

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MARK**



*Anna Long*

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

Sunday, 30 August 2020, 10:00 AM  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“The hands of the king are healing hands, and thus shall the rightful king be known.”

– *JRR Tolkien*  
Lord of the Rings

“No minister of an earthly sovereign would ever announce, ‘So and so has become king! If it please you, accept him as your king!’ Such a blasé, noncommittal declaration certainly did not characterize the news of a Roman emperor’s ascension to the throne. The very announcement that so and so is king contains an implicit demand for submission. Jesus’ announcement that God is king contains the same absolute demand. The divine rule blazed abroad by Jesus, therefore, requires demand. The divine rule blazed abroad by Jesus, therefore, requires immediate human decision and commitment: repentance, submission to God’s reign, and trust that the incredible is taking place.”

– *David Garland*  
A Theology of Mark’s Gospel

“We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words -- to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it.”

– *CS Lewis*  
The Weight of Glory

“The Reformation was a time when men went blind, staggering drunk because they had discovered, in the dusty basement of late medievalism, a whole cellar full of fifteen-hundred-year-old, two-hundred proof Grace – bottle after bottle of pure distillate of Scripture, one sip of which would convince anyone that God saves single-handedly. The word of the Gospel – after all those centuries of trying to lift yourself into heaven by worrying about the perfection of your bootstraps – suddenly turned out to be a flat announcement that the saved were home before they started.... Grace has to be drunk straight: no water, no ice, and certainly no ginger ale; neither goodness, nor badness, not the flowers that bloom in the spring of super spirituality could be allowed to enter into the case.”

– *Robert Farrar Capon*  
Between Noon & Three:  
Romance, Law, & the Outrage of Grace

# GATHERING HYMN

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Words: James Montgomery | Music: Sandra McCracken; ©2012 Drink Your Tea Music (ASCAP)

1. He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes in succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.
3. To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in His sight.
4. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
5. Kings shall fall down before Him, and gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;
6. The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.  
His Name shall stand forever, That Name to us is Love.

### Chorus:

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
His reign on earth begun!

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalms 118:24*

**Minister:** This is the day that the LORD has made;

**All:**       **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF ADORATION

### The Lord Is King

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

1. 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!"
2. 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?
3. 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.
4. 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!"

**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.

**Minister:** The LORD is God,

**All:**       **and he has made his light to shine upon us.**  
**You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;**  
**you are my God; I will extol you.**  
**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;**  
**for his steadfast love endures forever!**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### **Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery**

*Words & Music: Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa | © 2012 Bleecker Publishing; McKinney Music, Inc*

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.

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 fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

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.

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 will we be when he comes.

## 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:** Triumphant Lord, we rejoice in your entry into the world and into our lives!  
Joining with the crowds, we sing your praises and exalt your reign,  
but even so, our hearts are far from true worship,  
our minds are distant from true understanding.  
We are disappointed with your humility,  
we are uninspired by your selflessness.

**All:**       **Our sin leads us to give you death**  
              **even though you give us life.**  
**Our treachery guides us to war**  
              **even though you call us to peace.**

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

**Minister:** Help us to reflect in our lives the glory of your Son  
and to live faithfully here and now.

**All:**       **Have mercy on us, Savior of all,**  
              **find us in these forsaken places.**  
**Forgive what we have done and who we have been.**  
              **Bring us home again and impart within us a new song of joy and celebration. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 6:6

“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”

# HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

## Before the Throne of God Above

*Original words by Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1892), I alternate words and music by Vikki Cook ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)*

1. Before the throne of God above,  
I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is "Love,"  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.
2. When Satan tempts me to despair,  
and tells me of the guilt within,  
upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died,  
my sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
to look on Him and pardon me.
3. Behold him there! The risen Lamb,  
my perfect, spotless Righteousness,  
the great unchangeable I AM,  
the King of glory and of grace!  
One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased by His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

**Mark 11:1-11**

**1** Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

**11** And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

**All:**       **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### 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!

## 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."

## DISMISSAL & SENDING

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

**Thanks be to God!**