



Sunday 10:00 AM • March 20, 2022  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“At the root of all sin is unbelief in the word and worth of God. So then, it’s not enough to embrace behavior modification if we are unwilling or unable to deal with the underlying reasons we sin in the ways we do.”

– Jackie Hill Perry

“I am so afraid of being disliked, blamed, put aside, passed over, ignored, persecuted, and killed, that I am constantly developing strategies to defend myself and thereby assure myself of the love I think I need and deserve.”

– Richard B. Hays

“Men are apt to have contrary conceits of Christ, but he tells them his disposition there, by preventing such hard thoughts of him, to allure them unto him the more. We are apt to think that he, being so holy, is therefore of a severe and sour disposition against sinners, and not able to bear them. ‘No,’ says he; ‘I am meek; gentleness is my nature and temper.’”

– Thomas Goodwin

“We must stop regarding unpleasant or unexpected things as interruptions of real life. The truth is that interruptions are real life.... The more we get what we now call ‘ourselves’ out of the way and let [Jesus] take us over, the more truly ourselves we become ... I am not, in my natural state, nearly so much of a person as I like to believe: most of what I call ‘me’ can be very easily explained. It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself up to his personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own.”

– C.S. Lewis

“In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love him but how much he loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we’ve done or failed to do ...”

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

### NOTE TO PARENTS:

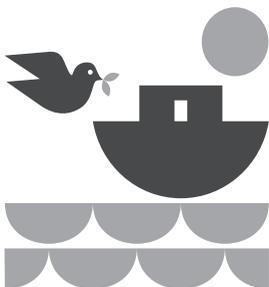
We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you’d like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

**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 walk your child to their classroom downstairs. 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.



## PREPARATION

**Personal prayer of preparation:** Father in heaven, deliver me from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind when drawn near to you in these moments. Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections I 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.

## WELCOME & 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: 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!

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

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

**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:**

William Kimbrough &  
Jason Pears

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Psalm 139:11**

**Leader:** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"

**All:** **even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE: He Is On Our Side (Psalm 124)\***

Our help has come in the Name of the Lord,  
the One who formed all the earth and the sky.  
Behold! He comes to destroy the chains of death  
and raise us up to life.

O bless his name, for he has given us  
everything we need to fly.  
Our broken wings, they have not hindered us.  
We have the Lord;  
He's on our side!



## CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 130:1-2

“Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!”

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Leader:** Our great and merciful God, when we see your beautiful holiness, we recognize our own lack of holiness. You are light and truth, yet we live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are; let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

Wind of God, blow far from us -

**All:**           **all dark despair,  
all deep distress,  
all groundless fears,  
all sinful desires,  
all Satan’s snares,  
all false values,  
all selfish wishes,  
all wasteful worries.**

**Leader:** Blow into us -

**All:**           **your holy presence,  
your living love,  
your healing touch,  
your splendid courage,  
your mighty strength,  
your perfect peace,  
your caring concern,  
your divine grace,  
your boundless joy.**

**Leader:** Spirit of God, blow strong, blow fresh, blow now, and forgive us our many sins.

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

**Leader:** Our gracious God, you are letting your servants go in peace as you promised for our eyes have seen your saving grace in Jesus Christ.

**All:**           **In deep gratitude for our salvation, this moment, these people, your church, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared this redemption and cannot remain the same. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDONING GRACE: Psalm 130:3-4

“LORD, if you kept an account of iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.”

**Leader:** Hear and receive the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All:**           **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: Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me\*

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

**Parents:** If you'd like your children to take part in our children's programming, please walk your child to their classroom downstairs during the song.

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 119:45**

And I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts.

**John 8:32**

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

**John 10:9**

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

**Romans 6:22**

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

**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: Not in Me\*

1. No list of sins I have not done,  
No list of virtues I pursue,  
No list of those I am not like  
Can earn myself a place with You.  
O God, be merciful to me—  
I am a sinner through and through!  
My only hope of righteousness  
Is not in me, but only You.
2. No humble dress, no fervent prayer,  
No lifted hands, no tearful song,  
No recitation of the truth  
Can justify a single wrong.  
My righteousness is Jesus' life,  
My debt was paid by Jesus' death,  
My weary load was borne by Him  
And He alone can give me rest.
3. No separation from the world,  
No work I do, no gift I give  
Can cleanse my conscience, cleanse my hands;  
I cannot cause my soul to live.  
But Jesus died and rose again—  
The power of death is overthrown!  
My God is merciful to me  
And merciful in Christ alone.  
  
My righteousness is Jesus' life,  
My debt was paid by Jesus' death,  
My weary load was borne by Him  
And He alone can give me rest.

**\*Words & Music:**  
Eric Schumacher  
and David L. Ward  
| © 2012 Thousand  
Tongues



## 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

## 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.

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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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## 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.

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## JANUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$27,275	YTD Giving:	\$27,275
Expenses:	\$32,918	Cash on Hand:	\$148,177
Net Income:	(\$5,643)	Annual Budget:	\$322,359

## 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**.



## 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

## Volunteers

Amy Noll (acnoll89@gmail.com) :: Room Setup Coordinator  
Nate O'Steen (treasurer@citychurchavl.org) :: Treasurer

## Musicians

Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Guitar/Vocals/Director  
Scott Schindler :: Vocals  
Sarah Troutman :: Vocals  
Liz Duncan :: Vocals  
Dean Peteet :: Bass  
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals  
Sheryl Olguín :: Guitar/Vocals  
León Olguín :: Keyboard/Vocals  
Brandon Smith, Mark Iverson, Will Troutman, & Steve Sandman :: Sound Technicians

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or use the QR code below:***

