing praises to His name.

For the greatness of His mercy
Constant praise to Him accord;
Evermore His truth endureth;
Hallelujah, praise the LORD!

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.

- **October 23** - Men and Boy's Campout