



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday 10:00 AM • October 3, 2021

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“There are some who think that to always preach on the love of God is weak - that people will take advantage of that love. That’s a flimsy understanding of God’s love, for God’s love is the most powerful force in the universe to bring about change.”

– Rich Villodas

“I am graven on the palms of His hands. I am never out of His mind. All my knowledge of Him depends on His sustained initiative in knowing me. I know Him, because He first knew me, and continues to know me. He knows me as a friend, One who loves me; and there is no moment when His eye is off me, or His attention distracted for me, and no moment, therefore, when His care falters.”

– J.I. Packer

“Grace, like water, flows to the lowest part.... Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us. Ask people what they must do to get to heaven and most reply, ‘Be good.’ Jesus’ stories contradict that answer. All we must do is cry, ‘Help!’”

– Philip Yancey

“When we learn to read the story of Jesus and see it as the story of the love of God, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves--that insight produces, again and again, a sense of astonished gratitude which is very near the heart of authentic Christian experience.”

– N.T. Wright

NOTE TO PARENTS:

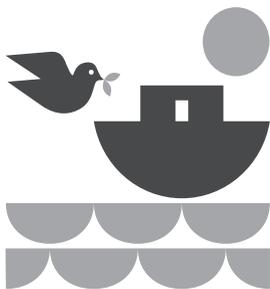
We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you’d like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

Nursery - 6 months to 2 yrs old

City Kids Jr. - 2 - 4 yrs old

City Kids - 5 yrs - 2nd grade

During the hymn before the sermon, please bring your child to the lobby where you and your child will be escorted to their class. You’ll need to pick up your child from the nursery after the service, but the City Kids Jr. and City Kids classes will be brought back into worship during the final hymn.



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: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, Whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
2. See the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love.
Well supplies Thy sons and daughters,
And all fears of want removes.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to quench?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.
3. Blessed inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, Whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God
'Tis His love His people raises,
Over self to reign as kings
And as priests His solemn praises
Each for a thank offering bring.
4. Savior, if of Zion's city,
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy Name
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show
Solid joys and lasting treasures
None but Zion's children know.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 12:2

Leader: Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid,

All: **for the LORD God is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.**

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.

Chorus: Poor though I am, despised, forgot
Yet God, my God, forgets me not;
And He is safe and must succeed for whom
The Lord is sure to plead.

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.

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

***Words:** John Newton I **Music:** Franz Josef Haydn

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:

Creeds, 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 & Music:** All Sons & Daughters

******from *The Worship Sourcebook*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Ephesians 2:4-10

Leader: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

All: **For by grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Almighty God*

1. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy
Come with your light, we cannot hide from you.
2. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
With gratitude we raise our song to You
Come and fill the praises of your people
In grace and truth, you make us new again.
3. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
We long for more than what this world provides
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us
But your river deep, floods over everything.
4. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
You take away our sickness and our sin
Oh Lamb of God we gather at your table
In bread and wine, you have supplied our needs.

Chorus: Hallelujah (3x)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: Bound together in Christ and His Spirit,
let's pray with one heart and mind to our God.
God of all mercies:

All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the love that passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all gathered here into your unending life, we pray.
(please pray silently for this need)

Leader: God of all mercies:

All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the leaders of City Church and for the leaders of this nation, that we may discern ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, and that we may reflect your unity in every aspect of common life, we pray.
(please pray silently for this need)

Leader: God of all mercies:

All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: For our families, our households, and our communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which build us up and strengthen us in grace and truth, we pray.
(please pray silently for this need)

Leader: God of all mercies:

All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: In the power of the Spirit, who joins our prayers to Christ's enduring intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, and all who stand in need. For healing for all the world, we pray.
(please pray silently for this need)

Leader: God of all mercies:

All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: By the inner workings of your Spirit, deepen our communion with you, the source and goal of our life, and strengthen our communion with one another. Make us more and more signs of your enduring love.
(please pray silently for this need)

Leader: This we pray through Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God of all mercies.

All: **Father, hear our prayer. Amen**

GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son,
Glory be to the Spirit, Three in One.
As it was in the beginning it will be forever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 124:8

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Merciful God, you made us in your image
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.

All: **But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconsistent,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive us, O God.**

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:**
Stuart Townend

Parents: If you'd like your children to take part in our children's programming, please escort your child to the lobby where you'll be directed to their class.

Please make nursery pickups immediately following the service. City Kids Jr. and City Kids will be brought back into the service during the final hymn.

Leader: In the wrong we have done,
and in the good we have not done,
we have sinned in ignorance;
we have sinned in weakness;
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

All: **We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us and renew our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Isaiah 1:18

All: **"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!"**

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: How Deep the Father's Love*

1. How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only son,
to make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turned his face away
As wounds which mar the chosen one,
bring many sons to glory
2. Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there
until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished
3. I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ;
his death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart:
his wounds have paid my ransom.



Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” **6** And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

7 “Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and recline at table’? **8** Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’? **9** Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? **10** So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

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.



SERMON NOTES:



HYMN OF RESPONSE: Praise the Savior Now and Ever*

1. Praise the Savior now and ever;
praise him, all beneath the skies;
Prostrate lying suff'ring, dying
on the cross, a sacrifice.
Vict'ry gaining life obtaining
now in glory he doth rise.
2. Man's work faileth, Christ's availeth;
he is all our righteousness;
He, our Savior, has forever
set us free from dire distress.
Through his merit we inherit
light and peace and happiness.
3. Sin's bond severed, we're delivered;
Christ has bruised the serpent's head;
Death no longer is the stronger
hell itself is captive led.
Christ has risen from death's prison;
o'er the tomb he light has shed.
4. For his favor, praise forever
unto God the Father sing;
Praise the Savior, praise him ever,
Son of God, our Lord and King.
Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit
he doth us salvation bring.

BENEDICTION: Rev. Bryan Biba

***Words:** Venantius
Fortunatus | **Music:**
William Moore (Arr.
Benedict/Bradham)
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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.



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.**



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.

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!

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.

AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$22,126	YTD Giving:	\$160,354
Expenses:	\$20,066	Cash on Hand:	\$61,223
Net Income:	\$2,060	Annual Budget:	\$279,375

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. 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**.



Session

Nat Belz :: Elder, Vice Moderator
David Fleming :: Elder
John Hopple :: Elder, Clerk
León Olguín :: Elder
Rev. Duff James (duff@citychurchavl.org) :: Pastor, Moderator
To email the Session: session@citychurchavl.org

Staff

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
Dean Peteet :: Bass
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals
Sheryl Olguín :: Guitar/Vocals
León Olguín :: Keyboard/Vocals

***Out of bulletins today? You may access an electronic copy at www.citychurchavl.org/worshipfolders,
or use the QR code below:***

