

November 9, 2025
22nd 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

Acclamation on "Azmon" O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Handbell Choir

Sherman

Worship Song

River of Mercy

Simpkins

Verse 1

You are the one who was and is to come,
The Alpha and Omega, Kingdom One,
In my joy and in my loss you carry me,
you take my cross, You shower me
with grace at every turn.

Pre-Chorus

I'll give my all to you,
You beckon me, you beckon me,
You come and set your people free,
You shed all my sin upon the shore.

Chorus

Oh sons and daughters, come to the Father,
Breathe in forgiveness, jump in the water,
Oh, let's go,
Come to the River, the River of mercy.

Verse 2

I once was who I thought I'd always be,
Until you came and found and rescued me,

I lost my life into your hands and you raised me up, a
second chance,
And now I get to go and tell the world.

Pre-Chorus

I'll give my all to you,
You beckon me, you beckon me,
You come and set your people free,
You shed all my sin upon the shore.

Chorus

Oh sons and daughters, come to the Father
Breathe in forgiveness, jump in the water,
Oh, let's go,
Come to the River, the River of mercy.

Bridge

(let it ring)
COME COME COME TO THE WATER OH OH
(let it ring)
COME COME COME TO THE WATER OH OH

Chorus

Confession

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Lord God, we have failed as the people you call us to be.
We don't put you as a priority in our lives. We turn our backs on you.
We use your name freely to justify our actions.
We worship money and idols instead of serving the needy and poor.
We neglect those closest to us and take them for granted.
We murder with our words and push others away with our actions.
We don't honor the promises that we make with you and with our partners.
We take without thinking through the consequences of our actions.
We lie to get ahead, make ourselves look better, and to spare feelings.
We are jealous of our neighbors and their possessions.

C: **Lord, Forgive us and bring your grace.**

P: Jesus came into this world to save us from our sins. God runs to us with open arms to offer forgiveness, mercy and love. As a called and ordained ministry of the church of Christ and by His authority and pronouncement to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: **AMEN.**

Prayers of the Church

*You are Holy
You are Holy
You are Holy
You are Holy*

(Refrain)

Let us pray for all those in the world that God created, kneeling, sitting, or standing.

Holy One, we praise you for your overwhelming grace in which you sent your one and only Son to redeem the world. When we face loss, doubt, or endings, lift our eyes to the promise that you are still creating life where we see none. Let the hope of the resurrection shape our courage, our compassion, and our joy today and always.

God of justice, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. We ask for healing for the Veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul. Bring them healing. For those that bravely gave their lives, grant them eternal rest. We give you thanks.

God of life and hope, guide the leaders of our nation and all nations with wisdom rooted in justice and compassion. Where there is conflict, sow in them the courage to choose peace over power, reconciliation over revenge. Let your resurrection hope awaken in every heart a vision of a world renewed by mercy, truth, and love.

And we sing...

(Refrain)

Spirit of God, move in and among your church. In a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building an equitable community where all are valued.

Living God, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. We lift up to you all on our congregational prayer list and all we name aloud at this time...

(Pause for congregation)

Comfort all in need of your tender care.

O God, we lift to you our prayers, 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.**



This Week's Story: Daniel & the Lion's Den
Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite book?

THE WORD

Job 19:23-27a

²³ "O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!

²⁵ For I know that my redeemer lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;

²⁶ and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,

^{27a} whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 20:27-38

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus]²⁸ and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Near the Heart of God

Pollock/Büda

In a place of quiet rest, near the heart of God, We will flee the Tempter's test, near the heart of God. O Jesus, blessed Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before You near to the heart of God.

In a place of comfort sweet, near the heart of God, We will sit at Jesus' feet, near the heart of God. O Jesus, blessed Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before You near to the heart of God.

In a place of full release, near the heart of God, we will find our joy and peace, near the heart of God. O Jesus, blessed Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before You near to the heart of God.

(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



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

Unshakable Grace

Simpkins, Smith, Cooke

Verse 1

I thought I could stand alone until I hit the ground
Never knew I's lost until I was found
You rescued me
You rescued me
you took away my shame
Lost as I am, you gave me my name

Verse 2

I left you for you dead and tried to steal your pride
But you waited and hoped after me
I laid in my tomb till you called me to life
And came running, came running for me
You came running, came running for me

Chorus

So I'm laying down, All of my arms
You're singing my name, in a symphony of grace
You carry my home, you set me a place

When I was hungry, you gave me a taste
Of your restless, unshakable grace
Of your restless, unshakable grace

Verse 3

I was covered in chains that I put on myself
My darkness stole my Victory
But on that third day when you came back to life
You took my chains, now forever I'm free
took my chains, now forever I'm free

Chorus

Bridge x2

When I was in prison
When I was in doubt
You threw away my sin
And carried me out

Chorus x2

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 the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song

Higher

Simpkins

Verse 1

It's harder and harder to walk in this mud
Where I lost everything but my name
Dig me up and out of this mess
Set my feet on solid ground

Pre Chorus

You alone are worthy
You alone are God
You alone are my refuge
So run, run to me

Chorus

Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is, Your love is

Verse 2

I built this darkness all around
Took my hope and buried it deep
I lost everything you gave me

It wasted me, now I see

Pre Chorus

You alone are worthy
You alone are God
You alone are my refuge
So run, run to me

Chorus

Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is lifting me higher
Your love is, Your love is

Tag

For I am convinced that there is
nothing that can separate
from your love, your love, your love
(Not angels, not demons)
(Not heights, not depths)
Your love is lifting me higher

Chorus

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!



Food Drive for Common Heart



Cross & Crown is partnering with Common Heart to help provide food for families in our community who are in immediate need. Your donations make a meaningful difference and help us share Christ's love in practical ways. Please bring non-perishable food items and place them in the collection bins in the Narthex. All donations will go directly to Common Heart, supporting local families facing food insecurity.

Together, we can make a lasting impact and show our community that we care! All nonperishable items are needed!

Annual Meeting **NEXT SUNDAY** CONGREGATION NOTICE

CONGREGATION COUNCIL:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS
NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO
SERVE ON THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL
FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING IN
JANUARY 2026:

TODD ATWOOD
ANN WHITENER

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS
NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
TO SERVE ON THE NOMINATING
COMMITTEE FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM
BEGINNING JANUARY 2026:

JEFF BRATSCHE
JILL JURGENSEN



GOBBLE, GOBBLE!



WE NEED 20 MORE TURKEYS!

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.

SCAN TO
SIGN UP



THANKSGIVING DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED!

The Cross & Crown Community Care Team has partnered with Charlotte Rescue Mission again this year to help provide 30 Thanksgiving meals. The Men's Group is collecting the turkeys, and the sides & desserts have already been purchased. What we need help with is the delivery of the boxes.

If you can donate some of your time, please meet at the church at 9:30 am on Saturday, Nov. 22nd.



THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR COMMON HEART

If you'd like to help provide a Thanksgiving meal for those served by Common Heart, you can make a donation, and Barbara Maillet and Sue Papacharalambous will take care of the shopping for you! When making your donation, please write "Common Heart Thanksgiving Meals" in the memo line.

Flowers for Christmas



We invite you to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas by ordering flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. Your generous contribution will add to the festive atmosphere as we celebrate the birth of Christ. To participate, please complete the flower order form using the insert in the bulletin. **Orders are due by November 30th.**

Thank you for helping us make our Christmas services even more special! Donations can be made to Common Heart in lieu of flowers.



BE A MAN. OF FAITH. MEN'S RETREAT: NOV. 21-23

This isn't your typical men's retreat—it's a retreat for guys who hate men's retreats. Join us at Camp Canaan for a weekend packed with great food and friendly paintball competition. It's a relaxed chance to connect, grow in faith, and enjoy some genuine "guy time."

FRIDAY:

- Arrive: 5–6 PM
- Dinner: Bring your own meat for the grill
- Evening: Root Beer & Bourbon tasting and a devotional led by Pastor Matt

SATURDAY:

- Breakfast: Quick & easy breakfast provided
- Daytime: Paintball Central & Archery Tag
- Lunch: Everyone pays for their own lunch
- Dinner: Make your own pizza night
- Evening: Guest speaker, campfire, and fellowship

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:

- Breakfast: Quick breakfast provided
- Morning: Head home for church with your family.

SCAN TO REGISTER



It's a Cookie Swap!

Women's Ministries is having a cookie swap! Bring a batch of your favorite homemade treats to share, and go home with a delicious assortment from others. It's the perfect way to kick off the season with fun & fellowship!



DEC



1-3 PM

SCAN TO RSVP!



Laura Van Landingham's Home

5150 Blackberry Lane • Matthews, NC 28104



Want to check on your giving progress? Contribution statements are always available—just reach out to Garry Rudolph, our treasurer, and he'll be happy to provide one for you.

Week at a Glance

Monday, November 10th

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, November 11th

9:30 am- Squares of Love Quilting

12 pm- Staff Meeting

6:30 pm- Table Talk

Wednesday, November 12th

6 pm- Wednesday Night Happenings Dinner

6:45 pm- Handbells

7:30 pm- Choir

Thursday, November 13th

7 pm- Miriam Circle

Friday, November 14th

4:30 pm- Walking Club

Charlotte Area Youth Lock In

Saturday, November 15th

2 pm- Bishop Emily Hartner's Installation

Sunday, November 16th

8:15 am Worship

9 am Coffee Hour

9:15 am- Adult Sunday School Book of Psalm

10:15 am- Worship

11:30 am- Annual Meeting

Family Meet Up!

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte:

Communion Assistants:

Usher:

Communion Set-up:

Greeters:

Nursery Assistant:

C&C Kids:

Contribution Counter:

Felicia Eybl

Copeland Simpkins

Julie & Ashley Rutkowski

Leonard Rutkowski, Brian Deppe

Kim Kirk

Cathy Kozlinski

John Hejka

Jason & Dawn Watts

Barbara Maillet, Cathy Kozlinski

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

SCAN TO GIVE



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Dan Goldstein

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