



October 19, 2025
Nineteenth 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 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

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

arr. Keveren

Worship Song

Do it Again

Verse 1

Walking around these walls
I thought by now they'd fall
But you have never failed me yet
Waiting for change to come
Knowing the battle's won
For you have never failed me yet

Chorus

Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness
Faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet

Verse 2

I know the night won't last
Your word will come to pass
My heart will sing your praise again
Jesus you're still enough

Keep me within your love
My heart will sing your praise again

Bridge

I've seen you move
You move the mountains
And I believe
I'll see you do it again
You made a way
Where there was no way
And I believe
I'll see you do it again

Ending

You've never failed me yet
I never will forget
You've never failed me yet
I never will forget

Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We have turned away from you and towards sin.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: We discriminate against people that look and act differently from us. We trample on the needy.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

C: **Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

(Refrain)

You're a good good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are

And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

(Refrain)

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for all of creation.

Gracious God, you lead your people to a deeper connection with you. Unite us as your church so that you are reflected in our response to your grace and in our work. By your Spirit, teach the church to share your Word for the sake of the world.

Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world. By your spirit, guide leaders of all nations and lands to fight for justice for others and the well-being of those in need. Shepherd leaders to work together in harmony to lead with compassion and benevolence.

Almighty God, author and giver of peace, listen to the cry of our human family torn by violent conflict. Grant peace in our time, a peace the world cannot give. Inspire reconciliation by filling hearts with respect and dignity, so that violence may be replaced by love and nations may become brothers and sisters.

And we sing...

(Refrain)

Life-giving God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering. Comfort those in need of your healing. We pray for those with cancer, undergoing treatments, those suffering from mental illness, and those whose bodies are failing them. We lift up to you all on our congregational prayer list and all we name aloud at this time...

(Pause for congregation)

God of Love, we thank you for bringing us together today as Your church. We pray for unity within our congregation, that we may be of one mind and purpose, supporting one another in love. Please give us boldness to share the good news with our community and beyond, reflecting Your glory in all that we do.

We lift to you our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We sing our AMEN.

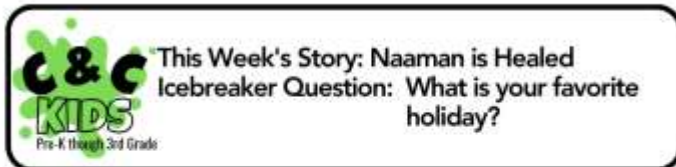
(Refrain)

(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.)*

Welcome New Members

Todd & Catherine Atwood, Allison Michael, Pete & Kathy Shepler, Preston & Emily Tiller (Brooks is a member through baptism), Jason & Dawn Watts (Patrick & Abigail)

THE WORD

2 Timothy 3:15—4:5 (New Living Translation)

¹⁵You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

¹I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ²Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths. ⁵But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Luke 18:1-8a (New Living Translation)

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ²"There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. ³A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' ⁴The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, ⁵but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

⁶Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matt Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Baloche/Hayes

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You, I want to see You, Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart. I want to see You, I want to see You, to see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory. Pour out Your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that Thou art: Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.

(Please stand)

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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—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.

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



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins with a repeat sign. The third staff ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line.

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Future/Past

John Mark McMillan

Verse 1

You hold the reins on the sun and the moon
Like horses driven by kings
You cover the mountains the valleys below
With the breadth of Your mighty wings

Pre-Chorus

All treasures of wisdom and things to be known
Are hidden inside of Your hand
And in this fortunate turn of events
You ask me to be Your friend
You ask me to be Your friend

Chorus

And You You are my first You are my last
You are my future and my past

And You You are my first You are my last
You are my future and my past

Verse 2

The constellations are swimming inside
The breadth of Your desire
Where could I run where could I hide
From your heart's jealous fire

Bridge

You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end
You are the beginning and the end

Interlude

Oh oh oh oh
(REPEAT)

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

Overcome

Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtic

Verse 1

Now the darkness fades
Into new beginnings
As we lift our eyes
To a hope beyond
All creation waits
With an expectation
To declare the reign
Of the Lord our God

Chorus

We will not be moved
When the earth gives way
For the Risen One has overcome
And for every fear
There's an empty grave
For the Risen One has overcome

Verse 2

Now the silence breaks
In the name of Jesus
As the heavens cry
Let the earth respond
All creation shouts
With a voice of triumph
To declare the reign
Of the Lord our God

Bridge

He shall reign forever
Strongholds now surrender
For the Lord our God has overcome
Who can be against us
Jesus our defender
He is Lord and he has overcome

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!

Kids are invited to join Mr. Larry in the choir room for music time!



CORN MAZE ADVENTURE

C&C Youth! Join us for a night of fall fun at the Corn Maze! We'll wind our way through the maze, enjoy a hayride, and then gather around the bonfire to cook hot dogs and make s'mores. Meet us at the maze at 5:30 and be sure to bring your friends, your appetite, and your sense of adventure—it's going to be a blast!

Don't miss this chance to celebrate fall together—sign up today!

Country Days Maze

416 Joe Lee Helms Rd. Indian Trail, NC 28079

5:30, Friday Oct. 24

Cost is \$10 to be paid at the maze
We will provide the hot dogs & s'mores



SCAN TO
SIGN UP





OCTOBER 29

COME FOR DINNER... STAY FOR "TREATS"!



We'll be having hot dogs, chili & slaw for dinner beginning at 6 pm, so sign up for dinner and stay for Trunk or Treat! It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy a meal together, meet new friends, and connect with your church community.

Don't have little ones at home? That's ok! Help be part of the fun! Dress up your trunk, hand out candy, and help us make Trunk or Treat a night to remember!

Gobble, Gobble!



The Men's Group needs your help to collect 30 frozen turkeys to bless local families in need this Thanksgiving! We're asking for 12-15 lb turkeys or a 9 lb bone-in breast (Harris Teeter currently has a great deal on those!).

Please have all turkeys delivered to the church by Wednesday, November 19, before 8 PM. There is a designated space in the large freezer in the Fellowship Hall for the turkeys.

PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE FREEZER DOOR IS SECURELY CLOSED.

Scan the QR code to let us know what you're bringing so we can track our progress. Prefer to give instead? You can sponsor a turkey with a \$25 donation. Questions? Contact Keith Whitener for details.

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CHARLOTTE AREA YOUTH LOCK IN!

Get ready for an unforgettable night of faith, fun, and friendship! Join youth from across the Charlotte area for our Lock-In at Holy Comforter Lutheran Church in Belmont — from Friday, Nov. 14 at 6 pm to Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9 am.

Cost is just \$15 per person to help cover food. We're also asking everyone to bring a new teddy bear to donate. Each church group should come in matching pajamas (yes, matching PJ's!) Questions? See Pastor Melody for more info!

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SAFETY AND SECURITY MINISTRY

We are grateful for the opportunity to worship together each week in a safe and welcoming environment. To help us continue caring for our church family, we are introducing a new Safety and Security Ministry. This ministry will be served by dedicated volunteers from our congregation. Their quiet presence is meant to provide peace of mind and allow us all to focus fully on worship and fellowship. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry please let us know.

An off-duty police officer will assist with exiting traffic onto Pineville-Matthews Road after each service starting this week. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we give thanks to those who serve our church family with hearts of care and stewardship.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

PROPERTY WORKDAY: OCTOBER 25TH



Grab your gloves, your favorite pair of work shoes, and a little elbow grease—it's property workday time! We've got a to-do list ready: paint the lower parking lot stair railing, spread dirt around the MPW, trimming bushes, cutting up two dead trees by the shed, and clearing low-hanging limbs along the driveway and front property.

Don't worry—we'll wrap things up before college football kickoff so you can cheer on your team in the afternoon.
Many hands make light work—come lend a hand!
See you on October 25th @ 9 am!

Help Us Make Chrismons @ the Upcoming Property Workday!

It's hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before we know it! Each year, during our Hanging of the Green service, we gather to decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree. One of the most meaningful traditions is placing Chrismons—special handmade ornaments created with Christian symbols like the cross, dove, fish, and star. These white and gold decorations remind us that Christmas is truly about Christ.

This year, we need to make more Chrismons to adorn our new tree. If you would like to help, we'll provide all the supplies and guidance you need. Join us on the upcoming Property Workday, Saturday, October 25th, and be part of this beautiful tradition!



Oktoberfest

NOVEMBER 1, 4-7 PM

*Grab your lederhosen and your little ones
—it's time for Oktoberfest at C&C!*

We'll have all the classics you love— brats, sauerkraut, beer, etc. For the kids? Bounce house & games that will keep them smiling all afternoon long!



So bring your appetite, a dessert to share, your friends, and your festive spirit!

SCAN
TO
RSVP



Week at a Glance

Monday, October 20th

10 am- Morning Book Club
7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, October 21st

12 pm- Staff Meeting
7 pm- Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 22nd

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

Thursday, October 23rd

7:45 am- Men's Bible Study

Friday, October 24th

4:30 pm- Walking Club
6:30 pm- Youth Group Corn Maze

Sunday, October 25th

8:15 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School Book of Psalm
10:15 am- Worship

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Deanna Herlong
Acolyte:	Rori White
Communion Assistants:	Julie & Ashley Rutkowski
Usher:	Brenda Wagner, Brian Deppe
Communion Set-up:	Jennifer LaMere
Greeters:	
Nursery Assistant:	John Hejka
C&C Kids:	Jason & Dawn Watts
Contribution Counter:	Vivian Farland, Barbara Maillet

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

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

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