

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MARK**



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

Sunday, 10 January 2021, 10:00 AM

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

# CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“Too many Americans have been inoculated with a slight case of Christianity that is preventing them from getting the real thing.”

– Keith Green

“I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandfatherly fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love. He hates and is angry with evil.”

– Miroslav Volf

“All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is ... He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn. That is what Christmas means – to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.”

– Michael Card

“When we see the visible sign, we must rise aloft, and understand, that God accomplishes the thing in truth, which is signified to us by the visible Sacrament.”

– John Calvin

# WELCOME

## GATHERING HYMN

### 10,000 Reasons

Written by Matt Redmon and Jonas Myrin (c) 2011. Thankyou Music (PRS)

#### Chorus:

- Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul.  
I worship Your holy name.
1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
Its time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.
  2. You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.
  3. And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Soon my soul will sing Your praise unending;  
Ten thousand years and then forever more!

## CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Psalms* 139

**Minister:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**All:** **Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

## HYMN OF ADORATION

### My God, My Father, Blissful Name

Words: Anne Steele, 1770. | Music and Variant Text: Nathan Poole, 2013

1. My God, my Father, blissful name  
Oh may I call Thee mine?  
May I with sweet assurance claim  
A portion so divine?  
This only can my fears control  
And bid my sorrows fly;  
What harm can ever reach my soul  
Beneath my Father's eye?
2. Whate'er Thy providence denies  
I calmly would resign  
For Thou art just, and good, and wise  
O bend my will to Thine  
Whate'er Thy sacred will ordains  
O give me strength to bear;  
And let me know my Father reigns  
And trust His tender care.
3. If pain and sickness rend this frame  
And life almost depart  
Is not Thy mercy still the same  
To cheer my drooping heart?  
If cares and sorrows me surround  
Their power why should I fear?  
My inward peace they cannot wound  
If Thou, my God, art near.

**Minister:** How does Christ's return 'to judge the living and the dead' comfort you?

**All:**       **In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head,  
I confidently await Jesus the judge  
who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place  
and removed the whole curse from me.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### **The Lord Is My Joy**

*Words/Music: Nathan Partain, 2008 from Jaywalker, track released 2015*

The Lord is my joy, the Lord is my joy,  
When all that I have is lost, I find the Lord is my joy.

The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my strength,  
When I am too weak to go on, I find the Lord is my strength.

My all in all is he, my healing King,  
My Master tends to me, for him, my soul shall sing.

The Lord is my rock, the Lord is my rock,  
When all I have faith in fails, I find the Lord is my rock.

The Lord is my delight, the Lord is my delight,  
Above all the joys of life, I find the Lord is my delight.

My all in all is he, my breath, my song.  
In him, I have everything; to him, my soul belongs.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 57:5

“For this is what the high and exalted One says – he who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Minister:** God our Father, your son died and was raised up in power.

Now enable us to die to our sin in repentance so we may rise to new life in him.

We confess to you:

**All:**       **though you should guide us, Lord, we inform ourselves;  
though you should rule us, we control ourselves;  
through you should fill us, we console ourselves.**

**Minister:** Savior, help us. We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and too weak to climb.

We are in the foothills when we should be in the heights.

**All:**       **Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,  
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,  
our envy of those who have more than we have,  
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,  
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,  
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.  
We are pained by our own graceless hearts, our prayerless days, our poverty of love,  
our slothfulness in discipleship, our sullied conscience,  
our wasted hours, our unspent opportunities.**

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

**Minister:** We are blind while the light shines around us so take the scales from our eyes, grind to dust our heart of unbelief. Make it our highest joy to study you, meditate on you, gaze on you, sit like Mary at your feet, lean like John on you, appeal like Peter to your love, count like Paul all things refuse compared to you. We believe, help our unbelief.

**All:**       **We are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings,  
deeper than all our sin. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what  
is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

# HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

## **Sovereign Grace o'er Sin Abounding**

*Words: John Kent. | Music: Sandra McCracken. ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP).*

Sovereign grace o'er sin abounding!  
Ransomed souls, the tidings swell;  
'Tis a deep that knows no sounding;  
Who its breadth or length can tell?  
On its glories,  
Let my soul for ever dwell.

What from Christ that soul can sever,  
Bound by everlasting bands?  
Once in Him, in Him for ever;  
Thus the eternal covenant stands.  
None shall take Thee  
From the Strength of Israel's hands.

Heirs of God, joint-heirs with Jesus,  
Long ere time its race begun;  
To His name eternal praises;  
O what wonders love has done!  
One with Jesus, By eternal union one.  
One with Jesus, By eternal union one.

On such love, my soul, still ponder,  
Love so great, so rich, so free;  
Say, while lost in holy wonder,  
Why, O Lord, such love to me?  
Hallelujah!  
Grace shall reign

**Mark 14:10-25**

**10** Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11** And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

**12** And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

**13** And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, **14** and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' **15** And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." **16** And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

**17** And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. **18** And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

**19** They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" **20** He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. **21** For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

**22** And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." **23** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. **24** And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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

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

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### There Is A Fountain Filled with Blood

Words: William Cowper, 1772 | Music: Karl Digerness, 1997

1. There is fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.
2. The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there may I, though vile as he,  
Wash all my sins away.
3. Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
'Til all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.
4. E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be 'til I die.

## 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

### All Must Be Well

Words by Mary Bowley-Peters alt by Matthew S. Smith, Music by Matthew S. Smith. © 2007 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP)

1. Through the love of God our Savior,  
All will be well  
Free and changeless is His favor,  
All is well  
Precious is the blood that healed us  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us  
All must be well
2. Though we pass through tribulation,  
All will be well  
Ours is such a full salvation,  
All is well  
Happy still in God confiding  
Fruitful if in Christ abiding  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding  
All must be well
3. We expect a bright tomorrow;  
All will be well  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,  
All is well  
On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying  
All must be well

## 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.