



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday 10:00 AM • October 24, 2021

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



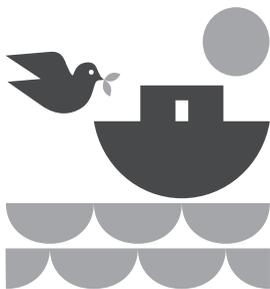
FOR REFLECTION

“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.... There can be no redemption unless the truth about the world is told and justice is done. To treat sin as if it were not there, when in fact it is there, amounts to living as if the world were redeemed when in fact it is not.”

– Miroslav Volf

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: Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven*

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, his praise should sing?
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favor,
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. God our Father tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Widely as his mercy goes.
4. Angels, help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise with us the God of grace!

CALL TO WORSHIP: 1 Corinthians 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Minister: Give thanks to our God always
because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ.

All: **Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

HYMN OF ADORATION: O God beyond All Praising**

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown.
Though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the Man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory!
3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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

***Words:** Henry F. Lyte, 1834 | **Music:** Nathan Partain, 2000

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:** Michael Perry, | **Music:** Gustav Holst, The Planets, 1918; Word © 1982

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 & Music:

Martin Luther

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Psalm 46

Minister: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

All: **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Minister: Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

All: **"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: A Mighty Fortress*

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.



CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 32:5

"I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Minister: Father, we groan at our weaknesses, and we ask forgiveness. Your word is so clear, and your grace is so good. But we close our ears to your call, and with our perverse pride we foul the gifts you have given us. Like your servant Paul, we know what you require of us; yet, like Paul, what we do is not the good we want to do, and the evil we do not want to do, that evil we keep on doing.

All: **We mistreat those we love, and we dishonor you, the One who made us. How long, O Lord, will we continue to ignore your will? Yet you provide streams of living mercy; you invite us again and again to live renewed lives. So we turn once again to the cross, to the empty cross, to the stone rolled away, to our interceding Lord Jesus Christ seated at your right hand, to the gracious gift of your Spirit.**

(We invite you to personalize your confession as you pray silently.)

Minister: We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: **We draw upon your promises, and we ask once again simply for mercy. With your Holy Spirit, sanctify us. Hear our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Romans 10:9

"If we declare with our mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. Thanks be to 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.

**from The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd Edition © 2013, Faith Alive Resources*

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.



HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: Heal Us, Emmanuel*

Chorus:

Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
O Savior hear our cry

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried
“O help my unbelief!”

She, too, who touched you in the press
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may
O send us not despairing home
Send none unhealed away

***Words:** William
Cowper (alt Twit) |
Music: Kevin Twit and
Lucas Morton

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.



Psalm 129

- 1** “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth”—
let Israel now say—
- 2** “Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth,
yet they have not prevailed against me.
- 3** The plowers plowed upon my back;
they made long their furrows.”
- 4** The LORD is righteous;
he has cut the cords of the wicked.
- 5** May all who hate Zion
be put to shame and turned backward!
- 6** Let them be like the grass on the housetops,
which withers before it grows up,
- 7** with which the reaper does not fill his hand
nor the binder of sheaves his arms,
- 8** nor do those who pass by say,
“The blessing of the LORD be upon you!
We bless you in the name of the LORD!”

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.



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.



COMMUNION HYMN: Here, O Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face.
And here will I touch, and handle things unseen.
Here, with firmer hand, I grasp eternal grace.
And all of my weariness, upon thee lean.

Chorus: I have seen the Son, the ever-reigning Lord,
prove his promise does not fail.
May the bonds of love, that call me to His side,
Grow ever deeper and fuller still.

I would have no help, nor do I need
Another arm, but thine and thine alone
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed
Thy strength is all I dare to lean upon.

Here would I feed, upon the bread of God
And here the new wine, is poured out for me.
Here would I lay aside the world's best love,
And here would I taste, God's love, wild and free.

COMMUNION HYMN: I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalm 62)**

For God alone, I wait in silence;
My soul is still before the Lord.
He is my rock and my salvation,
My fortress strong; I trust in Him.

Chorus: I'll not be shaken! I'll not be shaken,
For all my hope is in His love.
From God alone comes my salvation;
I wait and trust His steadfast love!

Put not your hope in gain of riches;
Seek not your rest in empty wealth.
The rich are weak; the poor are mighty,
Who turn to God alone for help.

Pour out your heart to God our refuge
And trust in Him to hear you cry.
No other hope will never fail you;
No other love will not run dry.

***Words:** Horatius
Bonar, 1855. **Music**
and Variant Text:
Nathan Poole, 2011

***Words & Music:**
Wendell Kimbrough



HYMN OF RESPONSE: Oh God, Now Let Your Servant Depart*

Oh God, now let your servant depart in peace;
For our eyes have seen your saving grace.
A light to the world and the light of life
Seen in our Savior's face.

Alle-lu-ia! Allelu-ia! Allelu - ia!

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 & Music:**
Greg Scheer; (c)
2011 Greg Scheer
BMI

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.

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.

September 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$29,639	YTD Giving:	\$189,993
Expenses:	\$18,687	Cash on Hand:	\$76,226
Net Income:	\$10,952	Annual Budget:	\$279,475

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:***

