

This Is Home

Commitment Sunday



¹⁸ I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us start building!" So they committed themselves to the common good.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

September 28, 2025
Sixteenth 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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, tune Beach Spring
Handbell Choir

arr. McChesney

Worship Song

Rise

Kaple, Barrett, Moore

Verse

Your love will never fail You're steadfast
Your promises are true You're faithful
You cover all my sins with forgiveness
My eyes have seen Your ways Your goodness

Pre-Chorus

Love and faithfulness meet
We behold Your glory
Righteousness and peace kiss
Heaven's all around us

Chorus

Spring up O well
Living Water rise within us
Spring up O well
Holy Spirit deep within us

Interlude

Rise (4X)

Bridge

We'll see Your goodness in the land of the living

Prayers of the Church

(Refrain)

*Lord I need You oh I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense my righteousness. Oh God how I need You.
My one defense my righteousness. Oh God how I need You.*

(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)

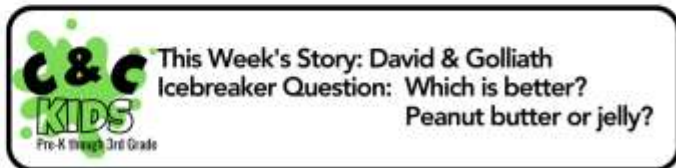
Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy.

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)

(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

Isaiah 43:1-7, 18-19

¹But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

18 Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matt Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Rutter

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all, Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings, All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

The purple-headed mountain, The river running by, The sunset and the morning, That brightens up the sky; The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one; All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well, All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

(Please stand)

Offertory Response

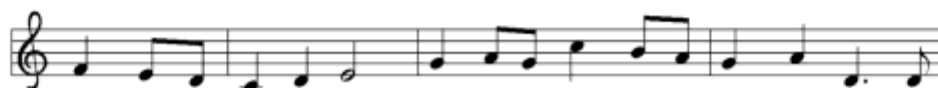
Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



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 -



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



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 Hymn

Reckless Love

Culver, Asbury, Jackson

Verse 1

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

Chorus

(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah

Verse 2

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

Bridge

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after 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 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

Old Church Choir

Wedgeworth, Hulse, Williams

Verse 1

There's revival and it's spreading
Like a wildfire in my heart
A Sunday morning hallelujah
And it's lasting all week long
Can you hear it
Can you feel it
It's the rhythm of a gospel song
Oh once you choose it you can't lose it

Pre-Chorus

(Oh 'cause) There ain't nothing
There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

Chorus

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful
I've got a heart overflowing
'Cause I've been restored
(No) there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

Verse 2

When the valleys that I wander
Turn to mountains that I can't climb
Oh You are with me You never leave me

Bridge

Clap your hands and stomp your feet
'Til you find that gospel beat
'Cause He's all you'll ever need
All you'll ever need
Clap your hands and stomp your feet
'Til you find that gospel beat
'Cause He's all you'll ever need
All you'll ever need

Interlude

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful

Ending

Oh there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

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!**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS- OCT. 5TH DURING 10:15 AM WORSHIP

Join us a special Blessing of the Animals Service at our 10:15 am service on Oct. 5th! Bring your dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, hamsters, fish—if it wiggles, wags, or woofs, it's welcome! Please keep pets on a leash or in a carrier for everyone's safety.

Don't have a pet of your own? No worries—we'll have a stuffed animal ready for you, so everyone can take part in this joyful celebration of God's creation.

Come celebrate God's creatures, great and small, and enjoy this joyful time of paws, praise, and blessings!



 **Mary's
Gathering**
Pause. Pray. Be Refreshed.

Mary's Gathering is a monthly women's fellowship inspired by Mary and Martha. While Martha was busy with many tasks, Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet.

 **October
3**
 **7-9 pm**
 **The Common
Room**



Scan the
QR Code
to RSVP!

Together, we step away from busyness to enjoy fellowship, a short devotional, a creative activity, and prayer—finding refreshment in Christ and community.

Need More Info? Contact Brittany Wellborn



ROOTED SUNDAYS

OCT. 5TH
11:30-2:30

Our first Rooted Sunday was a huge success—and if you haven't joined in yet, now is the perfect time! Hands-on fun, laughs, and Bible adventures await. Come see what the buzz is about!

On Oct. 5th we will be doing wood working and storytelling!



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!



Children, Youth & Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 5
Sunday, Oct. 12
Friday, Oct. 24
Wednesday, Oct. 29

Confirmation, Youth Group, Faith Formation
Family Meet-up: Hall Family Farm
Corn Maze (Youth)
Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, Nov. 2
Friday, Nov. 14
Sunday, Nov. 16
Sunday, Nov. 23

Confirmation, Youth Group, Faith Formation
Charlotte Area Lock-In (Youth)
Family Meet-up: Picnic Lunch & Board Games
Hanging of the Green @ 4pm

Paint & Sip- Nov. 22

Ladies, mark your calendars for another Paint & Sip! After such a fun time at our last gathering, we're excited to do it again. All women of the church are invited to join us for an afternoon of creativity, laughter, and connection!

 Saturday, November 22

🕒 12:30-3:00 p.m.

📍 At the church

\$ \$35 per person (RSVP required in advance)

SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1ST.

WE CANNOT ADD ANYONE AFTER THE SIGN UP DEADLINE.

Scan to
RSVP



We'll sip on wine, enjoy light snacks, and share stories as we create together in a relaxed, judgment-free space. No painting experience needed—just come ready to unwind and have fun!

Love a Good Book & Good Conversation?

The Evening Book Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 pm in the Common Room.

At our October meeting we will discuss

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki.

And in November, we will discuss

The Woman in the Cabin by Becca Day.

Reach out to Jill Jurgensen if you have any questions.

Next meeting is Oct. 2nd.



Week at a Glance

Monday, September 29nd

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 30rd

12 pm- Staff Meeting
7 pm- Worship & Music Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, October 1st

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

Thursday, October 2nd

7 pm- Evening Book Club

Friday, October 3rd

4:30 pm- Walking Club
7 pm- Mary's Gathering

Saturday, October 4th

7 am- Men's Fitness Group

Sunday, October 5th

8:15 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School Book of Psalm
10:15 am- Worship- Blessing of the Animals
11:30 am- Rooted Sunday for Kids & Youth



Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Vaughn Herlong
Acolyte:	Rachel Phillips
Communion Assistants:	Cathy Kozlinksi, Suzy Wleznia
Usher:	Keith Whitener, Garry Rudolph
Communion Set-up:	Rita Deppe
Greeters:	
Nursery Assistant:	John Hejka
C&C Kids:	Jason & Dawn Watts
Contribution Counter:	Barbara Maillet, Cathy Kozlinksi

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

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

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Terry McClure	Hospitality Coordinator	
Jessica Carter	Custodian	

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