This Is Home **Built Together**



¹⁹ So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; 21 in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

September 7, 2025 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship



Come & See

WELCOME

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you've chosen to worship here! Cross & Crown is a community of Christ-followers from all walks of life. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome from the congregation and will worship with us again!

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY INFORMATION

Sunday school classes are offered for adultslocated in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class. Books of Faith. meets in room 206.

Communion is offered each week. Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table!

Our church has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. On Wednesday evenings we share a fellowship dinner at 6 pm. We hope you'll come try it out! See the back of the bulletin for more details about how to sign up.

Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know you better by completing the Connection Card handed to you by one of our greeters when you entered. You can hand it to one of the pastors or drop it in the offering plate.

PARENTS

We love the sound of kids in our service! Here are some ideas to keep them engaged. Relax! It's ok to let kids be kids!

Sit close: Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see and hear.

Explain: Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

Participate: Sing hymns loudly, pray, respond, etc. Children learn by following

your lead.

Activities: If you would like a bag of quiet activities for your little ones, ask an usher

and they will provide one for you.

Wander: It's ok to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids move a bit.

Need to Leave? No problem, but please come back! Sometimes kids just need a break.

There are speakers in the narthex & lounge so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the lounge is nice if you need privacy.

Ask: Questions or just need help? Just ask one of our ushers.

Childcare: The nursery is down the hall in the Multipurpose Space for infants to age 4 and is available during both worship services. If you need assistance, an usher can help you. C&C Kids is offered to kids pre-K through 3rd grade. Kids depart the sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

Hartsell

Worship Song

Everlasting God

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

rie-Chorus

. . .

Prayers of the Church Refrain

God is so good. God is so good. God is so good, God's so good to me.

Brown, Riley

Chorus

You are the everlasting God The everlasting God You do not faint You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

(Refrain)

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving. pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy.

Gracious Father, we pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace.

God of Us All, bring your peace, the peace that passes all understanding to this world. In places of war show your compassion and mercy. Bring reconciliation to all the countries that see war, destruction, and hardship with their own eyes.

And we sing...

(Refrain)

Compassionate God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. We lift up to you all on our congregational prayer list and all we name aloud at this time...

(Pause for congregation)

Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy.

God of Love, we pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. We pray over our "This is home" special appeal. May the updates and maintenance to our building bring you glory by providing a home for us and those that have not walked through our doors yet.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. We sing our AMEN.

(Refrain)

Holy Baptism of Brooks Jackson Tiller

- In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.
- Parents, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child, Brooks Jackson Tiller, baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

- As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people,
 - bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

 - teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
 - place in his hands the holy scriptures,
 - and nurture him in faith and prayer,
 - so that your child may learn to trust God,
 - proclaim Christ through word and deed,
 - care for others and the world God made,
 - and work for justice and peace.
- Do you promise to help Brooks grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

- People of God, do you promise to support Brooks and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- We do.

(Please stand)

Profession of Faith

- I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- We renounce them.
- Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- We renounce them.
- Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- We renounce them.

- P: Do you believe in God the Father?

 I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
- P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 - On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 - and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving at the Font

- P: The Lord be with you.

 C: And also with you.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you set us free from the power of sin and death and raised us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Baptism

Brooks Jackson Tiller, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Brooks with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
- C: Amen.

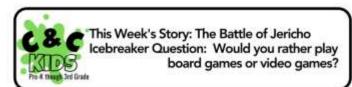
(The sign of the cross is made with oil on the forehead of the baptized)

- P: Brooks, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C: Amen.

Welcome

- P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Children may head out for C&C Kids)



Sharing of the Peace

- P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

Welcome Home and Announcements (See back page for additional announcements.)

Temple Talk

THE WORD

Ephesians 2:19-22

9So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; 21 in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

- P: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated)

Sermon Pastor Matt Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Welcome Table arr. Mark Hayes

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,

I'm goin'-a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,

I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,

I'm goin'-a feast on milk and honey, some of these days, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,

I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,

I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days,

I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days, yes, some of these days.

(Please stand

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Come to the Table- Everyone's Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

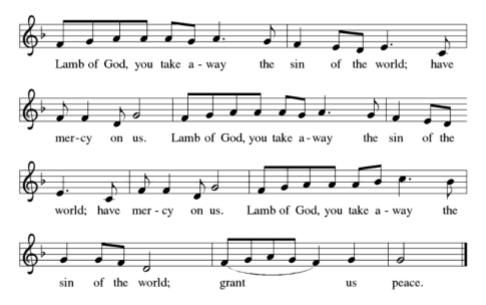
Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



OR

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Lay It All Down (At the Feet of Jesus)

Reagan, Washington

Verse 1

Bring your worry grief and pain Every cause you have for shame

Lay it all down lay it all down

When your cares have buried you And there's nothing left to do

Lay it all down lay it all down At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

Verse 2

Carried on but your heart was tired Feared the worst and felt the fire

Lay it all down lay it all down

Filled with all those anxious thoughts

And your doubts became your god

Lay it all down lay it all down

At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

Chorus

Lay it all down

Lay it all down Lay it all down

Lay it all down

(REPEAT)

At the feet of Jesus At the feet of Jesus

Verse 3

When we've given up on better days There are memories we can't erase

Lay it all down lay it all down

When we've come to fear what we can't explain And there's nothing here that can ease the pain

Lay it all down lay it all down

At the feet of Jesus at the feet of Jesus

The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, # bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

My Lighthouse

Gilkeson, Llewellyn

Verse 1

In my wrestling and in my doubts In my failures You won't walk out

Your great love will lead me through You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh

You are the peace in my troubled sea

Verse 2

In the silence You won't let go

In the questions Your truth will hold Your great love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh

You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus

My Lighthouse my Lighthouse

Shining in the darkness

I will follow You oh

My Lighthouse my Lighthouse

I will trust the promise

You will carry me safe to shore

Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings

With each morning I'll rise and sing My God's love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh

You are the peace in my troubled sea

Bridge

Fire before us

You're the brightest

You will lead us

Through the storms (hey)

(REPEAT 3X)

The Doxology (sung a capella)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Sending

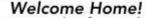
L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Children are invited to join Mr. Larry for music in the choir room following the service.



SET YOUR ROOTS @ C&C!



That's what we say every time we gather for worship—and we mean it. Many of you have been worshiping with us regularly and already feel like part of the family, even if you haven't officially joined yet.

If you're ready to set your roots and deepen your faith in this community, we invite you to Set Your Roots on Sunday, September 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a relaxed time to learn more about the Cross & Crown family, what membership means, and how you can continue growing in faith and connection here.

Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Pastor Melody at pastormelody@crossandcrown.org.



SET YOUR ROOTS

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BREAKFAST CLUB!

Ladies! Start your day off right with good food, good friends, and great conversation!

We meet bright and early at Collective Café! Join us on September 10, @ 7 a.m.

Contact Heidi Rhyne (hrhyne67@gmail.com, 704-534-1367) for info and to RSVP.

Women's Renewal Day Retreat

Join us for a refreshing Women's Renewal Day Retreat—a special time set aside for prayer, uplifting activities, and meaningful fellowship.

Step away from the busyness of life and come be renewed in spirit as we gather together in faith and friendship.

Scan to Register

Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM **Esplanade at Northgate**

208 Northgate Blvd, Indian Trail, NC 28079 \$35 per person, lunch is included!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 7th





BE A MAN. OF FAITH.

MEN'S RETREAT: NOV. 21-23

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS...





Let's Light a Fire!

Join the Men's Group around the fire pit on Sept. 17th! This is a chill time to talk about anything on your mind and future events for the Men's Group.

Week at a Glance

Monday, September 8th

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 9th

9:30 am- Squares of Love Quilting 12 pm- Staff Meeting 6:30 pm- Table Talk

Wednesday, September 10th

6 pm- Wednesday Night Happenings Dinner 6:45 pm- Handbells 7:30 pm- Choir

Thursday, September 11th

7:45 am- Men's Bible Study 7pm- Miriam Circle

Friday, September 12th

4:30 pm- Walking Club

Sunday, September 14th

8:15 am Worship 9 am Coffee Hour 9:15 am- Adult Sunday School 10:15 am- Worship 11:30 am- Set Your Roots



Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte:

Communion Assistants:

Usher:

Communion Set-up:

Greeters:

Nursery Assistant: C&C Kids:

Contribution Counter:

Praying for Possibilities:

Rita Deppe Rori White

Julie & Ashley Rutkowski Brian Deppe, Roger Black

Kim Kirk

Cathy Kozlinski John Hejka

Jason & Dawn Watts Susan Blair-Kluttz

You can give to C&C by scanning the QR code below.

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

Melody Simpkins Matt Simpkins Larry Stratemeyer LeAnne Bates Laura Van Landingham Dan Goldstein

Co-Pastor Co-Pastor Dr. of Music Ministries Church Administrator Ministry Program Coordinator Technical Director Hospitality Coordinator

Custodian

pastormelody@crossandcrown.org pastormatt@crossandcrown.org music@crossandcrown.org office@crossandcrown.org ministries@crossandcrown.org tech@crossandcrown.org

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