



Sunday 10:00 AM • March 27, 2022
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“Basically, *The Deal* goes like this: members agree to validate pastors and leaders by showing up fairly regularly and agreeing to pay enough offerings to keep the lights on and keep the weekly activity of the church operational. In return, “pastors” agree to preach civil, encouraging, self-help life messages, never asking too much of those attending. And they both tell each other that they are doing what God wants them to do. I say all this not to sound judgmental or to indict any church in particular. In fact, if your first inclination is to think of someone else in your life who seemingly lives under *The Deal*, I challenge you to put them out of your mind, at least for now. In this moment, I want to ask you to examine someone much closer to the subject: yourself. Whether pastor or attender, are you cutting that deal? What is the unspoken (or spoken) arrangement you have with church? Do you think the way you view ‘church’ is in alignment with the way God views

His bride as described in Scripture? There is no condemnation here – I promise that by God’s grace, these are questions I am always asking myself ... and you should absolutely be asking yourself, too, for within the answers lie more than models of various church systems or questions of relevance in style or delivery. The most important reason you should ask these questions about the Church is that you are actually supposed to be the Church.”

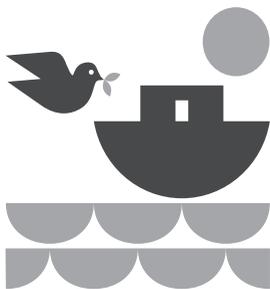
– Todd Wagner

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: Come, People of the Risen King*

1. Come, people of the Risen King, who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.
2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun, and those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won, and those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change, and His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace.
3. Come, young and old from every land - men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands - find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing - shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age: "Our God is all in all"

Refrain: Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

All: **Sing praises to God, sing praises!**
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth!

HYMN OF ADORATION: 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)

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

***Words & Music:**
Keith & Kristyn Getty,
Stuart Townend

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 & Music:** All
Sons & Daughters

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Psalm 62**

All: I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold;
I will never be shaken.

Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold;
I will not be shaken.

My salvation and glory depend on God, my strong rock.
My refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts before him.

God is our refuge.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: 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.



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*

Leader: Lord God, we have sinned against you by turning our backs on you and living as if you do not exist.

All: **I have sinned against you times without number and have been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your word, of neglect to seek you in my daily life. My violations and shortcomings present my conscience with a long list of accusations, but, by your grace, they will not stand, for they have all been laid on Christ, my sacrifice and advocate.**

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

Leader: Father, go on to subdue our weaknesses and selfishness, granting us grace to live above them.

All: **Let me not be mastered by them,
but may you rule over me in liberty and power.
Deliver me from every evil habit,
everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me,
everything that prevents me from taking my deepest
delight in you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: 1 John 2:1-2

“If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

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: Heal Us, Emmanuel*

***Words:** William
Cowper (alt Twit) |

Music: Kevin Twit and
Lucas Morton

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

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.



Ezekiel 37:1-10

1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. **2** And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. **3** And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." **4** Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5** Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8** And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. **9** Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." **10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

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.



***Words & Music:**

Isaac Wardell |
Lamentations, Bifrost
Arts Music 2016

HYMN OF RESPONSE: How Long?*

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?
How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

Refrain:

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?
How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?

Amen. Jesus come!

BENEDICTION: Numbers 6:24-26

**All: The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.**

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.



SENDING HYMN: May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power controlling
All I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His power.
3. May the peace of God, my Father,
Rule my life in everything.
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing
This is victory.

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:** Kate
Wilkinson | **Music:** A.
Cyril Barham-Gould





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.

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. 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

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

