

# JONAH AND THE PURSUIT OF GOD



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday 10:00 AM • May 9, 2021

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

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“Gentle Reminder – You can love without agreeing with someone. You can disagree without hating them.”

– *Tim Keller*

“Sin isn’t just something we do, but a Power we are under. Education, good policies, and spiritual disciplines are critically important, but cannot deliver us from Sin’s grip. Only the gospel can do that.”

– *Rich Villodas*

“Sanctification rarely looks like an immediate ceasing of a particular sin. It more often looks like an increase in the distance between repeated sins, and a decrease in the distance between committing them and confessing them. God is so patient with his children.”

– *Jen Wilkin*

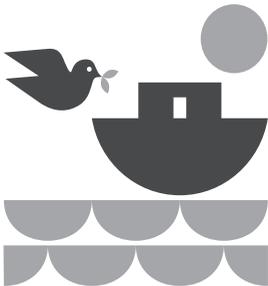
“Because God created the world and is sovereign over it, and because God controls history, obedience to God is always the wisest thing to do no matter the immediate cost.”

– *Vaughn Roberts*

“None of us are the heroes of this story, who save the church through our wit and wisdom. At the end of all our striving, there is God who will be all and all. The church has a hope and a future because of him.”

– *Esau McCaulley*

## NOTE TO PARENTS



We are offering a truncated version of our City Kids programming called City Kids in the Gym for children ages 2-7. This time will include a Bible story, memory work, and playtime during the sermon. In order to ensure we have adequate volunteer coverage, members and regular attendees will need to register their children through the link sent via email and on Slack by noon each Saturday. If you are visiting this morning, we would love to have your children regardless of advanced registration. Please walk your children to the gym during the hymn just before the sermon.

## WELCOME & PREPARATION

**Silent prayer of preparation:** Father in heaven, deliver us from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind when we draw near to you. Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

## GATHERING HYMN: Come, O Come, Thou Holy Spirit\*

1. Come, O come Thou Holy Spirit  
Light and life Thy grace imparts  
Blessed Source of consolation  
Guide our minds and fill our hearts  
Grant my mind and my affections  
Wisdom, counsel, purity  
That I may be ever seeking  
Only that which pleases Thee
2. Savior lead us to adore Thee  
By the true and living way  
Then with angel hosts before Thee  
May we worship, love and praise  
Dwell within us, precious Spirit  
Where Thou art no ill can come  
Bless us now through Jesus' merit  
Reign in every heart and home
3. Holy Spirit, strong and mighty  
Thou who makest all things new  
Make Thy work within me perfect  
Help me by Thy word so true  
In Thy faith, O make me steadfast  
Let not Satan, death or shame  
Of my confidence deprive me  
Lord, my refuge is Thy name
4. When my final hour approaches  
Let my hopes grow yet more bright  
Let Thy love which never fails me  
Dissipate the gloom of night  
From that height which knows no measure  
Fairer far than voice can tell  
In Thy glorious courts of heaven  
There, redeemed by Christ, to dwell

## CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 67:1

**Minister:** May God be gracious to us and bless us, and make his face shine upon us.

**All:** **Let us bless our God; let the sound of his praise be heard from our lips.**

## HYMN OF ADORATION: God of My Life to Thee I Call\*\*

1. God of my life, to Thee I call,  
Afflicted at Thy feet I fall;  
When the great water floods prevail  
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.
2. Friend of the friendless and the faint  
Where should I lodge my deep complaint?  
Where but with Thee, whose open door  
Invites the helpless and the poor!
3. That were a grief I could not bear,  
Didst Thou not hear and answer prayer;  
But a prayer hearing, answering God  
Supports me under every load.

### Chorus:

Poor though I am, despised, forgot  
Yet God, my God, forgets me not;  
And He is safe and must succeed for whom

**Preparation:** We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

**\*Words:** Joachim Neander, Julie Melucci  
**Music:** Julie Melucci  
©2015 Julie Melucci Music (SESAC)

**Call to Worship:** We need to be called to come and worship God because we default to thinking the world revolves around our needs and agendas, and also because we struggle to believe that God truly wants us to draw near to him. The call to worship focuses our attention on God and prepares us to meet with him.

**\*\*Words:** William Cowper | **Music:** Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy and Benj Pocta, 2007.

**Worship through singing:** God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive story. The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.



### Prayer of

**invocation:** We ask God to meet us in our worship as he's promised to do through his Word, sacraments, and prayer.

### Affirmation of faith:

Credo, confessions, and catechisms are voices from the church's past. They are the distillation of the church's discoveries of the meaning and the implications of the truth as God has revealed it in the Scriptures and confirmed it in the experience and the conscience of his people. It's in this sense that creeds, confessions, and catechisms are, in their most compressed and authoritative form, the church's "tradition," what is "handed down" from one generation to the next.

**\*Words:** Anne Steele

**Music:** Kevin Twitt

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Psalm 90:1-2

**Minister:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All:** **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

### HYMN OF RESPONSE: Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul\*

1. Dear refuge of my weary soul,  
On Thee, when sorrows rise  
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,  
My fainting hope relies  
To Thee I tell each rising grief,  
For Thou alone canst heal  
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,  
For every pain I feel
2. But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,  
I fear to call Thee mine  
The springs of comfort seem to fail,  
And all my hopes decline  
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?  
Thou art my only trust  
And still my soul would cleave to Thee  
Though prostrate in the dust
3. Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,  
And shall I seek in vain?  
And can the ear of sovereign grace,  
Be deaf when I complain?  
No still the ear of sovereign grace,  
Attends the mourner's prayer  
Oh may I ever find access,  
To breathe my sorrows there
4. Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet,  
Thy mercy seat is open still,  
Here let my soul retreat  
With humble hope attend Thy will,  
And wait beneath Thy feet



## CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 71:3

“Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**Minister:** Make confession to God, and let everyone acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbor.

Father in heaven, you call us to walk in your light,

**All:** **yet at times we have been half-hearted in our response.**

**Minister:** You call us to walk in your light and confess our sins,

**All:** **yet at times we choose the darkness of keeping them hidden.**

**Minister:** You call us to walk in your light and believe the goodness of the gospel,

**All:** **yet at times we choose the darkness of being plagued by guilt.**

**Minister:** You call us to walk in your light and obey your commandments,

**All:** **yet at times we choose the darkness of rebellion.**

*(You're invited to personalize your confession as you pray silently.)*

**Minister:** Have mercy on us, O Lord. Persuade us of your mercy.

**All:** **Convince of your forgiveness. Cause us to walk in your ways. Amen**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Psalm 65:3-4

“When we were overwhelmed by our sins, you forgave our transgressions. Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!”

### Confession of sin:

It happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other.

We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

### Assurance of pardon:

God declares through his Church that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.



\***Words & Music:** Ada Habershon, Matthew Merker

**Parents:** please see the note in the inside front cover of the bulletin for instructions regarding City Kids in the Gym.

## HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: He Will Hold Me Fast

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!



## **Jonah 1:3-4**

**1** Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,  
**2** “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” **3** But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

**4** But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.

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

**All:**       **Thanks be to God.**

**The sermon:** Some view the sermon as a way to get principles for ‘right’ living.

Others see it as an interesting piece of intellectual challenge or an opportunity to gain inspiration for our lives.

In reality, as we open the Scriptures we encounter Jesus Christ. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to his leading, exhortation, encouragement, and healing.



## COMMUNION SONG: Laden with Guilt and Full of Fears\*

Laden with guilt and full of fears,  
I fly to Thee, my Lord,  
And not a glimpse of hope appears,  
But in Thy written Word  
The volumes of my Father's grace  
Does all my griefs assuage  
Here I behold my Savior's face  
In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies  
The pearl of price unknown  
That merchant is divinely wise  
Who makes the pearl his own  
Here consecrated water flows  
To quench my thirst of sin  
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,  
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,  
Where wit and reason fail  
My guide to everlasting life  
Through all this gloomy vale  
Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,  
My roving feet command,  
Nor I forsake the happy road  
That leads to Thy right hand.

\***Words:** Isaac Watts  
**Music:** Sandra  
McCracken I ©2001  
Same Old Dress Music



## Guidelines for the reception of communion:

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion, is the family meal for Christians. City Church welcomes and invites all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us in this sacrament.

# SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## Invitation to the Table

### Words of Institution

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

### Distribution of the Elements

### Prayers of Reflection for Those Not Partaking in Communion

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, the church. Please join us in the circle during communion and for our final hymn.

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

**Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

**Prayer of Awakening:** Lord Jesus, I've heard teaching from the Bible for years and have been in church for years, but very little of this even seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the depth of my sinfulness, yet enthrall me with the goodness of the good news. Make what is familiar seem new. Amen.

**Prayer of Belief:** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever imagined, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to dream. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Prayer of Commitment:** Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.



## HYMN OF RESPONSE: Mighty God We Thank and Praise You\*

Mighty God we thank and praise you  
For this meal, this bread of life;  
Precious blood and body, broken,  
From your Son our Savior, Christ.  
In these mysteries you assure us  
We are members of your Son;  
Heirs of your eternal Kingdom,  
With all faithful people, One.

Humbly now we ask you, Father,  
In your grace, to make us strong,  
That, with all the saints before us,  
In good works we may press on!  
Send us out to love and serve you!  
Send us out to sing your praise!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Pow'r and glory to your name! Amen.

## 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.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL & SENDING

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

**Thanks be to God!**

**Please take time after the service to meet  
someone you've never met.**

\***Words:** Wendell Kimbrough, based on the Book of Common Prayer | **Music:** Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

### **The Benediction:**

God always gets the last word in our encounter of worship. For Christians, it is always a word of blessing and sending to live our lives in the light of the reality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not a prayer. It is God's word of blessing on your life.



# CONTACT INFORMATION CARD

If you'd like to know more about upcoming events in the life of the church, please give us your contact information so we can keep you informed. Please tear off this card and place it in the offering box.

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You may also text the word **“visiting”** to **94000** and follow the prompts. We'll receive your basic contact information and keep you in the loop!

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## WANT TO SUPPORT CITY CHURCH FINANCIALLY?

We have several ways that you can give to God's work through your gifts. There's a box on the table in the back where you can place your gifts, tithes, and offerings. You may give online by going to [citychurchavl.org/give](http://citychurchavl.org/give). You may mail a check to the church: City Church, PO Box 1378, 28802. You may also use our Text to Give feature, which is a quick and secure way to worship God with our gifts, tithes, and offerings. It's as simple as texting a dollar amount to this number: **84321**.

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## NEED PRAYER?

Please 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  
Scott Schindler :: 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

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