



Sunday 10:00 AM • January 8, 2023  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“Love has been waiting patient and kind  
Just wanting a phone call or some kind of sign  
That the one that she cares for  
who’s out of his mind  
Will make it back safe to her arms

Hate stumbles forward and leans in the door  
Weary head hung down, eyes to the floor  
He says, ‘Love, I’m sorry,’ and she says, ‘What for?’  
I’m yours and that’s it, whatever  
I should not have been gone for so long  
I’m yours and that’s it, forever  
Your mine and that’s it, forever”

– Avett Brothers

“Love is the principle of Christian social unity  
which Paul urges on the Corinthians.”

– Margaret Mitchell

“Love is not a higher and better gift; rather it is  
a ‘way,’ a manner of life within which all the  
gifts are to find their proper place ... love is not  
merely a feeling or an attitude; rather ‘love’ is  
the generic name for specific actions of patient  
and costly service to others.”

– Richard B. Hays

“I have no doubt that Paul intended it to  
reprimand the Corinthians in an indirect way,  
by confronting them with a situation quite  
the reverse of their own, so that they might  
recognize their own faults by contrast with what  
they saw.”

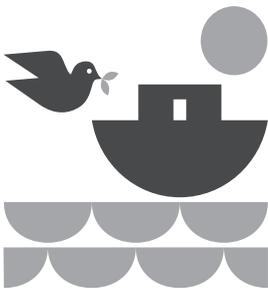
– John Calvin

### 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: 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 & PREPARATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP: Hebrews 1:1-3

**Leader:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

**All:** **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.  
Let us worship God.**

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

**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:** Henry F. Lyte, 1834 | **Music:**  
Nathan Partain, 2000



**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:**

Credo, 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 Emily Deloach; Indelible Grace Music

## PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from Psalm 62

**Leader:** We are at rest in God alone; our salvation comes from him.  
He alone is our rock and our salvation, our stronghold;  
We will never be shaken.  
Rest in God alone ... for our hope comes from him.

**All:** **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: In the Hours\*

1. In the hours of pain and sorrow,  
When the world brings no relief  
When the eye is dim and heavy,  
And the heart oppressed with grief  
While blessings flee, Savior Lord we trust in Thee!  
While blessings flee, Savior Lord we trust in Thee!
2. When the snares of death surround us,  
Pride, ambition, love of ease  
Mammon with her false allurements,  
Words that flatter, smiles that please  
Then ere we yield, Savior Lord be Thou our shield  
Then ere we yield, Savior Lord be Thou our shield
3. When forsaken in distress,  
Poor despised and tempest-tossed  
With no anchor here to stay us,  
Drifting, sail and rudder lost  
Then save us Thou, who trod this earth with weary brow  
Then save us Thou, who trod this earth with weary brow
4. Thou the hated and forsaken  
Thou the bearer of the cross  
Crowned of thorns and mocked and smitten,  
Counting earthly gain but loss  
When scorned are we, We joy to be the more like Thee  
When scorned are we, We joy to be the more like Thee



5. Thou the Father's best beloved,  
Thou the throned and sceptered King  
Who but Thee should we adoring,  
All our prayers and praises bring?  
So blessed are we, Savior Lord in loving Thee  
So blessed are we, Savior Lord in loving Thee

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: Alongside Families

### CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:8-9

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### CONFESSION OF SIN\*

**Minister:** Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

**All:** **Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*(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: 1 John 2:1-2

"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

**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: Tender and Mighty\*

### \*Words & Music:

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

**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.

1. Tender and mighty  
How can it be?  
Robed in the heavens  
Yet lowly with me  
Strong as the thunder  
Soft as the rain  
Father of the wonders  
Child of our pain

### **Chorus:**

- Tender and mighty  
A lion and a lamb  
Gentle in mercy,  
loving us fiercely  
Oh what a friend  
Tender and mighty  
Rise like the dawn  
Banish the darkness,  
fend for the hopeless  
Lord bring shalom
2. Lord we lay weary  
From blood in our lands  
Rock us as infants  
Our rock of defense  
Sing to us sweetly  
Like mother and child  
Strengthen our weak knees  
Whisper your pow'r

### **Bridge:**

May your pow'r and love  
Blazing as the sun  
Fill the earth as in heaven  
May your kingdom come  
May your will be done  
Here on earth as in heaven  
May your pow'r and love  
Blazing as the sun  
Fill the earth as in heaven



**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**1** If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**4** Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, **5** is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. **6** Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. **7** It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. **9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.

**13** Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.

**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: Be Still My Soul\*

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to your God to order and provide  
In every change, He will remain

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
To guide the future, as in ages past  
Your hope, your mind, your will let nothing shake  
All now mysterious shall be bright

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone  
Sorrow forgot, love's joys restored

### **Bridge:**

Be still my soul, be still my soul  
Be still my soul, be still my soul

\***Words:** by Katharina von Schelge | **Music:** Page CXVI and David Wilton Arranged by Page CXVI and David Wilton | Hymns III, 2010 Independent



## HYMN OF RESPONSE: The King of Love\*

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is  
Whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever
2. Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth
3. Lost and foolish off I strayed  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me
4. In death's dark veil I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still  
Thy cross before to guide me
5. And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise  
Within Your house forever

### Chorus:

Never failing, Ruler of my heart  
Everlasting, Lover of my soul  
On the mountain high or in the valley low  
The King of Love my Shepherd is

### Bridge:

Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

\***Words:** HW Baker  
**Music:** Stuart  
Garrard, Jonathan  
Lindley Smith, Adam  
Palmer, Matthew  
Hein, Stephanie Kulla

## 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.**



# 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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## NOVEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$31,642	YTD Giving:	\$448,927
Expenses:	\$34,486	Reserves:	\$260,218
Net Income:	\$(2,843)	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) :: 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:***

