



Sunday 10:00 AM • April 3, 2022
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“Truth is eternal. Knowledge is changeable. It is disastrous to confuse them.”

– Madeleine L'Engle

“Do not be content to have right ideas of the love of Christ in your mind unless you have a gracious taste of it in your heart.”

– John Owen

The World's Discipleship

Be popular.

Be great.

Be successful.

Avoid suffering & failures.

Jesus' Discipleship

Reject popularity.
(*Be popular with me.*)

Reject 'greatness-ism.'
(*Be great with me.*)

Reject 'success-ism.'
(*Be a success with me.*)

Embrace suffering & failure.
(*Be faithful to me.*)

– Pete Scazzero

“What if the Church, purged of addiction to celebrity and neon, simply offered bread, wine, water, and the word to hungry people longing for community? What if the Church, instead of mourning a loss of influence, simply knelt to serve rather than seeking to repaint the corridors of power? What if the church fully preached the Gospel in word, work, and wonder, and became once again a church on the move lighting signal fires of grace across a sin-stricken society and planet? What if churches in a city were part of united Gospel movements of visible symphonic service to bear witness to Jesus and became co-belligerents in the battle with hell for the souls of people rather than competitors in a shrinking customer base of consumer-driven attendees?”

– David Patrick Cassidy

“Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.”

– Christopher Ray

NOTE TO PARENTS:

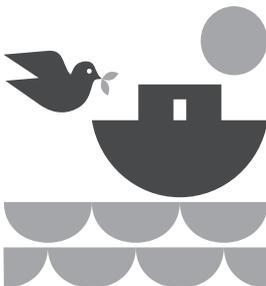
We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you'd like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

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: 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.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 145:17-18

Leader: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

All: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

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 | **Music:** Sandra McCracken

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.

***Words & Music:** Jill Gullahorn, Julie Ann Lee

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54

Leader: Let us join with all the saints in all cultures and ages in our profession of faith and praise:

All: **I believe that the Son of God
through his Spirit and Word,
out of the entire human race,
from the beginning of the world to its end,
gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community
chosen for eternal life and united in true faith.
And of this community I am and always will be a living member.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: All Your Works Are Good*

1. The moon it marks the seasons
The sun knows when to go down
The ocean holds its creatures
The river knows its bounds
2. The birds, the trees, the cattle
And all things great and small
We find our place in creation
Your hand sustains it all
3. He makes the clouds his chariot
He wraps himself in light
He stretches out the heavens,
Like a tent across the sky
4. He knows our every burden
When darkness veils our eyes
He comes with spring returning,
Bringing death to life
5. As we labor until evening
There's a message on the wind
Be still and know your maker
Be satisfied in Him

Chorus:

All your works are good.
All your works are good.
From everlasting, to everlasting.
All your works are good.



CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 124:8

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Merciful God, you made us in your image
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.

All: **But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconsistent,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive us, O God.**

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

Minister: In the wrong we have done,
and in the good we have not done,
we have sinned in ignorance;
we have sinned in weakness;
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

All: **We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us and renew our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Minister: 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.

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.



***Words & Music:**
Wendell Kimbrough

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: The Lord Our God Is Good*

Chorus:

The Lord our God is good.
The Lord our God is good.
Full of kindness and compassion, merciful and just.
The Lord our God is good.

Who else knows our deepest pain,
wears it as his own?
Finds us in our naked shame,
clothes and brings us home.

Who takes his inheritance,
gives it all away?
Welcomes guests to feast with him,
never can repay.

Parents: If you'd like your children to take part in our children's programming, please walk them 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.



1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, **3** for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? **4** For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. **8** He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

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: Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted*

Come ye souls by, sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross, behold the crown;
Look to Jesus; look to Jesus; look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet;
Christ will give you strength to bear it,
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory,
Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see Him,
Blest the ears that hear His voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust Him,
And in Him, alone rejoice;
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest, the cross supplies;
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

***Words:** Joseph Swain (alt. Kevin Twit)
| Music: Kevin Twit



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: Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

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 Cardiphonia

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.

FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$32,065	YTD Giving:	\$59,340
Expenses:	\$25,714	Cash on Hand:	\$152,794
Net Income:	\$6,351	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:***

