



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday 10:00 AM • November 14, 2021

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“It’s easier to hug a dirty kid than a stiff kid. Stiffness is the worst sin... and we thought that dirt was the problem.”

– *Steve Brown*

“Every week I preach justification by faith to my people, because every week they forget it.”

– *Martin Luther*

“Because the gospel is endlessly rich, it can handle the burden of being the one ‘main thing’ of a church.”

– *Tim Keller*

“To be near God and to have God near us is the whole purpose of human life. But without repentance there can be no face-to-face fellowship with the Father ... the Lord cannot resist the broken heart that has experienced true repentance. He will not, He cannot, stay away from repentant sinners.... This holy Father sees humanity in all its nastiness and yet is given to strange, tender excesses. His love explodes into joyous action whenever a convicted sinner turns toward home.”

– *Jack Miller*

NOTE TO PARENTS:

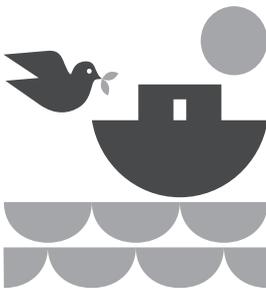
We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you’d like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

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: Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Chorus: Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes in succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong.

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.

Kings shall fall down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;

The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever, That Name to us is Love.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 34:1-3

Minister: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be on my lips.

All: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

Minister: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

All: **and let us exalt his name together!**

HYMN OF ADORATION: The Lord Is King**

1. The Lord is King! Lift up your voice,
O earth, and all ye heav'ns, rejoice!
From world to world the joy shall ring,
"The Lord omnipotent is King!"

2. The Lord is King! Who then shall dare
Resist his will, distrust his care?
Or murmur at his wise decrees,
Or doubt his royal promises?

3. The Lord is King! Bow down you must,
The Judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways;
Let ev'ry creature sing his praise.

4. One Lord, one kingdom, all secures;
He reigns, and life and death are yours:
Through Heav'n and earth one song shall ring,
"The Lord omnipotent is King!"

Chorus: Sing His praise, sing His praise
Lord of lords, Ancient of Days
Sing His praise, sing His praise
All your days, all your days.

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

***Words:** James Montgomery I
Music: Sandra McCracken LLC

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:** Josiah Conder, 1824; alt. by Nathan Partain, 2003 **Music:** Nathan Partain, 2003

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.

*often attributed to the French Reformed tradition

**Words & Music:

Andy Bast & Bruce Benedict | ©2017
Hymns from Porter's Gate (ASCAP)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Children presented for baptism: Wiley Fields Voigt and Millie Joyce Schindler

Questions for the parents: Miller & Stuart Voigt and Naomi & Scott Schindler

1. Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly Father, Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and the Holy Spirit as your sanctifier and guide?
2. Do you acknowledge that your child is a sinner in need of the forgiveness of sins through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, the gift of new life from the Holy Spirit, and adoption into the family of God?
3. Do you claim God's covenant promises on your child's behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for this child's salvation, as you do for your own?
4. Do you promise in humble reliance on the grace of God to teach them the truths of the Christian faith from God's word, to live before them by God's grace as an example and by praying with them and for them, bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and in the ways of the Church of God?

Question for the Members of City Church

Do you, the members of City Church, in the name of the Church of Christ, as you have opportunity, undertake with these parents the covenant responsibility for the Christian nurture of this child? If so, and you are able, please stand in affirmation.

BAPTISMAL LITURGY*

All: For you, little one, Jesus Christ came into the world.
For you, he lived and showed God's love.
For you, he entered the shadow of Calvary.
And for you, he uttered the cry, "It is finished."
For you, he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven
and there he intercedes for you.
All of this was done for you, though you don't know it yet.
But we will continue to tell you this good news until it becomes your own,
and so the promise of the Gospel is fulfilled:
We love because God first loved us.

MUSICAL OFFERING: Every Mother, Every Father** (musicians only, please)

Every mother, every father
called to raise up sons or daughters
May your heart be patient, may your mind be clear,
may our God be with you,
and calm your fears.



HYMN OF RESPONSE: Jesus Loves You*

(please join in singing)

1. Jesus loves you, this we know,
for the Bible tells us so;
little ones to him belong,
you are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you!
The Bible tells us so.
2. Jesus loves you, he who died,
heaven's gates to open wide;
he can wash away your sin,
let his little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you!
The Bible tells us so.

CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 3:18

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

CONFESSION OF SIN**

Minister: Father, you asked for our hands, that we might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, because the work was hard. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice. We gave you a whisper that we might not be accused. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty. We closed them, for we did not want to see. You asked for our lives, that you might work through us. We gave a small part, that we might not get too involved.

All: **Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you — only when it is convenient for us to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

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

Minister: Father, forgive us, renew us, send us out as a usable instrument,

All: **that we might take seriously the meaning of your cross. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Isaiah 53:5-6

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

***Words:** Anna B. Warner, 1859 |
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1861

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: God of My Life, to Thee I Call*

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.

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!

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.

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

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 132

- 1 LORD, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
- 2 and how he swore an oath to the LORD,
making a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- 3 "I will not enter my house
or get into my bed,
- 4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep
or my eyelids to slumber
- 5 until I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 6 We heard of the ark in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
- 7 Let's go to his dwelling place;
let's worship at his footstool.
- 8 Rise up, LORD, come to your resting place,
you and your powerful ark.
- 9 May your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and may your faithful people shout for joy.
- 10 For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.
- 11 The LORD swore an oath to David,
a promise he will not abandon:
"I will set one of your offspring
on your throne.
- 12 If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I will teach them,
their sons will also sit on your throne forever."
- 13 For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his home:
- 14 "This is my resting place forever;
I will make my home here
because I have desired it.
- 15 I will abundantly bless its food;
I will satisfy its needy with bread.
- 16 I will clothe its priests with salvation,
and its faithful people will shout for joy.
- 17 There I will make a horn grow for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.
- 18 I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but the crown he wears will be glorious."

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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore;

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;

Tag: Land me safe on Canaan's side
Bid my anxious fears,
bid my anxious fears. (2x) ... Goodbye

COMMUNION HYMN: Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**

Pass me not, O gentle savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain: Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by

Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief,
Kneeling there in deep contrition;
Help my unbelief.

Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace.

Thou the Spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in heav'n but Thee?

***Words:** William
Williams | **Music:**
Jeremy Casella

****Words:** Fanny
Crosby | **Music:**
Howard Doane



HYMN OF RESPONSE: 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!

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:

Ada Habershon,
Matthew Merker

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.

OCTOBER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$33,391	YTD Giving:	\$223,285
Expenses:	\$33,526*	Cash on Hand:	\$67,403
Net Income:	(\$135)	Annual Budget:	\$279,475

*expenses were abnormally high due to our quarterly payment to the denominational ministry fund, overdue retirement contributions, insurance payments, and annual Vimeo subscription coming due in October.

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
Sarah Troutman :: Vocals
Dean Peteet :: Bass
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals
Sheryl Olguín :: Guitar/Vocals
León Olguín :: Keyboard/Vocals
Brandon Smith, Mark Iverson, & Will Troutman :: Sound Technicians

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

