



Sunday 10:00 AM • July 10, 2022  
citychurchavl.org

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“It’s weird to feel like you miss someone you’re not even sure you know.”

– *David Foster Wallace*

“The greatest sorrow and burden you can lay on the Father, the greatest unkindness you can do to him is not to believe that he loves you.”

– *John Owen*

“Here’s the paradox. We can fully embrace God’s love only when we recognize how completely unworthy of it we are.”

– *Ann Tatlock*

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

– *Augustine*

“The sin underneath all our sin is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.”

– *Martin Luther*

“We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that he should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at his love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground.”

– *Brennan Manning*

“Trusting God’s grace means trusting God’s love for us rather than our love for God.... Therefore our prayers should consist mainly of rousing our awareness of God’s love for us rather than trying to rouse God’s awareness of our love for him, like the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel.”

– *Peter Kreeft*

“The greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love.”

– *Julian of Norwich*

### NOTE TO PARENTS:

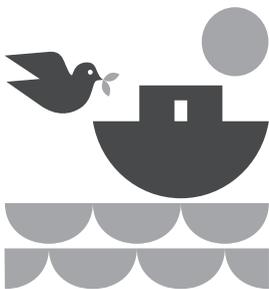
We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you’d like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

**Nursery** - 6 months to 2 yrs old

**City Kids Jr.** - 2 - 4 yrs old

**City Kids** - *Taking the summer off. See you in September!*

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: 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: O God of Our Salvation\*\*

1. O God of our salvation  
Who reigns upon the throne  
The sovereign Father, great is he  
From whom all blessings flow
2. Behold the Son our Savior  
Who for our sin was slain  
The Christ who purchased with his blood  
The wretched souls of men
3. O God, the Holy Spirit  
Revealing deity  
The fount of life and love divine  
Throughout eternity

### Chorus:

O God of our salvation,  
from whom redemption comes  
O Father, Son and Spirit,  
the blessed three in one.

### Bridge:

Ascribe unending praises  
to the God who reigns on high  
How matchless is his power,  
his glory how divine  
Ascribe, oh church the greatness  
and the glory due his name  
One God, One Being, One Essence,  
Oh Triune God proclaimed. Amen.

**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

**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.

**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:**  
Michael Bleecker |  
© 2009 Bleecker at  
The Village (ASCAP);  
Dayspring Music,  
LLC



### 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 & Jason Pears

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 1 John 4:13-16

**Leader:** Christian, what do you believe concerning the love of God?

**All:** **By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

### 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 32:1-2

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Leader:** Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become a consuming fire of judgment for us. We have failed to believe that you are good and that you love us. This has created all sorts of problems in our lives and in our world.

**All:** **In your gracious presence we confess our sin. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to the land, abuse our neighbors, and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. We have failed to love others as you have loved us.**

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

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Psalm 32:5

“I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

**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 Book of Common Worship*

### **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\*

\*Words & Music: City  
Alight

**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. will be brought back into the service during the final hymn.

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!



**John 17:20-23**

**20** “I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. **21** May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. **22** I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. **23** I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

**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: 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!

### \*Words & Music:

Isaac Wardell |  
Lamentations, Bifrost  
Arts Music 2016



## 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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## MAY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$49,355	YTD Giving:	\$201,251
Expenses:	\$24,493	Cash on Hand:	\$209,378
Net Income:	\$24,862	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

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:***

