



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

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



December 21, 2025

10:30 am

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

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



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. 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: Andy Wallace

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

J.I. Packer: “God created us for friendship with Himself, to enjoy fellowship and communion with Him. He wanted there to be genuine, personal affection, friendship, and two-sided relationship between Him and us.”

Genesis 3:8: “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 26:3: “Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.”

Exodus 25:8: “Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst”

Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

1 John 1:3: “that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 21:3-4: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”

Assisting with the service today:

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

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Chorus: Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:
Chorus

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear:
Chorus

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:
Chorus

§ Silent Confession of Sin

Hearing from the Savior

§ Assurance of Pardon

John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Rejoicing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Chorus: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come: offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell: Jesus our Emmanuel.

Chorus

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings; ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

Chorus

Tithes & Generous Giving

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

Alex & Eska Dwyer, doing training and recruitment in Southeast Asia

Hearing from the Savior

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Preparation*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

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

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, He the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace, nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold.
Bringing many sons to glory; grace unmeasured love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death, the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain Him. Praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

“The Present of His Presence”

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

Abide With Me

Abide with me fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

E’er time began, the Father’s purpose planned
For Christ to come, redemption’s plan to stand—
For vile sinners to be reconciled—
This, why he came, God’s only child!

For those in darkness, the light of life would shine
The shoot of Jesse, the one of Israel’s vine
His name is wonder, he is God of might
The price of peace, and heaven’s light.

The virgin Mary, would bring forth a child
The one God promised, a baby meek and mild
See now from heaven, the angels sing aloud
Glory to God: the shepherd’s bowed.

Emmanuel, the Son of God made flesh
Emptied himself, of all his heavenliness
With us to dwell here, in our infirmity
The Word made flesh, abide with me.

In space and time, and plagued by bitterness

Born here to die, for enemies to bless!
He chose the manger, and he chose the cross—
Emmanuel—God here with us.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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 and Community Groups

“God in the Flesh: The Wonder of the Incarnation” # 4
Matthew 1:23 “The Present of His Presence”

1. Especially for the children (BUT ALSO FOR EVERYONE!): Discuss the catechism question.
 - a. Read Matthew 19:13-14. What do we learn about Christ’s care for us?
 - b. How can we know God?
2. What was your top takeaway from this week’s sermon?
3. Help each other recall the progress of God’s presence with His people through the Bible.
4. Why do you think Christians do not always sense the presence of God in their life? Discuss the obstacles to experiencing God’s presence that were given.
5. How has the gift of God’s presence through His Holy Spirit impacted your life?
6. Reflect on a time when you felt distant from God. How can the assurance of God's presence, as described in Psalm 56, change your perspective in similar situations?

Why We Do That?

Post Worship Prayer

All of us encounter things which are a concern for us. These might be personal needs or the needs of family members or friends. The need may be an upcoming surgery, an on-going health issue, a situation with your family, work or school. Whatever your concern or need is, we do not want you to carry it alone! Praying isn't the only way we care for one another, but it is an important way. So, we want to have the opportunity to come alongside and listen and then pray with you about your need. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there will be two people at the right front of the sanctuary who stand ready to meet with you and pray. We take seriously the command of Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity for us to care for you in this way.



*Thank you to all who provided funds for the poinsettias that have been
used to decorate our church for the Advent Season.*

Poinsettias placed in memory of:

- ◆ Tom Davies (the Davies Family)
- ◆ Ralph & Marion Hendricks (John & Victoria Hubbard)
- ◆ Mr. & Mrs. William Iannone (Joanne Iannone Terrell)
- ◆ Bob & Nona Liddell (Roy & Felicia Liddell)
- ◆ Our 2 babies with Jesus (Martha Jo Moore)
- ◆ Larry & Paige McCarty (Martha Jo Moore)
- ◆ Robert Sams (Judy Sams)
- ◆ JoAnn Shaw (Linda & Larry Taylor)
- ◆ Rosa Lee Taylor (Linda & Larry Taylor)
- ◆ Col. Judson M. Terrell, Jr, Pat Terrell & Jud Terrell, III (David Terrell)
- ◆ John & Helen Thornton & brothers, John & Joe (Roy & Felicia Liddell)

Poinsettias placed in honor of:

- ◆ Our priceless CCC Staff (Martha Jo Moore)

Mark your calendars:

December

- **21:** No ADS
- **24:** Christmas Eve Service, 6pm
- **28:** No ADS

January

- **4:** Joint ADS - Installation of Officers. 9:30am, in sanctuary

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	864.617.6768
Jonathan Williams, Ass't. Pastor/Discipleship	803.629.2952	Felicia Liddell, Dir. of Assimilation	813.335.7320
Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor/Youth	770.328.6363	Kim Wallace, Dir. of Women's Ministry	864.981.2449
	Jim Perry, Church Administrator	864.449.5609	
	Joanne Heiser, Admin. Assistant	864.593.2424	
	Steve Britton, Clerk of Session	864.277.9248	
	Robbie McCoy, Chair of Diaconate	707.499.1560	