



Sunday 10:00 AM • June 11, 2023  
[citychurchavl.org](http://citychurchavl.org)

# CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



## FOR REFLECTION

“Jesus knew himself as at once the goal of history and servant of history.... The kingdom [of God] is the supreme embodiment of the divine gracious purpose.”

– Geerhardus Vos

“If you read the Bible, no one responded to Jesus moderately. Everyone’s response to Jesus is extreme. They either ran away from him in fear, or they murderously turned on him and tried to kill him, or they fell down and surrendered everything to him. But no one ever liked Jesus, thinking, ‘He’d be a wonderful example to base my life on.’ No one ever responded to him moderately. They only responded to him in extremes. Which means that he must have been an outrageous person. Which means he must have been an offensive person. Because only an incredibly offensive person would get themselves killed and worshiped at the same time.”

– John Stott

“The hands of the king are healing hands, and thus shall the rightful king be known.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“No minister of an earthly sovereign would ever announce, ‘So and so has become king! If it please you, accept him as your king!’ Such a blasé, noncommittal declaration certainly did not characterize the news of a Roman emperor’s ascension to the throne. The very announcement that so and so is king contains an implicit demand for submission. Jesus’ announcement that God is king contains the same absolute demand. The divine rule blazed abroad by Jesus, therefore, requires immediate human decision and commitment: repentance, submission to God’s reign, and trust that the incredible is taking place.”

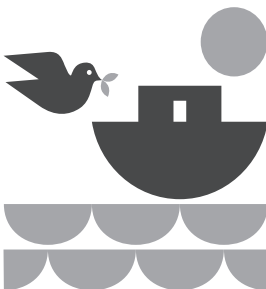
– David Garland

### 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 - *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 and City Minis immediately after the service, but the City Kids Jr. 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOMING HYMN: Come, People of the Risen King\*

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.

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.

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"

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!**

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 24

**Minister:** Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory?

**All: The Lord Almighty – he is the King of glory.**

### HYMN OF ADORATION: All Creatures of Our God and King\*\*

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong  
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rushing morn in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening find a voice

3. Thou flowing water pure and clear  
Make music for Thy Lord to hear  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright  
That givest man both warmth and light

4. All ye men of tender heart  
Forgiving others take your part  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care

**O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**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:** Saint Francis of Assisi | **Music:**  
German Tune



**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:**

Paul Ranheim & Kirk Sauer

**PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Psalm 90:1-2**

**Leader:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All:** **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO CITY CHURCH**

**Tim & Carol Bailey, Sam & Pam DeMent, Jim & Emily Elridge, Bill & Allison Logan, Ashley Rockhold, Huw & Mary Lansden (Skye) Rees-Jones, Steve & Roslyn Seneker, Chris & Tori Watkins**

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: Oh How Good to be Together\***

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Oh how good to be together<br>In this weary world we trod<br>What a gift what a treasure<br>Kindred in the house of God | 2. On this day the Lord has fashioned<br>Come rejoice with all your might<br>Raise a banner of salvation<br>He has led us through the night |
|--|---|

**Oh the joy oh the sweetness to be gathered in the name of the Lord.  
Evermore he will keep us from the valley to the golden shore.**



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>3. When it looked like evil conquered<br/>When we felt the darkest hour<br/>In despair we sought the Father<br/>And he has proved his mighty power</p> | <p>4. Tell the theme of his provision<br/>How he met our daily need<br/>He has been our firm foundation<br/>And he will ever always be</p> |
|---|--|

**CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 71:3**

“Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”

**CONFESSION OF SIN\***

**Minister:** Almighty God, we confess that although we willingly say that “Jesus is King,” we often fail to bow our knees before him. Instead, we grant our allegiance to the relationships and material goods of this world.

**All:** **In your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.**

**Minister:** You have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all.

**All:** **We confess that we have often failed to bow before him or acknowledge his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.**

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

**Minister:** Breathe in us, O Holy Spirit, that our thoughts may all be holy. Act in us that our works, too, may be holy.

**All:** **Work in us that we may love only what is holy. Strengthen us to defend all that is holy; guard us, then, that we always may be holy.**

**Minister:** Grant us the humility to bow before you, the Ruler of all nations, so that we may be loyal servants in your kingdom.

**All:** **Through your son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDONING GRACE: Colossians 1:13-14**

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”

**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.

\* From Worship Sourcebook.

**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: I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalm 62)\*

**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.

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.

**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



**John 18:33-40**

**33** Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

**34** Jesus answered, “Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?”

**35** “I’m not a Jew, am I?” Pilate replied. “Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

**36** “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

**37** “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

“You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replied. “I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

**38** “What is truth?” said Pilate.

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no grounds for charging him. **39** You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

**40** They shouted back, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

**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.





## HYMN OF CELEBRATION: Laden with Guilt\*

Laden with guilt and full of fears,  
I fly to Thee, my Lord,  
And not a glimpse of hope appears,  
But in Thy written Word  
The volumes of my Father's grace  
Does all my griefs assuage  
Here I behold my Savior's face  
In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies  
The pearl of price unknown  
That merchant is divinely wise  
Who makes the pearl his own  
Here consecrated water flows  
To quench my thirst of sin  
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,  
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,  
Where wit and reason fail  
My guide to everlasting life  
Through all this gloomy vale  
Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,  
My roving feet command,  
Nor I forsake the happy road  
That leads to Thy right hand.

**\*Words:** Isaac Watts  
**| Music:** Sandra  
McCracken I ©2001  
Same Old Dress  
Music



## HYMN OF RESPONSE: Come Thou Fount\*

Come Thou Fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

## BENEDICTION

## 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:** Henry Allon, 1863 | **Music:** The Ironsides, 2011, *Songs for Supper*.

### **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](mailto:session@citychurchavl.org). Unless otherwise specified by you, prayer requests will only be made known to the Session and staff of City Church.

---

## MAY 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$33,649	YTD Giving:	\$167,724
Expenses:	\$46,290	Reserves:	\$300,000
Net Income:	\$(12,640)	Annual Budget:	\$411,649

## 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, Asheville, NC 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

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

## Diaconate

Tommy Rockhold :: Deacon  
Mary Dorris :: Deacon  
Eric Quiram :: Deacon, Chairman  
Duncan Dorris :: Deacon, Secretary  
To email the Diaconate: deacons@citychurchavl.org

## Staff

John Hopple (john@citychurchavl.org) :: Men's Discipleship  
Kristi James (kristi@citychurchavl.org) :: Women's Discipleship  
Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Music Arts Director  
Miller Voigt (miller@citychurchavl.org) :: Children's Discipleship  
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/Percussion  
Sarah Troutman :: Vocals/Piano  
Liz Duncan :: Vocals  
Dean Peteet :: Bass  
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals  
Sheryl Olguín :: Guitar/Vocals  
León Olguín :: Piano/Vocals  
Ben Walters :: Mandolin/Keyboards  
Huw Rees-Jones :: Percussion  
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](http://www.citychurchavl.org/worshipfolders),  
or use the QR code below:***

