

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

May 17, 2026

Reflection

The prayer of the feeblest saint who lives in the Spirit and keeps right with God is a terror to Satan. The very powers of darkness are paralyzed by prayer.
—Oswald Chambers

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

*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

Forgive our faithlessness, O faithful God! And see beyond our apathy, our thoughtlessness, our self-centeredness, our wrong choices. See into our hearts, for you are our treasure. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness & Pardoning Grace 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*Songs of Assurance

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross, Hymn #264

Jesus, keep me near the cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream—
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

REFRAIN: In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Shed its beams around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, 'til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide; Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee
Leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

High School Graduate Recognition

Congregational Prayer

Tithes and Offerings

*You may also give at clemsonpres.org/give

*K5-1st Grade are invited to Engage.

Reading of Scripture

Acts 4:23- 31
page 575

Sermon

Be Bold!

*Song of Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

CHORUS: He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last;
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life; he will hold me fast;
'Til our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!

*Benediction

All Songs Used by Permission CCLI #237085

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

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross Fanny Crosby, 1869; William H. Doane, 1869

Jesus, Lover of My Soul C. Wesley/G. Thompson; © 2000 Greg Thompson Music

He Will Hold Me Fast A. R. Habershon, M. Merker

Acts

Be Bold!

Acts 4:23-31

Summer Ministry | clemsonpres.org/summer

Find a place to connect over the summer! Explore opportunities for kids, youth, college, and adults at the link above!

Vacation Bible School | June 8-11 | 9:30-11:30am

Kindergarden-5th grade

Sign up: clemsonpres.org/vbs

VBS registration has begun! Sign up your kids and tell your friends, neighbors, and unbelieving families. Each day is an age-appropriate focus on creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration for elementary aged kids!

Preschool Bible Camp | June 8-11 | 9:30-11:30am

3yrs old-K5 (must have turned 3 by Sept 1, 2025)

Sign up: clemsonpres.org/pbc

Sign your child up for PBC! During the week, kids will attach meaning to colors they see every day. When they see gold, black, red, white, and green they can remember God's story for them!

Discipleship Foundation Workshop June 6 | 9:30am-4:30pm | 1E6

clemsonpres.org/summer

Join us for a focused workshop on what it means to follow Jesus and help others grow spiritually. We'll cover core discipleship principles and learn together in a supportive setting. It's a simple, meaningful next step in building a strong spiritual foundation.

Sunday School

Next Sunday, May 24, Sunday School will not meet. The following week, May 31, we'll kick off our new Sunday School classes! Want to see what's being offered? Go to clemsonpres.org/summer.

Stewardship Report April 2026

General Fund Budget Needs YTD \$1,496,237

Giving to General Fund YTD \$1,597,277

Actual Expenditures YTD \$1,491,229

Difference: Over (Under) \$106,408

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

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