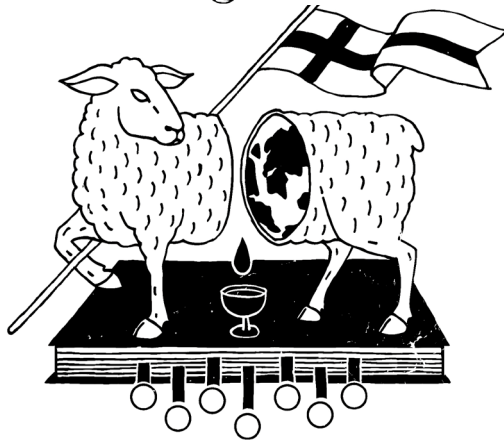
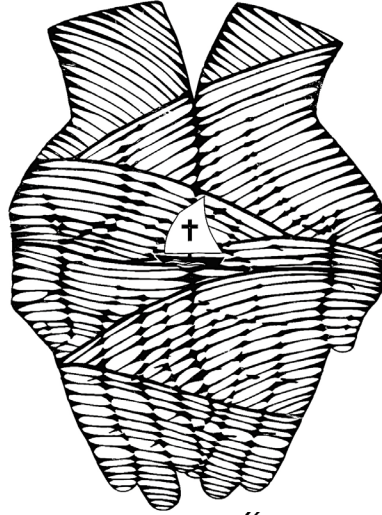
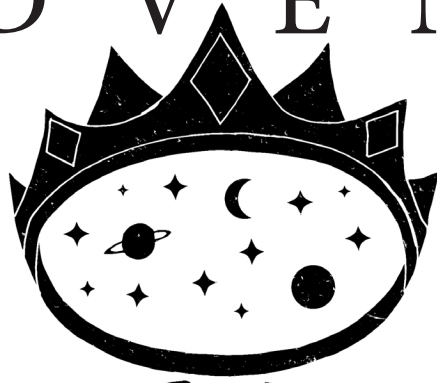


A D V E N T



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday, 29 November 2020, 10:00 AM
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

BEHOLD, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out
With lighted lamps and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

It may be at the midnight, black as pitch,
Earth shall cast up her poor, cast up her rich.

It may be at the crowing of the cock
Earth shall upheave her depth, uproot her rock.

For lo, the Bridegroom fetcheth home the Bride:
His Hands are Hands she knows, she knows His Side.

Like pure Rebekah at the appointed place,
Veiled, she unveils her face to meet His Face.

Like great Queen Esther in her triumphing,
She triumphs in the Presence of her King.

His Eyes are as a Dove's, and she's Dove-eyed;
He knows His lovely mirror, sister, Bride.

He speaks with Dove-voice of exceeding love,
And she with love-voice of an answering Dove.

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go we out
With lamps ablaze and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

– *Christina Rossetti*,
Advent 1 (1851)

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Music: Veni Emmanuel | Words: Latin hymn, translated by John Mason Neale, 1851

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
3. O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
4. O come, desire of nations bind
All your people in one heart and one mind.
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
And fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Jeremiah 33 & Psalm 25

Minister: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth and bring my promised salvation to Israel.

All: **The Lord is our righteousness.**

Minister: The days are surely coming, says our God, when justice and mercy will be executed throughout the land.

All: **The Lord is our righteousness.**

Minister: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when my promised one will teach transgressors my ways, and heal the world with love and mercy.

All: **The Lord is our righteousness.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

All Creatures of Our God and King

Words: Saint Francis of Assisi. | Music: German tune. Public Domain.

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rushing morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening find a voice
3. Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for Thy Lord to hear
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright
That givest man both warmth and light
4. All ye men of tender heart
Forgiving others take your part
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care

Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Minister: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

All: **For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

Minister: And he is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be preeminent.

All: **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Canticle of Turning

Words: Luke 1:46-55. Music: Rory Cooney | 1990. Arrangement: Richard Kentopp, 2010.

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.
3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.
4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Psalm 25:6-9, 11

“Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.... For your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Heavenly Father, when the time was right you sent your Son into the world,
All: **so we know of your love.**

Minister: You spent many years preparing for the right time,
All: **so we know of your patience.**

Minister: Lord Jesus, you came in the darkness of the womb, and died in the darkness and pain of the cross,
All: **so we know of your empathy for our dark days and pain.**

Minister: If you had not come into the cramped quarters of our human nature,
we could not now know the limitless power and privilege of being your children!
All: **If you had not come in the darkness of the womb, we could never have the scales removed from our eyes nor received you as light of the world. If you had not come to die, we could never have received life. If you had not been torn, we could never have been mended.**

Minister: Forgive us for not quieting the fears of our hearts with the knowledge
of how you loved us by coming to us.
All: **Forgive us for making this season of anticipation a whirlwind of lists and activities. We confess that at times it feels like a flood of joyless obligations and heartless generosity. Deliver us from the distractions that are ever before us, and let us now adore you for the gift of your Son, for He is our hope and our health and our life.**

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

Minister: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
All: **have mercy on us.**

Minister: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
All: **grant us your peace.**

Minister: We know your kingdom is coming with the power and glory we sing and speak about from your word,
now and forever, heralded in the birth of Christ.
All: **Help us to see, know, love and live in his light. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Isaiah 40:1-2

Minister: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Liturgy of Saint James, 4th Century; translated by Gerard Moultrie | Tune: Picardy, a French medieval folk melody

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture -
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley | Music by Rowland Pritchard

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
2. Joy to those who long to see thee;
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."
3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.
4. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend. Copyright © 2001 Kingsway

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.

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.
Till 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.

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!
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.

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;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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). 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

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, 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.