

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MARK**



*Anna Long*

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

Sunday, 11 October 2020, 10:00 AM

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

# CITY CHURCH

## ASHEVILLE

“It’s in our hearts that the evil lies, and it’s from our hearts that it must be plucked out.”

– *Bertrand Russell*

“It’s easier to denature plutonium than it is to denature the evil spirit of man.”

– *Albert Einstein*

“Certainty. Joy. Certainty. Emotion. Sigh. Joy ... Joy. Joy. Tears of joy.”

– *Blaise Pascal*

reflecting on his coming to faith in Jesus

“We must tell stories the way God does, stories in which a sister must float her little brother on a river with nothing but a basket between him and the crocodiles. Stories in which a king is a coward, and a shepherd boy steps forward to face the giant. Stories with fiery serpents and leviathans and sermons in whirlwinds. Stories in which murderers are blinded on donkeys and become heroes. Stories with dens of lions and fiery furnaces and lone prophets laughing at kings and priests and demons. Stories with heads on platters. Stories with courage and crosses and redemption. Stories with resurrections.”

– *N.D. Wilson*

“The proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord is risen.”

– *Frederick Buechner*

“Make no mistake: if he rose at all it was as his body; if the cells’ dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, the amino acids rekindle, the Church will fail. Let us not mock God with metaphor, analogy, sidestepping transcendence; making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded credulity of earlier ages; lust us walk through the door.”

– *John Updike*

“Easter is an affirmation that life has meaning, that it’s not sound and fury, signifying nothing. The resurrection means life defeats death, that Grace defeats sin. It’s a time for a conversation about meaning too, because agnostics may think about Christian claims this week. They may even come to church to hear us make our case, just as we can listen when agnostics make their case.”

– *Dan Doriani*

# 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 113*

**Minister:** Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!

**All:** **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF ADORATION

### O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

*Words: Charles Wesley 1779 | Music: Carl G. Glasser; Arr. By Lowell Mason*

1. O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise  
The glories of my God and King  
The triumphs of His grace
2. My gracious Master and my God  
Assist me to proclaim  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name
3. Jesus, the name that charms our fears  
That bids our sorrows cease  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears  
'Tis life and health and peace
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin  
He sets the prisoners free  
His blood can make the foulest clean  
His blood availed for me

**Minister:** God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**All:** **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. If God is for us, who can be against us?**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### Jesus Cast a Look on Me

*Words: John Berridge. Music: Matthew Perryman Jones. © MPJ Music.*

Jesus cast a look on me,  
Give me sweet simplicity  
Make me poor and keep me low,  
Seeking only Thee to know

All that feeds my busy pride,  
Cast it evermore aside  
Bid my will to Thine submit,  
Lay me humbly at Thy feet

Make me like a little child,  
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled  
Seeing only in Thy light,  
Walking only in Thy might

Leaning on Thy loving breast,  
Where a weary soul can rest  
Feeling well the peace of God,  
Flowing from His precious blood

In this posture let me live,  
And hosannas daily give  
In this temper let me die,  
And hosannas ever cry!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Minister:** Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew your whole creation.

**All:** **We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. We confess the times when we have lived as if Jesus had not been raised from the dead:**

**when we have caved during temptation,  
when we have insulated ourselves from hope and change,  
when we have retreated into well-worn ruts of shame and fear,  
when we have abused others and taken advantage of them,  
when we have not loved God and our neighbor as we ought,  
and when we have let doubt rule our days.**

**Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness.**

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

**Minister:** Jesus, thank you that you mercifully and compassionately entered this world of suffering and temptation. You know what it's like to be tired and overwhelmed, to feel excruciating pain and physical weakness, to be abandoned and betrayed. Thank you that you were faithful in all these things for us, holding fast to your confession, always trusting the Father, always revering him and obeying him from your heart. Thank you, Father, that for our sake you made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**All:** **Help us to cling to Jesus, the substance and source of our confession. Show us more clearly our eternal Savior, King, and Advocate, and help us to ponder more deeply his resurrection and love for us when we are tempted to doubt it. Strengthen us in maturing holiness as you continue the good work that you have already begun in us so that on the last day we might be presented to Christ as part of his spotless bride, the church. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2:24

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

# HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

## I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*Words: Horatius Bonar. | Music: Kevin Twit; © Kevin Twit music*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto Me and rest;  
Lay down, O weary one lay down,  
Your head upon My breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
So weary, worn and sad;  
I found in Him my resting place,  
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down and drink, and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
From that life-giving stream  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,  
And all thy days be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In Him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk  
'Til pilgrim days are done.

**Mark 12:18-27**

**18** And Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, **19** “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. **20** There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. **21** And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. **22** And the seven left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. **23** In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife.”

**24** Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? **25** For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. **26** And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? **27** He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong.”

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

**All:**       **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### He's on Our Side (Psalm 124)

*Words & Music Wendell Kimbrough & Jason Pears | ©2017 (BMI)*

Our help has come in the Name of the Lord,  
the One who formed all the earth and the sky.  
Behold! He comes to destroy the chains of death  
and raise us up to life.

O bless his name, for he has given us  
everything we need to fly.  
Our broken wings, they have not hindered us.  
We have the Lord;  
He's on our side!

## 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

### 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.

## 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

For assistance with any of the announcements below, or if you have further questions, please reach out to John Hopple ([john@citychurchavl.org](mailto:john@citychurchavl.org)). If you'd like to receive emails and information for events at City Church, please fill out the contact information form via our website: [citychurchavl.org/connect](http://citychurchavl.org/connect)

### **WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING :: THURSDAYS, 7:00 AM**

Join us Thursday mornings for an informal prayer meeting via Zoom. Feel free to jump on the call as you are able, and come and go as you need.

### **BREAKFAST WITH THE GUYS :: FRIDAYS, 7:00 AM**

Breakfast with the guys is back!. Our plan for the foreseeable future is to meet out at the Gibson Farm in East Asheville (277 Moffitt Branch Rd. Asheville, NC 28805). Breakfast will not be provided at this point so please bring your own breakfast and beverage of choice. Join us as we gather fireside and enjoy some socially distanced fellowship. Email John Hopple for further details, including detailed driving and COVID related directions.

### **GET CONNECTED WITH A CITY GROUP THIS FALL**

City Groups are founded on the belief that transformation takes place as we journey together in God's story. Small groups provide a place to connect, build relationships, share life together, and serve one another and the city. Groups meet weekly throughout Asheville indoors and out. If you're interested in taking part in a City Group, please reach out to John Hopple for more details.

## 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.