



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures
True to the Reformed Faith
Obedient to the Great Commission



Sunday, September 13, 2026
8:30am
11:00am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Discipleship Hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2019

This facility is
equipped with a
hearing
assistance
system. Please
ask a Sound
Technician for a
receiver.

Hymns and
worship songs
are used by
permission.
CCLI # 187771

§ - denotes
congregation
Standing

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-4 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles, and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Matthew 13:15-16: “For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.”

Matthew 13:34-35: All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7a: “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...”

1 Peter 2:9: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Kevin DeYoung: “As you try to reach the next generation for Christ, you can amaze them with your cleverness, your humor, or your looks. Or you can amaze them with God. I need a lot of things in my life. These are schedules and details and a lot to-do list. I need food and water and shelter. I need sleep. I need more exercise, and I need to eat better. But this is my greatest needs and yours: to know God, love God, delight in God, and make much of God... Imagine that: reaching the next generation for God by showing them more of God. That’s just crazy enough to work.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Mr. Randy Gordon, Ruling Elder

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Psalm 33:4-8

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Ye Servants of God

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious, He rules over all.

God ruleth on high, Almighty to save -
And still he is nigh - his presence we have;
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him his right—
All glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

Introduction of New Members

8:30 service

Alejandro & Hannah Arango
Eric, Liz, Zach & Catie Burgdorf
Travis, Erin, Knox, Ella & Mills McConkey
Tyler Noe
Glenn & Carol Taylor
Steve & Lisa Wearden

11:00 service

Ethan & Seoyeon Carroll, daughter Eleanor
Drew & Anna Castleberry
Harrison & Laurie Martin
Thomas, Allison, Emersyn & Easton Schweikert
Barbara Simmons

Hearing from the Savior

Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

11:00 service

Anna Castleberry
Charlotte & Ben Martin, children of
Harrison & Laurie Martin

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Praise

Doxology

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

Hearing from the Savior

New Testament Reading

Mark 8:34-38

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Responding to the Savior

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

Prayers of the Church

Ralph & Lisa Johnston, church planting in Fountain Inn

§ Song of Preparation*

Ancient Words

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-4 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart. O, let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

*Chorus: Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts, O, let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
came to us through sacrifice. O, heed the faithful words of Christ
Chorus 2x

We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.
O let the ancient words impart

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Psalm 78:1-8

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"What Will You Incline Your Ear To?"

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your heart, and it will not let you down.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

Come, Thou Fount

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry 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 thy redeeming 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 thy goodness 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.

On that day when, freed from sinning, I shall see thy Lovely face;
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, bring thy promises to pass;
For I know thy power will keep me till I'm home with thee at last!

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Colossians 3:16a & Romans 15:33

(May) the word of Christ dwell in you richly...May the God of peace with you all. Amen.

If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.

Space for Notes:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Word-Driven:

Second Sunday Psalms #4 · Psalm 78:1-8 · “What Will You Incline Your Ear To?”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. When you hear that our church is a “Word-driven church,” what do you think that means?
 - b. If the Bible is God’s Word, what are you doing to learn what it says? How can your parents and church help you?
3. What does it practically look like to “incline your ear” to God’s Word in daily life? In what ways do we sometimes listen selectively rather than submissively?
4. What examples do you see of people having their own “personal versions of Christianity,” and how do they differ from actual biblical truth?
5. How has God used the repentance of others to strengthen your faith?
6. What hypocrisy or sin do you need to acknowledge to your family and seek new patterns?
7. How does your church family help reinforce the truths you are to be teaching at home? How are or can you engage in these opportunities?
8. What are you doing to “not hide” the truth from the next generation? Or what could you do?
9. Which cultural messages most aggressively compete for your attention or your children’s attention?
10. How does Jesus, the true and greater Shepherd-King, give hope when we feel inadequate as parents or “disciplers”?

Why Do We Do That?

Church Membership

Question: Where do you find church membership in the Bible?

Answer: While the words “church membership” is not in the Bible, the practice of “church membership” is blatantly clear.

Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Two questions arise from Hebrews 13:17. If there is no biblical requirement to belong a local church, then to which leaders should an individual Christian obey and submit? The Scriptures clearly command Christians to submit to and honor an elder body (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17). If there is no understanding of local church membership, then to whom are we to submit and obey? Is it anyone with the title “elder” from any church? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED leadership to whom we are accountable!

The second question is this: For whom are the leaders of the church (i.e. Elders) responsible to give an account? The Scriptures clearly command an elder body to care for specific people (See 1 Pet. 5:1-5; also, Acts 20:29-30). Are the Elders at CCC to be held accountable for all the Christians in Simpsonville, SC? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED membership that we are responsible to shepherd and lead. Church shepherding and discipline will not work if local church membership doesn't exist.

Other evidences for membership include the following:

- Acts 2:37-47 - numerical record of those who have professed Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 41) and an acknowledgement that the church was tracking the growth (v. 47)
- Acts 6:1-6 - we see elections take place in order to address a specific problem and accusation.
- Romans 16:1-16 – Example of an awareness of who is a church member.
- Timothy 5:3-16 - In this text we see criteria for who would or would not qualify for Ephesus' widow care program. The local church in Ephesus is organized, and they are working out a plan. There is a clear distinction of what widows belong to the church.
- Obedience to commands in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 imply membership being necessary!

Local church membership is a question of Biblical obedience, not personal preference.

Is it time you considered church membership? If you have an interest in pursuing membership at CCC, please see one of our elders to discuss this further.

Covenant Baptism

“Every time we baptize an infant, we bear witness that salvation is from God, that we cannot do any good thing to secure it, that we all enter the Kingdom of heaven therefore as little children, who do not do, but are done for.” (B.B. Warfield)

Our view of Baptism emphasizes and pictures who God is and what God alone can do for His elect. It points us to what God proclaims and promises. Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s covenant promise to His people, directly instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, in which Jesus has directed that water is to be applied, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It signifies the glorious realities of union with Christ, forgiveness of sins by His blood, regeneration by His Holy Spirit; our adoption, our hope of resurrection to everlasting life, our engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s, and the admission of a person into the visible church. It is a seal from the King that assures us of the authenticity of the gospel and the benefits we receive in Christ. Baptism fulfilled and replaced the OT sign of God’s covenant of grace, which was circumcision, ending the shedding of blood in gospel signs and picturing the circumcision of the heart to which circumcision pointed.

The waters of baptism do not save anyone. Yet it is a picture of what God says He will do for His people in Ezekiel 36:25-27: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” It is a new and better sign of God’s covenant of grace to be administered to believers and their children as was circumcision (see the Genesis 17 and Acts 2:39 parallels along with Colossians 2:11-12). Biblical accounts as well as the earliest evidence of church history also affirm the inclusion of households in baptism (Acts 16:11-15, 25-34, 2 Cor 1:16). Covenant Baptism (and especially “infant” baptism) beautifully points to the initiative of God’s love. He reached out to us, when we could not reach out to Him. It is thus a perfect picture of sovereign, saving grace. We pray that God will do for our children what is pictured in their baptisms and we call them early and often to faith and repentance.

Thus, at Christ Community Church, we baptize the children of believers, as well as adult professing believers who have not been previously baptized, in accordance with Scripture. Adults, in this way, are recognized as disciples of Jesus Christ through the means of baptism and profession of faith (see Acts 2:38, 8:35-37, Romans 10:9). It is our great joy and privilege from time to time, to hear new Christians profess their trust in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of sinners, as He is offered in the gospel, and to see them receive the mark of membership in the covenant community. And yet, even in their baptisms, the emphasis remains on who God is and what He has done.

Mark your calendars:

September

- **13: BEGIN TWO SERVICES**, 8:30am & 11:00am
- **13:** Fellowship Dinner, 5pm
- **16:** Ladies’ Night Out, Lieu’s Chinese Bistro, 6pm
- **16:** Choir practice begins, 7:15pm
- **17:** Men’s Night Out, Thai Cuisine, 6pm
- **20:** SPUR Groups, 5pm
- **25:** Men’s Ministry Kick-Off, 6:30pm

More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.

- The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.
- Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons’ office.

Church office: 864.967.2815

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Staff

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