

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MARK**



*Anna Long*

**LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.**

Sunday, 7 June 2020, 10:00 AM

[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“Justice is what love looks like in public.”

– Rev. Raphael Warnock  
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta

“We all should be uncomfortable about the injustice in our country. For many Christians, facing the reality that America still has a race problem is uncomfortable. Until we’re able to listen to the cries of black advocates, sympathize with black mothers, and express righteous anger over dead black bodies, we might remain comfortable – but it’s a poor substitute for the love to which we’ve been called.”

– Philip Holmes  
Vice President for Institutional Communications,  
Reformed Theological Seminary

“Fighting for justice is an integral part of incarnational apologetics. People won’t believe you care about their eternal state when you disregard their present conditions.”

– Lisa Fields,  
Founder and President of Jude 3 Project

“Hope still wins but it often  
has a tear stained face.  
It has a vulnerable heart.  
It has bloodied fists, because it keeps on fighting.  
It has scraped knees, because  
it keeps on crawling forward.  
It’s sweaty; Hope is not necessarily pretty.  
But you always want Hope on your side  
because Hope will fight for you.  
Hope will fight for the hardest parts of your life.”

– Jo Saxton,  
Author and Speaker

“We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need – regardless of race, politics, class, and religion – is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.”

– Tim Keller,  
Founding Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN

### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*Public Domain. Words: Joachim Neander | Music: 17th century German tune.*

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, For He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how all your longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, Oh let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 95:6-8*

**Minister:** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**All:** **For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.  
Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF ADORATION

### The Lord Is King

*Words: Josiah Conder, 1824; alt. by Nathan Partain, 2003 | Music: Nathan Partain, 2003*

The Lord is King! Lift up your voice,  
O earth, and all ye heav'ns, rejoice!  
From world to world the joy shall ring,  
"The Lord omnipotent is King!"

The Lord is King! Who then shall dare  
Resist his will, distrust his care?  
Or murmur at his wise decrees,  
Or doubt his royal promises?

**Chorus:** Sing His praise, sing His praise  
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days  
Sing His praise, sing His praise  
All your days, all your days.

The Lord is King! Bow down you must,  
The Judge of all the earth is just;  
Holy and true are all his ways;  
Let ev'ry creature sing his praise.

One Lord, one kingdom, all secures;  
He reigns, and life and death are yours:  
Through Heav'n and earth one song shall ring,  
"The Lord omnipotent is King!"

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Luke 4:18-19*

**All: Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me,  
because He has anointed Me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to release the oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### Heal Us, Emmanuel

*Words by William Cowper (alt Twit) | Music by Kevin Twit and Lucas Morton; © 2015*

#### Chorus:

Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are  
We long to feel Thy touch  
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly  
O Savior hear our cry

Our faith is feeble, we confess  
We faintly trust Thy word  
But will You pity us the less?  
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied  
With trembling for relief  
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried  
"O help my unbelief!"

She, too, who touched you in the press  
And healing virtue stole  
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace  
Thy faith has made thee whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
To touch You if we may  
O send us not despairing home  
Send none unhealed away

## CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 3:18

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**Minister:** Lord, hear our prayers and forgive us.

**All:**       **We confess that we have often, either consciously or unconsciously,  
failed to be an instrument of your peace,  
sown hatred instead of love,  
caused injury to others while failing to pardon injury done to us,  
doubted your call to show others the same grace, love, justice, and comfort  
we demand for ourselves,  
perpetuated language and acts that cause despair in others,  
crushed the hope of our neighbors,  
spread darkness rather than light,  
brought sadness to others instead of joy.**

*(You're invited to take a moment of silent confession.)*

**Minister:** “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

**All:**       **O God,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”** *(a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

## HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

### Upon A Life I Have Not Lived

Words by Horatius Bonar (alt. K. Twit) | Music by Kevin Twit ©2012 Kevin Twit Music

Upon a Life I have not lived,  
Upon a Death I did not die,  
Another's Life; Another's Death,  
I stake my whole eternity.

Not on the tears which I have shed,  
Not on the sorrows I have known,  
Another's tears; Another's griefs,  
On these I rest, on these alone.

Lord, I believe; O deal with me,  
As one who has Thy Word believed!  
I take the gift, Lord, look on me,  
As one who has Thy gift received.

#### **Chorus:**

O Jesus, Son of God, I build on  
what Thy cross has done for me;  
There both my life and death I read,  
my guilt, and pardon there I see.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

We encourage you to take 30 seconds to send a text or video message sharing the peace of Christ to others in City Church. Consider an exchange like this:

May the peace of Christ always be with you!

**And also with you.**

## GLORIA PATRI

*tune: Karl Digerness*

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son,  
Glory be to the Spirit, Three in One.  
As it was in the beginning it will be forever. Amen.

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-9**

**1** These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ... It said: **4** "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. **8** For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### Grace upon Grace

*Words and Music by Sandra McCracken Adapted from #214 Valley of Vision*

In every station, new trials and new troubles  
Call for more grace than I can afford  
Where can I go but to my dear Savior  
For mercy that pours from boundless stores.

#### **Chorus:**

Grace upon grace, every sin repaired  
Every void restored, you will find Him there  
In every turning He will prepare you  
With grace upon grace.

He made a way for the fallen to rise  
Perfect in glory and sacrifice  
In sweet communion my need He supplies  
He saves and keeps and guards my life

To Thee I run now with great expectation  
To honor You with trust like a child  
My hopes and desires seek a new destination  
and all that You ask Your grace will provide.

## BENEDICTION

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

## SENDING HYMN

### He Will Hold Me Fast

*Words & Music Ada Habershon, Matthew Merker | © 2013 Matthew Merker Music, Getty Music Publishing*

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

#### **Chorus:**

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast,  
for my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last.  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!

## DISMISSAL & SENDING

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES :: BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**

During these weeks of quarantine and pandemic, we've each likely faced new challenges, found new rhythms, and asked new questions. It benefits all of us to hear about what's going on in the lives of our church family. For this reason we're beginning a series of Zoom meetings called Pandemic Perspectives. These short calls (approximately 30 minutes) will feature members from our church body reflecting on their experience in quarantine, hosted by staff members John Hopple and Kristi James. Join us on Wednesdays at 7:45 pm, beginning on June 3.

### **THRIVE ADVENTURES :: VIRTUAL RETREATS**

Over the coming weeks, Abby Iverson and Peter Ivey of Thrive Adventures are offering a series of free 2-hour virtual retreats designed to provide an opportunity to rest at the feet of Jesus, connect with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, and process this season of COVID-19 and the effects it has had on your soul. The retreats will be conducted over Zoom and will consist of time spent in solitude, praying through and meditating on God's Word, followed by a group discussion. For more information, dates and times, and to sign up, please visit [t.ly/RORU](https://t.ly/RORU). You can also contact Abby and Peter with questions via email at [info@thriveadventures.org](mailto:info@thriveadventures.org).

### **WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING :: WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 AM**

Join us Wednesday mornings for an informal prayer meeting via Zoom. Email John Hopple ([john@citychurchavl.org](mailto:john@citychurchavl.org)) for details on how to join the meeting via Zoom.

### **COVID-19 RELIEF FUND**

From lost wages to lost jobs, the financial need of those within City Church is constantly evolving. In anticipation of increased financial needs created by this crisis, and with a desire to help carry the burdens of individuals and families within the church, we've created the "COVID-19 Relief Fund". As the hands and feet of the church body, we encourage you to give generously to the needs of others as you have opportunity! If you're interested in giving specifically to this fund, please text any dollar amount and the word **covid19** to **84321** (e.g. 100 covid19). Gifts will be distributed by the Session to meet the needs of those in distressed situations. Email John Hopple ([john@citychurchavl.org](mailto:john@citychurchavl.org)) for more information and alternate ways to give to the fund.

## Want to connect with City Church?

If you'd like to keep up with news, information, and events in the life of the church, please text the word **"visiting"** to **94000** and follow the prompts. We'll receive your basic contact information and keep you in the loop!

## Need prayer?

We invite you to text your prayer requests to the elders and staff at **828.374.8883**. Unless otherwise specified by you, prayer requests will only be made known to the Session and staff of City Church.



## Elders

Nat Belz (nat.belz@gmail.com)  
Scott Bridges (engineer.bridges@gmail.com)

## Staff

Rev. Duff James (duff@citychurchavl.org) :: Pastor  
John Hopple (john@citychurchavl.org) :: Administration & Men's Discipleship  
Kristi James (kristi@citychurchavl.org) :: Children's Programs & Women's Discipleship  
Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Music Arts Director

## Volunteer Coordinator

Amy Noll (acnoll89@gmail.com) :: Room Setup

## Musicians

Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Guitar/Vocals/Director  
Tyler Caruso :: Vocals  
Ellen-Anne Harboe :: Vocals  
Dean Peteet :: Bass  
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals  
Sheryl Olguin :: Guitar/ Vocals  
Leon Olguin :: Keyboard/Vocals  
Brandon Smith & Mark Iverson :: Sound Technicians

## **WANT TO SUPPORT CITY CHURCH FINANCIALLY?**

We have several ways that you can give to God's work through your gifts. You may give online by visiting [citychurchavl.org/give](http://citychurchavl.org/give), you may use our "Text to Give" platform by texting the amount you'd like to give to: 84321, you may give through an automatic payment via your personal bank, or you may mail a check to the church: City Church, PO Box 1378, 28802.