Christ Community Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, November 22, 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.

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)

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!

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together…"

Jesus' prayer in John 17:15-23: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor Worship and Next Gen Ministries
- Rev. Jonathan Williams, Assistant Pastor of Adult Discipleship

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship Joel 2:12-14

Pastor: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Congregation*: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love*.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

Hearing from the Savior

Old Testament Scripture Reading Jeremiah 29:10-14

"For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your

fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Responding to the Savior

Song of Reflection *Christ Our Wisdom* Choir

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 & The Lord's Prayer

Gideons International

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

§ Song of Preparation* *Jesus, I Come*

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

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, out of despair into raptures above,
upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Preaching of the Word Rev. Paul Sanders

"Concern & Care"

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 *Before the Throne*

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great high priest whose name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the just, is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Praise the One risen Son of God!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Praise the One risen Son of God!

Behold him there! The risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the king of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,
with Christ my Savior and my God.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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:

Nehemiah 1:1-4 · "Concern & Care"

A Call to Prayer and Fasting (November 30, 2026)

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?

2. Especially for our youth and children:

    a. What did Nehemiah do when he heard about the troubles of his people back in Jerusalem?

    b. What does his first action teach us about dependance on God?

3. What do Nehemiah's questions about Jerusalem reveal about his priorities? How much thought do you give each week to the spiritual health of your church, fellow believers, and the advance of Christ's kingdom?

4. 1 Corinthians 12:26 says that when one member suffers, all suffer together. What does that look like practically in a local church?

5. Have you ever given time to fasting and prayer? Discuss your experiences and results from such a practice?

6. What burden has God placed on your heart that is significant enough to devote intentional prayer and fasting to in this season?

7. How does Nehemiah point us to the heart of Jesus for His people? See Luke 19:41ff and Matthew 23:37-39.

8. What is one specific way you can demonstrate greater consideration, concern, or care for the church this week? (Nov 30 day of prayer and fasting!)

9. Read the prayer of Jesus for His people in John 17 together and be encouraged.

Why Do We Do That?

Sabbath Observance

The Sabbath command goes back far beyond the introduction of God's moral law to Moses. It goes back to creation. In His creating process, God worked six days and then rested on the seventh day. He set that day a part to be a Sabbath. He made it holy and blessed it and calls us to do the same. Exodus 20:11, Deuteronomy 5:15 and Exodus 31:13 teach that the Sabbath is a way of remembering and expressing the truth that God is our creator, deliverer, savior and sanctifier. We are dependent on him for all we have in the world, for our deliverance from enemies, and for our holiness. All things are from him and through him and to him. So that we do not forget these truths and take our strength and thought and work too seriously, we should keep one day in seven to cease from our labors and focus on God as the source of all blessing. The Jewish Sabbath lasted from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

The Practice of the Early Church: With the transition into the early NT church, the weekly day of rest and devotion was not rejected, but rather would eventually shift from the last day of the week to the first day of the week. This is nowhere commanded in Scripture, but there are Biblical references that suggest it happened in the days of the apostles (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Rev. 1:10). It seems that the first day of the week became the primary day for Christians to perform special religious exercises. For a time, though believers gathered for worship and ministry on Sunday, it remained a work day in the early church. This would change when Emperor Constantine instituted Sunday as an official day of rest in AD 321. In America, there were various views on whether to establish Saturday or Sunday as a Sabbath, and so a two-day weekend was established. Nevertheless, Sunday, known since the resurrection as the Lord's Day is the day most commonly utilized by Christians as a Sabbath for worship, ministry, rest and intentional delight in Christ.

Today, there are Christians that do not embrace Sabbath observance as something which is taught in the New Testament. Dr. Ligon Duncan gives the following arguments to challenge that viewpoint.

1. First of all, the Sabbath day was grounded not in redemption but in creation. It came before Moses, the Exodus and before there was an Israel. That is precisely Moses' argument in Exodus 20 and that is one reason that the Sabbath still continues because it's rooted in creation.

2. Secondly, the Sabbath is part of the Ten Commandment which are still very much binding on Christians. We do not find in the NT that the Sabbath was merely ceremonial and so passed away with Israel.

3. Third, Jesus DID NOT teach or practice an abrogation of the Lord's Day. He actually calls Himself the Lord of the Sabbath (Matt. 13:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5) and demonstrates it to be a day set aside for works of worship, necessity and mercy. Nor do we see the apostles speak of the end of a Sabbath Day observance.

4. Finally, this view is confirmed by the practice of the New Testament and early church which has, from its earliest days, gathered to celebrate the resurrection every week on the day of resurrection, which is the day of rest and gladness, which is Sunday, the Lord's Day.

The Sabbath is a blessing and not a curse. It is a boon or benefit and not a burden and when we delight in it, we will be refreshed.

Mark your calendars:

November

- **30:** Decorate the church, 9:30am

December

- **3**: Thursday Morning Harmony Christmas Brunch, 9:30am
- **5**: Cocoa & Carols, 10:30am
- **6**: Meet the Nominees Combined ADS, 10am
- **8**: Women's Ministry Christmas Gathering, 6:30pm
- **10**: JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon, 12:00pm
- **13**: Congregational Meeting, Combined ADS, 10am
- **17**: Men's Night Out, Silver Bay, Simpsonville, 6pm
- **24**: Christmas Eve Service, 6pm

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.*

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