



Sunday 10:00 AM • October 30, 2022  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“True religion should be able to respond to the dark melodies, the faulty and hideous sounds that echo from the heart of men.”

— Shūsaku Endō

“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial. God hates this wishful dreaming because it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. Those who dream of this idolized community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others and by themselves. They enter the community of Christians with their demands set up by their own law, and judge one another and God accordingly.

It is not we who build. Christ builds the church. Whoever is mindful to build the church is surely well on the way to destroying it, for he will build a temple to idols without wishing or knowing it.

We must confess he builds. We must proclaim, he builds. We must pray to him, and he will build. We do not know his plan. We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. It may be that the times which by human standards are the times of collapse are for him the great times of construction. It may be that the times which from a human point are great times for the church are times when it's pulled down. It is a great comfort which Jesus gives to his church. You confess, preach, bear witness to me, and I alone will build where it pleases me. Do not meddle in what is not your providence. Do what is given to you, and do it well, and you will have done enough.... Live together in the forgiveness of your sins. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.”

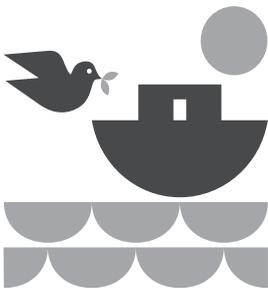
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### 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 18 months old
- City Minis - 18 months through 2 yrs old
- City Kids Jr. - 3 - 4 yrs old
- City Kids - Kindergarten - 2nd grade (5 - 8 yrs old)

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 and City Minis immediately 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.

## HYMN OF ADORATION: Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven\*

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|--|---|
| 1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,<br>To his feet thy tribute bring;<br>Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,<br>Who, like me, his praise should sing?<br>Come and worship, come and worship,<br>Praise the everlasting King. | 3. God our Father tends and spares us,<br>Well our feeble frame he knows;<br>In his hands he gently bears us,<br>Rescues us from all our foes.<br>Come and worship, come and worship,<br>Widely as his mercy goes.  |
| 2. Praise him for his grace and favor,<br>To our fathers in distress;<br>Praise him, still the same forever,<br>Slow to chide and swift to bless.<br>Come and worship, come and worship,<br>Glorious in his faithfulness.          | 4. Angels, help us to adore him,<br>Ye behold him face to face;<br>Sun and moon, bow down before him,<br>Dwellers all in time and space.<br>Come and worship, come and worship,<br>Praise with us the God of grace! |

## WELCOME & SILENT PREPARATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 55:10

**Leader:** Let us worship God, for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.

**All:** **As the rain and snow come down from heaven, so your word, O LORD, will not return empty, but will accomplish its holy purpose.**

## HYMN OF ADORATION: Praise to the Lord, The Almighty\*\*

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, For He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how all your longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

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

**\*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.

**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:** Joachim Neander | **Music:** 17th century German tune

(Continued on next page)



Praise to the Lord, Oh let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

**Prayer of adoration:**

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:**

Written by Paul Ranheim & Kirk Sauers; ©2020 Mellow Toad Music (BMI), Bold Canary Music (BMI)

## PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from Our Song of Hope

**Leader:** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

**All:** **My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

### HYMN OF RESPONSE: Never Shakes, Never Will\*

1. Where does my help come from?  
Where does my help come from?  
When trouble rolls and the tempest blows?  
And my hope is gone?

Where can my faith be strong?  
Yeah where can my faith be strong?  
When all I hear is the voice of fear  
And it rages on

**Chorus:**

I lift my eyes to the heavens  
I lift my eyes to the hills  
My Lord surrounds me like mountains  
He never shakes, never shakes, never will

2. What if my world should fall?  
What if my world should fall?  
When I'm left betrayed or my riches fade  
And I lose it all?

Where does my help come from?  
Where does my help come from?  
When trouble rolls and the tempest blows?  
And my hope is gone?

**Bridge:**

My God is with me  
A fortress mighty  
His river runs to make me glad  
No pain is stronger,  
No night is longer  
Nothing can break the rock on which I stand



## CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 124:8

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

## CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Minister:** Lord, you have called us to worship you. We gladly gather!

**All:**       **As we praise you, though,  
our own inadequacy reminds us  
of how we have broken our relationship with you.  
Because we have sinned against you,  
even our worship fails to be what it could.  
We often treat it as a show.  
We simply go through motions,  
failing to recognize that you want to engage us deeply.**

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

**Minister:** Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love.

**All:**       **Remind us of your covenant faithfulness  
and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ.**

## 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.

*\*from The Worship Sourcebook*



## 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 and City Minis pickups immediately following the service. City Kids Jr. and City Kids will be brought back into the service during the final hymn.

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.

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!

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.

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!



**1 Corinthians 12:12-20**

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**14** For the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

**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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah\*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore;  
Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield.  
When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;

**Tag:** Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Bid my anxious fears,  
bid my anxious fears. (2x) ... Goodbye

\***Words:** William  
Williams | **Music:**  
Jeremy Casella



## HYMN OF RESPONSE: Establish the Work of Our Hands\*

If You don't build it, we labor in vain,  
Without Your Spirit, we stand with no strength.  
I know my life is passing away,  
but the works of Your hands are what will remain.  
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us.

### Refrain:

- Lord, establish the work of our hands!
- Lord, establish the work of our hands!

Teach us to number the length of our days,  
Pour out Your power, we'll pour out Your praise.  
Teach us to run, to finish the race,  
for only what's done in love will remain.  
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us. (Alleluia)

## 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:** Aaron  
Keyes, Orlando  
Palmer, Madison  
Cunningham, Liz  
Vice, Paul Zach, and  
Isaac Wardell

### 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 visit our website and follow the menu option "Connect/Contact Us." We'll receive your basic contact information and keep you in the loop!

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## NEED PRAYER?

Please email your prayer requests to the elders at [session@citychurchavl.org](mailto:session@citychurchavl.org). Unless otherwise specified by you, prayer requests will only be made known to the Session and staff of City Church.

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## SEPTEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$31,999	YTD Giving:	\$340,060
Expenses:	\$47,948*	Reserves:	\$231,000
Net Income:	(\$15,949)	Annual Budget:	\$322,359

\*Start-up, expansion, unusual, and quarterly expenditures fell in this month – giving to the Denominational Ministry Fund, office set-up costs, annual curriculum for the children's programs, the on boarding of our part-time Church Administrator, etc.

## 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) :: Men's Discipleship  
Kristi James (kristi@citychurchavl.org) :: Children's Programming & Women's Discipleship  
Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Music Arts Director  
Jenn Odom (admin@citychurchavl.org) :: Church Administrator

## 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:***

