



1 & 2 Samuel



THE HOPE OF A BETTER KING



October 4, 2026

PRELIMINARIES: WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 46

Leader: 1 God is our mighty fortress, a very present help in trouble.

Congregation: 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, **3** though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. **Selah.**

Leader: 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. **5** God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. **6** The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

Congregation: 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our mighty fortress! **Selah.**

Leader: 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. **9** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. **10** The LORD says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Congregation: 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our mighty fortress! **Selah**

SONG OF ACCLAMATION: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

To the tune of Ein Feste Burg

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Verse 2

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same; And he must win the battle.

Verse 3

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, Through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

WE MOURN THE REALITY OF OUR SIN

SONG OF CONFESSION: LORD, FROM DEPTHS TO YOU I CRIED (PSALM 130)

To the tune of St. Columbia

Verse 1

LORD, from the depths to You I cried.
My Lord, give ear to me!
O hear my voice and listen to
My supplicating plea.

Verse 2

LORD, who could stand if You, my Lord,
Marked each iniquity?
But You are one who pardons sin,
That You may rev'renced be.

Verse 3

I wait, my soul awaits the LORD;
My hope is in His word.
Yes more than watchmen wait for dawn,
My soul awaits my Lord.

Verse 4

O Israel hope in the LORD;
The LORD saves graciously,
And Israel He shall redeem
From all iniquity.

READING OF THE LAW: ROMANS 3:9-20

Leader: Hear the Law of God:

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, **10** as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

13 “Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **20** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

CORPORATE REFLECTION & CONFESSION

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Righteous and Sovereign Judge, Your holy law has laid us bare and stopped every boasting mouth. We confess that by nature we were no better than the worst of men—inherently corrupt, spiritually blind, and under the heavy dominion of sin.

Congregation: None of us was righteous, no, not one. We did not understand Your ways, we did not seek Your face, and we altogether turned aside into worthlessness.

Leader: Even now, O Lord, we acknowledge the remaining corruption of our members: our throats have still spoken vanity, our tongues have practiced deceit, and the venom of bitterness has too often stained our lips. Our paths have still bred ruin and misery, because the fear of Your holy name has not always been before our eyes.

Congregation: Our mouths are stopped, O Lord. We stand guilty in ourselves and wholly accountable before Your tribunal, unable to plead a single good deed of our own.

Leader: We renounce all hope in our own filthy rags of self-righteousness, knowing that by the works of the law no human being can ever be justified in Your sight. Let the law do its perfect work to convict us, to slay our remaining pride, and to drive us again to the cross.

Congregation: Deliver us from the delusion of self-justification. Strip us of every confidence in our own merit, and clothe our souls afresh in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ alone, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: JOHN 19:25-30

Leader: **25** but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" **27** Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. **28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst." **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

Congregation: **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

WE CELEBRATE CHRIST AS OUR REDEEMER

SONG OF REDEMPTION: ALL SUFFICIENT MERIT

Verse 1

All sufficient merit,
Shining like the sun;
A fortune I inherit
By no work I have done.

My righteousness I forfeit
At my Savior's cross,
Where all sufficient merit
Did what I could not.

Verse 2

In love He condescended,
Eternal now in time;
A life without a blemish,
The Maker made to die.

The law could never save us;
Our lawlessness had won,
Until the pure and spotless
Lamb had finally come.

Chorus

It is done, it is finished;
No more debt I owe.
Paid in full, all sufficient
Merit now my own.

Verse 3

I lay down my garments,
Any empty boast;
Good works now all corrupted
By the sinful host.

Dressed in my Lord Jesus,
A crimson robe made white;
No more fear of judgment;
His righteousness is mine.

Chorus (x2)

Verse 4

All sufficient merit,
Firm in life and death;
The joy of my salvation
Shall be my final breath.

When I stand accepted
Before the throne of God,
I'll gaze upon my Jesus
And thank Him for the cross.
Yes, I'll thank Him for the cross.

Chorus (x2)

TAG

Oh, Your merit now my own
Oh, Your merit now my own

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 15:19-21

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why do you also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home. **20** You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you, and may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you.” **21** But Ittai answered the king, “As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will your servant be.”

SERMON: “SO EARTHLY MINDED, YOU’RE NO HEAVENLY GOOD”

DAVIS LACEY - 2 SAMUEL 15-17 (PGS. 224-240 IN THE ILLUMINATED SCRIPTURE JOURNAL)

Before you follow the ways of the world, be sure to follow the Lord of the world.

- Because the Lord of the world is worthy of our devotion
- Because the Lord of the world will triumph over the ways of the world

The Lord of the world is worthy of our devotion!

- Philippians 2:1-11
- The Better David – Jesus – is worthy of our whole-hearted devotion, even more than the first David was worthy of Ittai’s whole-hearted devotion.

Continued

- Follow-up questions:
 - What brings you joy/delight in the world?
 - What brings you comfort/peace/security in the world?
 - What do you prioritize in the world?
 - Where does Jesus rank on your answers to these questions?

The Lord of the world will triumph over the ways of the world!

- The Lord's purposes WILL be accomplished (cross-reference 2 Samuel 2:11-12).
- The Lord's judgment of His enemies IS severe.
- The Lord's servants WILL succeed in His mission (cross-reference Matthew 6:33)

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: WHOM SHALL THE LORD'S ELECT CONDEMN? (ROMANS 8:33-39)

To the tune of Hamburg (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

Verse 1

Who shall the Lord's elect condemn?
'Tis God who justifies their souls,
And mercy, like a mighty stream,
O'er all their sins divinely rolls.

Verse 2

Who shall adjudge the saints to Hell?
'Tis Christ who suffered in their stead;
And, the salvation to fulfill,
Behold Him ris'n from the dead.

Verse 3

He lives! He lives and sits above,
Forever interceding there:
Who shall divide us from His love,
Or what shall tempt us to despair?

Verse 4

Shall persecution, or distress,
Famine, or sword, or nakedness?
He who hath loved us bears us through,
And makes us more than conqu'rors too.

Verse 5

Faith hath an overcoming pow'r,
It triumphs in the dying hour.
Christ is our life, our joy, our hope,
Nor can we sink with such a prop.

Verse 6

Not all that men on earth can do,
Nor pow'rs on high, nor pow'rs below,
Shall cause His mercy to remove,
Or wean our hearts from Christ our love.



WE ARE SENT BACK INTO THE WORLD

SONG OF NEW CREATION: ROMANS 11:36 DOXOLOGY

To the tune of Old 100th (Doxology)

For from Him, through Him, to Him all;
To God be glory over all.
All things exist by His decree;
Praise Him through all eternity.

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