



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday 10:00 AM • November 21, 2021

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this.... According to God’s will, Christendom is a scattered people, scattered like seed ‘into all the kingdoms of the earth’ (Deut. 28:25). That is its curse and its promise ... one day we will be gathered visibly (Matt. 24:31).... Until then, God’s people remain scattered, held together solely in Jesus Christ, having become one in the fact that, dispersed among the world, they remember Him in the far countries.... Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to them. They need them again and again when they become uncertain and discouraged, because alone they cannot help themselves without belying the truth. We need others as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. We need one another solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure. And that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The Church is the new creation, it is life and joy, it is the sacramental fellowship in which we share the ultimate purpose of God, made real for us now in our hearing the Word and sharing the Sacrament.”

– Rowan Williams

“We are insisting and we will continue to insist that this faith of the church must continue to be upheld come rain, come fire. That is our position.”

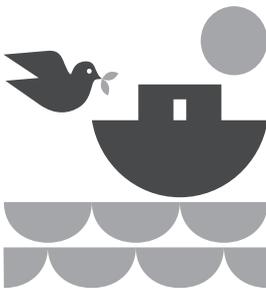
– Peter Akinola, Nigerian Clergyman

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: All Creatures of Our God and King*

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rushing morn in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening find a voice
3. Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for Thy Lord to hear
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright
That givest man both warmth and light
4. All ye men of tender heart
Forgiving others take your part
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care

Refrain: O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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: The King of Love**

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth
3. Lost and foolish off I strayed
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me
4. In death's dark veil I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me
Thy rod and staff my comfort still
Thy cross before to guide me.
5. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever

Bridge:

Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Chorus:

Never failing, Ruler of my heart
Everlasting, Lover of my soul
On the mountain high or in the valley low
The King of Love my Shepherd is

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

***Words:** Saint Francis of Assisi | **Music:** German Tune

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:** H.W. Baker | **Music:** Adam Palmer/ Jonathan Smith/ Matthew Hein/ Stephanie Kulla/ Stuart Garaged

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:

Wendell Kimbrough & Sandra McCracken, © 2019 Wendell Kimbrough (BMI), Integrity Worship Music (ASCAP) and Paper News Publishing (ASCAP).

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Colossians 1:15-20

Minister: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things were created through him and for him.

All: **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be preeminent.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: See How Good It Is (Psalm 133)*

See how good it is
Gathering with friends
Welcoming the stranger in
See how good it is

When God's children live as one
By the Spirit we become
The open arms of God
To a world in need of love

Sad divisions cease
We're ordained as priests
Spreading out God's joyful feast
See how good it is

See the earth renewed
By the morning dew
All creation sings the truth:
"See how good it is!"



CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 86:5

“For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.”

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Minister: Holy God, 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.**

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

Minister: How long, O Lord, will we continue to ignore your will?
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.

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

**from The Worship Sourcebook*

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: Drive out The Darkness*

Every year under the thorn
Every wrong that we have known
Every valley will be raised
Ancient ruins will be remains

Chorus:

Come, O Come
Be our light
Drive out the darkness
Come, Jesus, come

Every weapon made for war
Every gun and every sword
Will be melted in the flame
To be used for gardening

In the emptiness of grief
Through the night of suffering
In the loss and in the tears
God of comfort, O be near

Final Chorus:

Come, O Come
Be our light
Drive out the darkness (2x)

Come, and end all the violence
Come, do not be silent
Come, cling to your promise
Come, break all injustice
Come, Jesus, come

*Words & Music:

Latifah Alattas, Paul
Zach I Porter's Gate

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 133

A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID

- 1** How delightfully good
when brothers live together in harmony!
- 2** It is like fine oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down Aaron's beard
onto his robes.
- 3** It is like the dew of Hermon
falling on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD has appointed the blessing —
life forevermore.

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: Is Not Christ the Anthem Sweet*

1. Is not Christ the anthem sweet
of every sinner's song
It is weakness calling out
It is calling on the one it loves
2. How his mercy knows no bounds
How relentless is his love
He is like a captor come
With full and able arms
3. What an anthem sweet
Is the Savior's name to me
In the darkness of the night
My brother, friend and guide
O' the precious love of Christ
4. Let his voice come softly fall
On this frail and empty heart
And I am bank and brimming full
He has overpaid his love
5. See his garments turn so white
See the world becoming dim
You can hide yourself inside
His resurrected life.

COMMUNION HYMN: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
Refrain:
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
But I am safe within your hand.
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
3. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

***Words & Music:**
Nathan Poole, 2010

****Words:** Edward
Mote | **Music:** William
Bradbury; arranged
by Matt Boswell



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: 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:** Venantius
Fortunatus | **Music:**
William Moore (Arr.
Benedict/Bradham)
©2006 Cardiiphonia

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:***

