



Sunday 10:00 AM • September 17, 2023
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“If all of life is a gift from God, it means that all of life is meant to be offered back to God in gratitude and worship.”

– David Gibson

“He is called Jesus because he saves us from our sins. Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere.”

– Heidelberg 29

“The glory of God is to love the unworthy.”

– Ashley Null

“Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in.”

– Leonard Cohen

“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

– Jesus, Matthew 9:12

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

– Proverbs 13:12

“We see that our salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else ... let us drink our fill from this fountain and no other.”

– John Calvin

“Tell me what you celebrate, and I will tell you who you are.”

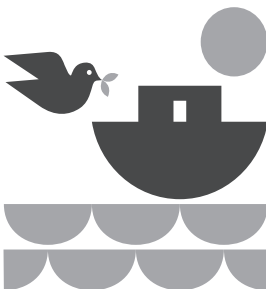
– Alexander Schmemmann

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 & 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*

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"

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

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 95:1-2

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell about all his wondrous works!

All: **Boast in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

HYMN OF ADORATION: The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The King of Love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever | 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 |
| 2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth | 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 |
| 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 | 5. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never
Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise
Within Your house forever |

Bridge: Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Oh, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

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



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:** Helen L.

Parmlee, Kevin Twit;

Music: Kevin Twit;

Indelible Grace Music

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from Our Song of Hope

Leader: We are a people of hope waiting for the return of our Lord.
 God has come to us through the ancient people of Israel,
 as the true Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth,
 as the Holy Spirit at work in our world.

All: **We confess and acknowledge one God alone,
 to whom alone we must cleave,
 whom alone we must serve,
 whom only we must worship,**

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
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
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



CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:8-10

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

CONFESSION OF SIN*

Leader: There are many times we think we love you well, O God.
But upon hearing your call to love you
with all our heart,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
we confess that our love for you is a diluted love,
made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart.

All: **Our love seems pure only for brief moments;
soon our affections are drawn away.
How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us!**

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

Leader: Our Father and our God,
in deep mercy spare us,
despite our lost first love for you;

All: **In grace rekindle our love for you
in seeing anew Jesus' love for us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: 1 John 1:5-7

“God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

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 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.



Parents: If you'd like your children to take part in our children's programming, please walk them to their classroom during the song.

Please make nursery and City Minis pickups immediately following the service. City Kids & City Kids Jr. will be brought back into the service during the final hymn.

***Words & Music:**

Paul Ranheim &
Kirk Sauers © 2020
Mellow Toad Music
(BMI) & Bold Canary
(BMI)

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: Bountifully with Me*

I will sing my praise to the Lord
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with me
I will sing my praise with joy
Give thanks rejoice
He's dealt bountifully with me

I will trust God's love never fails
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with me
I will trust God's love remains
Through sun and the rain
He has dealt bountifully with me

I will fix my hope on the cross
Where the Lord has dealt bountifully with me
I will fix my hope on the Son
His scars his love
He has dealt bountifully with me

I can't wait for the day he returns
When the Lord will deal bountifully with me
What a day when the faith will be sight
Every wrong be made right
He has dealt bountifully with me

GOD SPEAKS WITH US

AN ORDINARY LIFE

REV. BRANDON BARRETT

Genesis 26:1-33

1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. **2** And the Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. **3** Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. **4** I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **5** because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

6 So Isaac settled in Gerar. **7** When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," **8** When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. **9** So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'" **10** Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife, and you would



have brought guilt upon us.” **11** So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, “Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.”

12 And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, **13** and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy. **14** He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him. **15** (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.) **16** And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”

17 So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar and settled there. **18** And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them. **19** But when Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, **20** the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen, saying, “The water is ours.” So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. **21** Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also, so he called its name Sitnah. **22** And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, saying, “For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.”

23 From there he went up to Beersheba. **24** And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.” **25** So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac’s servants dug a well.

26 When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army, **27** Isaac said to them, “Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?” **28** They said, “We see plainly that the Lord has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, **29** that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord.” **30** So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank. **31** In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace. **32** That same day Isaac’s servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, “We have found water.” **33** He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

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: Come for the Feast is Spread*

1. Come for the feast is spread

Hark to the call
Come to the Living Bread
Broken for all
Come to His house of wine
Low on His breast recline
All that He hath is thine
Come, sinner, come
Come, sinner, come

2. Come where the fountain flows

River of Life
Healing for all thy woes
Doubting and strife
Millions have been supplied
No one was e'er denied
Come to the crimson tide
Come, sinner, come
Come, sinner, come

3. Come to the throne of grace

Boldly draw near
He who would win the race
Must tarry here
Whate'er thy want may be
Here is the grace for thee
Jesus, thy only plea
Come, sinner, come
Come, sinner, come

***Words:** Henry
Burton, 1878 | **Music:**
Luke Brawner



BENEDICTION

RESPONSE: Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.**

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.

AUGUST 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$39,211	YTD Giving:	\$326,238
Expenses:	\$42,048	Reserves:	\$381,029
Net Income:	\$(2,285)	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. 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
Eric Quiram :: Vocals/ Piano
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, or use the QR code below:

