



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



Sunday, May 3, 2026
10:30am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

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

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2020

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

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 3-5 yr. olds. during the 10:30 service. 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)

Building Attendant for today: Bruce Piesch

Download the CCC
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today!



Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Isaiah 6:8-9: “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’⁹ And he said, ‘Go, and say to this people: Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’”

2 Corinthians 5:20: “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Genesis 4:6-7: “The Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, and you must rule over it.’”

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 19:23: “And Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Titus 3:4-5: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...”

Assisting with the service today:

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

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 72:8-11, 17-19

Leader: May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

All: *May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust!*

Leader: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

All: *May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!*

Leader: May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

All: *May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!*

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: *Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!*

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run.

His kingdom stretch from shore to shore till sun shall rise and set no more.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns. The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blessed.

*Chorus: To our King be highest praise rising through eternal days.
Just and faithful, He shall reign, Jesus shall reign.*

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.

Chorus

Let every creature rise and bring blessing and honor to our King,
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud "Amen!"

Chorus (2x)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Chorus: Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
His reign on earth begun!*

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

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

Prayers of the Church

Tony Rogers, Metanoia Ministries

§ Song of Preparation*

Speak, O Lord

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.
Take Your truth plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 4:1-20

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” ⁹ And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰ And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹² so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

“Heart & Soil”

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

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we praise you that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward you, our distraction and preoccupations with comfort, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, and our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to earnestly long for your kingdom and your glory so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hearing from the Savior

Assurance of Pardon

Matthew 26:26-29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he

gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Responding to the Savior

Bread & Cup

Please hold elements until all are served so that we may partake together.

§ Song of Response

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.

He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his.

Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken. For by my side, the Saviour He will stay.

I labour on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed.

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley He will lead.

Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid.

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea.

Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus. For He has said that He will bring me home.

And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Philippians 4:19-20

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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:

Questions for Families & Community Groups

Series: Good News Breaking #12 - Mark 4:1-20 - "Heart & Soil"

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. Review what the four types of soil reflect of hearts when they hear the Word (hard path, rocky, thorny, good)
 - b. Who can you tell about Jesus this week?
3. There are two exhortations to listen and hear in this parable. Where do you sense the Lord calling you to listen more carefully and obediently to His Word?
4. What fears or inadequacies tend to keep you from sowing the Word?
5. Identify one person or place where you can intentionally sow gospel seed this week. What is one practical step you can take?
6. Why is it tempting for Christians or churches to adapt or soften the message of Scripture?
7. What parts of biblical truth are hardest for you to hold to in today's cultural climate?
8. Which of the three dangers—Satan's deceptions, life's trials, or worldly distractions most threatens your walk with Christ right now?

Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

Not all churches handle invitations to the Lord's Table in the same manner. Please understand that while we are not so dogmatic as to condemn those with other practices, we do have convictions for why we administer the Supper in the way we do. What follows is our Church and Denominations view on just who the Lord's Supper is for.

First, the Lord's Supper is for believing people. It is a family meal for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have repented of their sins and trust in Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life. It is a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. If you are an unbeliever visiting with us, we are glad you are here. Consider this day whether or not you are ready to embrace Jesus Christ as He is offered in the Scriptures. See a pastor or elder if you would like to talk about faith and life.

The Supper is also for a prepared people, those who have examined themselves concerning their sins before partaking. 1 Corinthians 11:18, 27-32 warn all participants to carefully examine their heart and life to make certain you are participating in a worthy manner. Are you converted? Is there any sin that you continually live in and refuse to repent from? Is there someone that you have not done all you can to be at peace with by offering and/or requesting forgiveness? These are indications that you have business to attend to before you can come to the table in a worthy manner. If you discern you are not repentant in some area, we encourage

you to deal promptly with the sin that is keeping you from such a gift from our Lord that you may with joy participate next month.

Finally, the Supper is also for an informed people, those who are able to discern the body rightly, that is to understand the significance of the holy mystery of Christ crucified and of His body the church. Thus, while we do not require that a person be a member of Christ Community Church to participate, we do ask that each participant be a baptized member of an Evangelical (i.e. Bible believing) Church and that you are in good standing (i.e. you are not running from Church discipline).

Let us also remember that, though we believe, prepare and are informed, our faith is never perfect, our preparation never flawless, and our understanding is never complete. We do not come to the Lord's Table to claim that we are righteous in ourselves, but we come only because God regards us as righteous on the basis of the work of Christ through His incarnation, redemptive death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession in our behalf. Therefore, we encourage weak Christians, struggling disciples, and doubting believers to receive this Sacrament to gain spiritual strength and renewed hope.

Note to those seeking a church home: If you are not from a Bible believing church, yet you desire to connect soon to one but realize it may take a while; and if you have interest in being invited to the Lord's Table with us while you discern your future church home; please see an Elder today to talk more about that possibility.

Note to Parents: To receive communion, a child must be formally examined and received by the governing body of the church to which you belong (that would be the Session in our context). This will assure that your child has been baptized, professes faith in Jesus and understands the Sacrament. From time to time, we offer a Communicants Classes for older children to help them understand the essentials of the gospel and Sacraments. Please take advantage of those classes when offered. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.

Note to Non-Christians: If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal (see 1 Cor. 11:18, 27-32), please use this time to reflect 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 leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mark your calendars:

May

- **3:** SPUR Groups, 5pm
- **15, 29:** VBS Workdays, 12noon
- **17:** Children's Ministry Teacher Training, 8:30am
- **20:** Ladies' Night Out, Chuy's Mexican Restaurant, 6pm
- **21:** Men's Night Out, Sheriff Burger, 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.*

Church office: 864.967.2815

Staff

Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor	864.431.6688	Rachel Beeson, Dir. of Children's Ministry	864.618.6768
Jonathan Williams, Ass't. Pastor/Discipleship	803.629.2952	Felicia Liddell, Dir. of Assimilation	813.335.7320
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