

Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that
some have entertained
angels
without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

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 adults located 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

Gather Us In

Haugen

Worship Song

Yes and Amen

Verse 1

Father of kindness You have poured out grace
You brought me out of darkness
You have filled me with peace
Giver of mercy You're my help in time of need
Lord I can't help but sing

Chorus 1

Faithful You are
Faithful forever You will be
Faithful You are
All Your promises are Yes and Amen
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Chris McClarney, Nate Moore, Tony Brown

Chorus 2

Faithful You are
Faithful forever You will be
Faithful You are yes You are
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Bridge

I will rest in Your promises
My confidence is Your faithfulness
(REPEAT)

Ending

All Your promises are Yes and Amen
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Confession *(Stand as you are able)*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God, you free us to love others,

C: **but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

P: You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

C: **but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

P: You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

C: **but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

Refrain

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

(Refrain)

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

God of All, Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. Guide us in your ways, empower us to reflect your life and your love of the world. We pray for the church to follow in your ways and that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. Bring your presence to the places of war, especially Israel, Palestine, Iran, Russia, and Ukraine. We lift up to you the families and friends of the children killed or wounded during the shooting at Annunciation Catholic School.

(Refrain)

Lord of Life, in the heat of the summer, we lift to you those that can not escape the heat of the day. We pray for individuals without a roof over their heads or those without adequate housing to find relief in the day. Be with all those traveling on this Labor Day weekend. May this be a time of rest and rejuvenation.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are homebound. We lift up to you all on our congregational prayer list and all that we name aloud or in our hearts at this time...

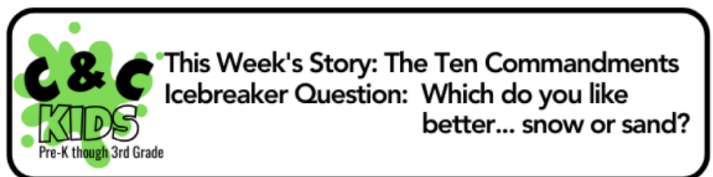
(Pause for congregation)

Reassure them of your care in all times and places.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. We sing our AMEN.

(Refrain)

(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.)*

THE WORD

Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

As We Gather at Your Table

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word,
Help us know, O God, your presence: let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

(Please stand)

Offertory Response

As The Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

Statement of Belief

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 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. 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. Amen.

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—your server will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the server 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.

OR

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.

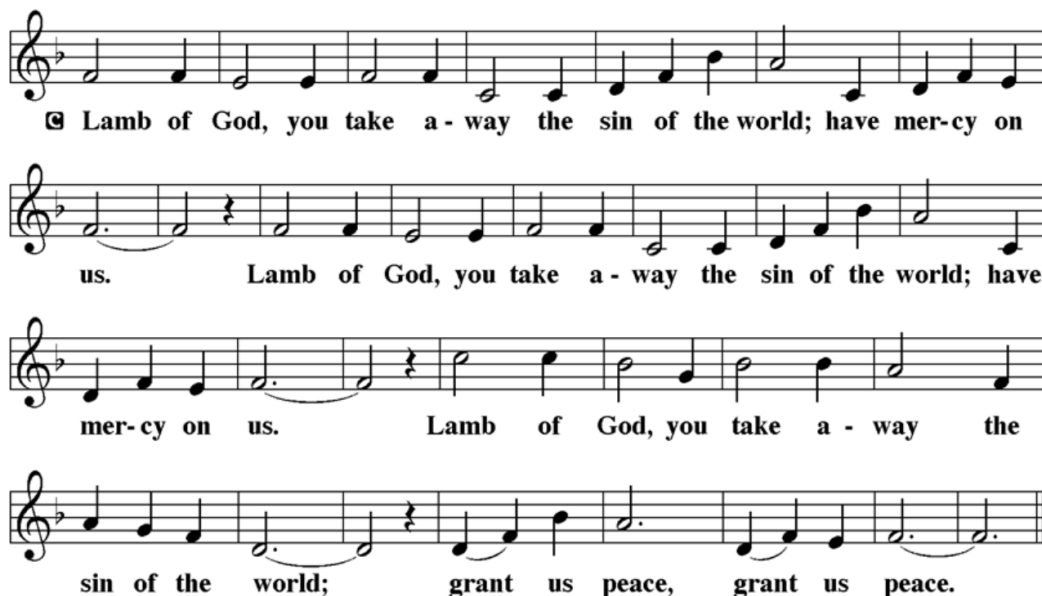
Welcome to the Table

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



♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Come to the River

Brown, Barrett, Moore, Dalton

Verse

Come to the water all who are thirsty
Come and drink
Come to the table all who are hungry
Come and feast
Those who are weary those who are needy
Come receive
Come to the River come to the River
Taste and see

Pre-Chorus

Oh Oh my soul thirsts for You
And You alone

Chorus

I will taste and see that You are good
I will taste and see that You are good
I will taste and see that You are good
You're good to me

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 love of God abound in us; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill our hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless us and give us peace.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song

Rattle!

Brown, Furtick, Lake

Verse 1

Saturday was silent
Surely it was through
But since when has impossible
Ever stopped You

Verse 2

Friday's disappointment
Is Sunday's empty tomb
Since when has impossible
Ever stopped You

Chorus 1

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

Verse 3

Pentecostal fire
Stirring something new
You're not gonna run out of miracles
Anytime soon

Verse 4

Resurrection power
Runs in my veins too
I believe there's another miracle
Here in this room

Bridge

My God is able to save and deliver and heal
And restore anything that He wants to
Just ask the man who was thrown
On the bones of Elisha
If there's anything that He can't do
Just ask the stone that was rolled
At the tomb in the garden
What happens when God says to move
I feel him moving it now
I feel him doing it now
I feel him doing it now
Do it now do it now

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!

Postlude

Chorus 2

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

Interlude 1

I hear the sound (I hear the sound)

Interlude 2

Live (Live) live (live)
Dry bones hear the word of the Lord
(REPEAT)
Live (Live) live (live)
Live live live live

Ending

But God said

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



Weekly Announcements

AT CROSS & CROWN

SET YOUR ROOTS @ C&C!

Welcome Home!

That's what we say every time we gather for worship—and we mean it. Many of you have been worshipping 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.



ROADSIDE CLEANUP- SEPT. 6

Looking for a way to serve at Cross & Crown? Join our next Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 6th! We'll meet at the church at 8:45 am. (donuts provided!) go over safety rules, and begin cleanup at 9 am. Most teams finish in about two hours.

No experience needed—volunteers ages 12+ welcome! Use the link below to sign up or contact Stuart and Julie Moffat at 704-517-0272 for details. Thanks for helping keep Matthews clean!

Women & Wine
Saturday, Sept. 6 10 am

*at the home of
Kati Goode & Tammie Hersey*
Bring an appetizer to share & beverage of choice.
Kati & Tammie will provide a Mimosa bar & lemonade.



RSVP Here!

Friday Walking Club

*Think of it as happy hour...
but with sneakers instead of snacks!*

Looking for a little fresh air, friendship, and movement?
Join us each Friday at 4:25 pm for a casual walk
and conversation.

Tai Chi is offered the first Friday of the month!

Join us on **Sept. 5** for our **1st Walk!**



**An announcement you won't want to miss...
come hear the good news!**

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



Wednesday
Night
Happenings

6 pm

Good food. Great people.

Nothing fancy, just the best kind of dinner: homemade,
shared with friends. Join us for
Wednesday Night Happenings this week!

9-3-25

On the menu...

Spaghetti,
Fresh Garden Salad,
Garlic Bread & Dessert



SCAN HERE TO
RSVP



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.

Week at a Glance

Monday, September 1st

Labor Day- Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2nd

12 pm- Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 3rd

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

Thursday, September 4th

7pm- Evening Book Club

Friday, September 5th

9 am- Weight Watchers
4:30 pm- Walking Club

Saturday, September 6th

7:30 am- Men's Fitness Group
8-10 am- Weight Watchers
8:45 am- Roadside Clean Up
10 am- Women & Wine
11 am- Memorial Service for Frank Phelps

Sunday, September 7th

8:15 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School
10:15 am- Worship
11:30 am- Church Potluck & Ministry Fair

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Deanna Herlong
Acolyte:	Nevaeh McClinton
Communion Assistants:	Hugh Kluttz, Cathy Kozlinski
Usher:	Keith Whitener, Roger Black
Communion Set-up:	Hugh Kluttz
Greeters:	Brittany Wellborn
Nursery Assistant:	Kati Goode
C&C Kids:	Jared Blackburn & Pastor
Contribution Counter:	Julie Wright, Sharon Davis
Praying for Possibilities:	Laura Van Landingham

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

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

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