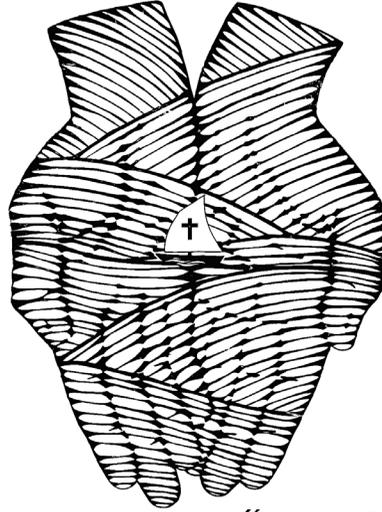


# C H R I S T M A S T I D E



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

Sunday, 3 January 2020, 10:00 AM  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH

---

ASHEVILLE

---

“I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
place me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty;  
let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:  
you are mine and I am yours. May it be so!”

– *John Wesley*,  
Covenant of Renewal

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN

### Come People of the Risen King

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend | Copyright 2007 Capitalcmgpublishing

1. Come, people of the Risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise;  
Come all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.
2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night;  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.
3. Come, young and old from every land -  
Men and women of the faith;  
Come, those with full or empty hands -  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing -  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age:  
“Our God is all in all”

#### Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice!  
Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice;  
O Church of Christ, rejoice!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

from 2 Samuel 22

**Minister:** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; I call upon the LORD.

**All: For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?**

**Minister:** This God is my strong refuge ... the LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,  
and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation ...

**All: The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF ADORATION

### O God of Our Salvation

Written by Michael Bleecker and Matt Boswell | © 2009 Bleecker at The Village (ASCAP); Dayspring Music, LLC

1. O God of our salvation  
Who reigns upon the throne  
The sovereign Father, great is he  
From whom all blessings flow
2. Behold the Son our Savior  
Who for our sin was slain  
The Christ who purchased with his blood  
The wretched souls of men

**Chorus:** O God of our salvation,  
from whom redemption comes  
O Father, Son and Spirit,  
the blessed three in one

3. O God, the Holy Spirit  
Revealing deity  
The fount of life and love divine  
Throughout eternity

**Bridge:** Ascribe unending praises  
to the God who reigns on high  
How matchless is his power,  
his glory how divine  
Ascribe, oh church the greatness  
and the glory due his name  
One God, One Being, One Essence,  
Oh Triune God proclaimed. Amen.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Psalm 139*

**Minister:** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

**All:** **even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### Drive Out the Darkness

*Words & Music: Latifah Alattas, Paul Zach | Porter's Gate*

Every year under the thorn  
Every wrong that we have known  
Every valley will be raised  
Ancient ruins will be remains

**Chorus:** Come, O Come  
Be our light  
Drive out the darkness  
Come, Jesus, come

Every weapon made for war  
Every gun and every sword  
Will be melted in the flame  
To be used for gardening

In the emptiness of grief  
Through the night of suffering  
In the loss and in the tears  
God of comfort, O be near

#### **Final Chorus:**

Come, O Come  
Be our light  
Drive out the darkness (2x)  
Come, and end all the violence  
Come, do not be silent  
Come, cling to your promise  
Come, break all injustice  
Come, Jesus, come

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Minister:** God our Father, we recount from the Scriptures the old stories of your saving power, yet we doubt that you are powerfully at work in our lives today. We are crushed by the waves of misery, distrust, misfortune, distress, anger, disease, war, broken governments, broken families, and broken lives, and we wonder how we can still these waves. The pressures of the world, the flesh, and the devil bring a fear into our lives we cannot silence ourselves. Fear threatens to drown us, and we wonder where you are and if you care.

**All:** **Forgive us for the littleness of our faith.  
Forgive us for our doubts.**

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

**Minister:** O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,

**All:** **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

**Minister:** When the gift of creation becomes a burden,

**All:** **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

**Minister:** When our fears threaten to overtake us,

**All:** **still the storms and grant us your peace.**

**Minister:** Speak your word to the wind and to the sea.

**All:** **Fill us with faith.**

**Minister:** Show us your presence through our storms.

**All:** **Fill us with hope.**

**Minister:** Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives.

**All:** **Fill us with love.**

**Minister:** Help us to place our trust in you, Lord Jesus.

**All:** **Help us to fix our eyes on you and to respond in faith.  
For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Romans 10:9-13

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

# HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

*Words: Augustus Toplady, 1776; alt. by Thomas Cotterill, 1815 | Music: Thomas Hastings, 1830; arr. CXVI*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to thy cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

### Tag:

Wash me, Savior, or I die  
Wash me, Savior, or I die  
Wash me, wash me, Savior, or I die  
Wash me, Savior, or I die

## Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.
  
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
  
- 5 The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
  
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- 8 The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

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

**All:**      **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### Is Not Christ the Anthem Sweet?

*Words and Music: Nathan Poole, 2010*

1. Is not Christ the anthem sweet  
of every sinner's song  
It is weakness calling out  
It is calling on the one it loves
2. How his mercy knows no bounds  
How relentless is his love  
He is like a captor come  
With full and able arms
3. What an anthem sweet  
Is the Savior's name to me  
In the darkness of the night  
My brother, friend and guide  
O' the precious love of Christ
4. Let his voice come softly fall  
On this frail and empty heart  
And I am bank and brimming full  
He has overpaid his love
5. See his garments turn so white  
See the world becoming dim  
You can hide yourself inside  
His resurrected life.

## THE 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*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

## THE 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.