

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

October 25, 2026

Reflection
Today you'll fail once again and you'll either wallow in the disappointment of self- righteousness or run quickly to the grace of Jesus.
Paul Tripp

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship **Psalm 91:1-2**
Leader: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
All: I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

***Invocation**

***Song of Praise**
Battle Belongs
When all I see is the battle, you see my victory
When all I see is a mountain, you see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow, your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with you

CHORUS: So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O god, the battle belongs to you
And every fear I lay at your feet
I'll sing through the night
O god, the battle belongs to you

And if you are for me, who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing impossible for you
When all I see are the ashes, you see the beauty
When all I see is a cross, God you see the empty tomb (CHORUS)

BRIDGE 2x: (An) almighty fortress you go before us
Nothing can stand against the power of our God
You shine in the shadows you win every battle
Nothing can stand against the power of our God (CHORUS)

TAG: O God the battle belongs to you

Confession of Sin
Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace **Ephesians 2:12-13**
Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

***Hymn of Assurance**
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder
Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with his blood (x3)
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies
Called us by his grace and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with his blood (x3)
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation threaten hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation, holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, who washed us with his blood (x3)
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice, join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is,
Justice smiles and asks no more
He who washed us with his blood (x3)
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with thy blood (x3)
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

Offertory Prayer

Tithes and Offerings **Choir**
**You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give*
**K5-1st Grade are invited to Engage.*
His Grace Will Lead Us Through
(add congregation)
Grace, grace, God's grace
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
O Grace, grace God's grace
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

Reading of Scripture **Matthew 20:17-28**
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Sermon
Backwards Leadership

Ordination and Installation
Vows
Pronouncement
Exhortation
***Song of Response**
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, Hymn #616 (11:00 Only)

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

REFRAIN: Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Benediction**

**Thanks to the K5 and First Grade Sunday School Class for helping us worship today!*

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Battle Belongs Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson © Phil Wickham Music and Simply Global Song (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Bethel Music Publishing
Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder J. Newton & L. Taylor, ©2001; Laura Taylor Music
His Grace Will Lead Us Through Mary McDonald
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; Anthony J. Showalter, 1887
For the Beauty of the Earth Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Arr. by William. H. Monk, 1861

Matthew

Backwards Leadership
Matthew 20:17-28

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We're so grateful for our pastors' work, time, energy, and prayer. We want to honor them for their spiritual leadership and acknowledge the sacrifices they and their families make. Leave a note for any or all of our pastors in the boxes in the lobby throughout the month of October.

Food Drive

Today is the last day for the food drive! Drop off any donations at the table in the lobby and we'll get them to Clemson Community Care.

Women's Group Chats | October 25

Women age 18-23 are invited to join a small group of older women for honest conversation and shared wisdom. We'll meet at a church member's home. Email womensministry@clemsonpres.org to get the address or stop at the table in the lobby.

CPC App

The CPC app has great resources built in, like a bible with multiple versions and a reading plan. You can also access the church calendar and women's resources. CPC Kids and Youth are using it to communicate with parents. When you're logged in you can see your giving history and volunteer schedule.

Members-If you're ever in a situation where you feel like you need to delete your app account, be sure to touch base with Ruthann before doing so.

Get Connected: Want to know what's coming up? Go to clemsonpres.org/calendar or open the CPC app and click "calendar" in the bottom menu!

Stay in Touch: Subscribe to church emails or download the Clemson Pres app at clemsonpres.org/contact.

Senior Pastor: Bryan Counts, **Associate Pastor of Students & Families:** Matthew Icard, **Associate Pastor of Adult Discipleship:** Reid Jones

Worship Director: Laurie Parsons, **Women's Director:** Paula Miles, **Administration Director:** Bill Thompson, **Communications Director:** Sara Dixon, **Youth Coordinator:** Kate Lewis, **CPC Kids Coordinator:** Elizabeth Fortune, **Nursery Coordinator:** Bailie Rabon, **Senior Pastor's Assistant:** Ruthann Crane **Elders:** Brinck Bowers, Bill Caldwell, Jimmy Dixon, Mark Dodd, Bill Fisk, Will Huss, Kevin Miles, David Myers, Chris Peters, Conrad Shuler, Barry Swiger **Deacons:** Tommy Barron, John Thomas Campbell, David Gambrell, David Haile, Zach Miller, Fred Sons, Paul Watters