



Sunday 10:00 AM • February 5, 2023
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“I didn’t go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don’t recommend Christianity.”

– CS Lewis

“Legalists continue to live under the law, believing God’s approval is somehow dependent on their right conduct. Licentious people dismiss the law, believing that they are ‘under grace,’ God’s rules don’t matter much.”

– Robert Thune

“Just as Jesus was crucified between two thieves, so the gospel is ever crucified between these two errors.”

– Tim Keller

“Among many marks that we are on the journey, and under sail towards heaven, this is one, when the love of God so fills our hearts that we forget to love and care too much for the having or wanting of other things; as one extreme heat burns out another.”

– Samuel Rutherford

“Legalism and licentiousness are two different reflections of our faithlessness in our Christian lives. On the one hand a legalistic spirit relies on the accomplishments of what one has done or is doing to maintain the relationship with God. On the other, licentiousness takes grace and abuses it for their own purposes. “I am saved by grace so it does not matter what I do” is a common misrepresentation of the Gospel.”

– Scott Day

“When you come to Jesus, you can forget about yourself and love others in a way you never imagined possible. You don’t have to defend yourself anymore. And what becomes beautiful in human relationships, is that you can stop demanding that others meet your needs. And when you can say that what really matters is others, rather than your needs, that means Jesus is not only enthroned in heaven, he’s also enthroned in your heart.”

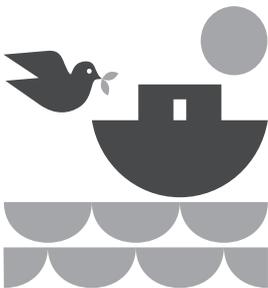
– Jack Miller

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: 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 67:1

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make his face shine upon us.

All: **Let us bless our God;
let the sound of his praise be heard from our lips.**

HYMN OF ADORATION: Oh How Good to Be Together **

1. Oh how good to be together
In this weary world we trod
What a gift what a treasure
Kindred in the house of God
2. On this day the Lord has fashioned
Come rejoice with all your might
Raise a banner of salvation
He has led us through the night
3. When it looked like evil conquered
When we felt the darkest hour
In despair we sought the Father
And he has proved his mighty power
4. Tell the theme of his provision
How he met our daily need
He has been our firm foundation
And he will ever always be

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:**
Traditional English
Carol & Melody. arr.
by Pierce & Reagan



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

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO CITY CHURCH

Luci & Jonathan Cate; Michael, Catherine, Abby, Caroline, Lauren, Molly Goforth; Tim & Carol Harrison; Karina & Aleks Kozak; Anna Smith

1. Do you agree that you are a sinner in God's sight, and because of that you deserve his disapproval, and that you don't have any hope of forgiveness and salvation except for God's love and mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the one Savior of sinners, and do you receive Him and trust in Him alone for your salvation?
3. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God, the only perfect rule of faith and practice?
4. Do you promise to trust in the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit so that you can live all of life as a Christian, following the example set by Jesus Christ?
5. Although secondary to our relationship with God, for the purpose of growing community in our church, do you accept that the creeds and principles of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, so far as you understand them, come from a desire to be faithful to God's Scriptures?
6. Do you promise to exercise faithful stewardship of God's resources entrusted to you for the furtherance of God's Kingdom and purposes?
7. Do you submit yourself in a spirit of love to the government and discipline of this church, and promise to help build the peace, purity, and prosperity of this congregation as long as you are a member of it?

Question for the Members of City Church:

Do you, the members of City Church, embrace these new members as part of our church family and commit yourselves to them in loving service and spiritual encouragement as brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ?

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!
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

(continued on the next page)

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

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

CALL TO CONFESSION: Matthew 11:28

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Minister: Christian, you are devoted to the LORD: You are his treasured possession in all the earth.

All: **How are we treasured? We see ourselves as just ordinary - nothing special. Some of us sink even lower into self-loathing and see ourselves as worthless.**

Minister: Christian, you are devoted to the LORD: You belong to him.

All: **We act like we belong to ourselves: Free to do what we want with our bodies and our time. We chase after power, recognition, and pleasure.**

Minister: Christian, you are devoted to the LORD: You are holy for him.

All: **We hear holy and think "holier than thou." We don't want to be a fanatic or one of "those Christians." So, we blend in and go along, sometimes baptizing it as "being relevant."**

Minister: Brothers & sisters, why do we shrink back from our devotion to the LORD?

All: **We're not devoted to the LORD because we don't see him as worthy of devotion. We confess, God, our sin underneath our sin: We think that you're small and only sort of important. We fail to trust you as the merciful and majestic God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.**

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

Minister: O LORD, have mercy on us.

All: **Restore those who confess their faults, according to Your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our LORD. And grant, O merciful God, for His sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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.

*Based on Ezra 8:28 & Exodus 19:5 written by Redeemer Church, Indianapolis, IN



***Words & Music:**

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.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Matthew 11:29-30

Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Minister: To those who repent and look to Jesus Christ alone for their salvation, the forgiveness of sins is freely given.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: Grace Will Prevail*

1. Grace will prevail
Though the darkness is strong
And the burden weighs heavy and long
Grace will prevail
For our God is the light
Rending the cover of night
Grace will prevail

2. Grace will prevail
In the valleys of shame
Where the echoes of failure remain
Grace will prevail
With a cry to the Lord
There's a mountain of mercy in store
Grace will prevail

Chorus: Wait for the Lord our God
Wait for the Lord our God
Wait for the Lord
Our rest and reward and our peace

3. Grace will prevail
Through the wreckage and storm
And the brokenness washed on the shore
Grace will prevail
Though an ocean we cry
He is with us and weeps by our side
Till the day they forever run dry

Bridge: Take heart he has overcome the world
He has overcome



1 Corinthians 14:20-33

20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. **21** In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” **22** Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. **23** If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? **24** But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, **25** the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. **27** If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. **28** But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. **29** Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. **30** If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. **31** For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, **32** and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. **33** For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

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: I'll Not Be Shaken *

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.

***Words & Music:**
Wendell Kimbrough



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

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

NEED PRAYER?

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

DECEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$169,076	YTD Giving:	\$617,927
Expenses:	\$47,965	Reserves:	\$294,945
Net Income:	\$121,111	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) :: 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

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

