

"Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me. Amen."



October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday
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

Reckless Love

Andy Blackburn, piano

Asbury

Worship Song

One Thing Remains

Verse 1

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains

Interlude

Your love Your love Your love will
never change

Chorus

Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me
(REPEAT)
Your love

Verse 2

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

Bridge

In death in life I'm confident and
Cover'd by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great love
(REPEAT)

Ending

Your love

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 kneeling, sitting, or standing.

Gracious God, Free your church, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel.

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.

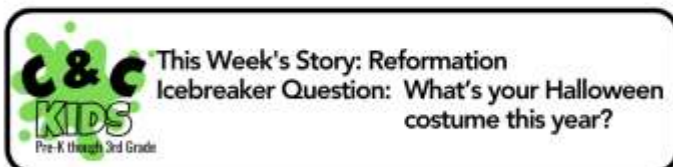
(Refrain)

(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.)*

THE WORD

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

John 8:31-38

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein Feste Burg

All sing St. 1, 2, 4 Choir sings St. 3

(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

The Lion and the Lamb

Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Chorus

Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Verse 2

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Bridge

Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)

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!



OCTOBER 29

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

Dinner is at 6pm

Trunk or Treat begins at 6:45 pm



**HOT DOGS
WITH ALL THE
TRIMMINGS,
SALAD &
DESSERT!**



RSVP FOR DINNER

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!

Oktoberfest

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



**SCAN
TO
RSVP**

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!*

**NOVEMBER 1,
4-7 PM**



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.

SCAN TO
SIGN UP



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!

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!



SCAN TO
REGISTER

Friday, November 22, 12:30-3:00 p.m.

\$35 per person (RSVP required in advance)

**SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1ST. WE
CANNOT ADD ANYONE AFTER THE SIGN UP
DEADLINE.**

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."

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

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

SUNDAY:

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

SCAN TO
REGISTER





November 7



7-9 pm



Common Room

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.



Mary's Gathering

Pause. Pray. Be Refreshed.

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



Annual Meeting November 16

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**

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

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!



SCAN TO
SIGN UP

Week at a Glance

Monday, October 27th

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, October 28th

12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Congregational Care Team Mtg
2 pm- Community Care Team Mtg
6:30 pm- Council Meeting
6:30 pm- Table Talk

Wednesday, October 29th

6 pm- Wednesday Night Happenings Dinner
6:45 pm- Trunk or Treat!
7:30 pm- Choir



Friday, October 31st

4:30 pm- Walking Club



Saturday, November 1st

7:30 am- CCC Men's Fitness
4-7 pm- Oktoberfest



Sunday, November 2nd

8:15 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School Book of Psalm
10:15 am- Worship
11:30 am- Rooted Sunday

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

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Mike Meath
Acolyte:	Copeland Simpkins
Communion Assistants:	Suzy Wleznia, Cathy Kozlinski
Usher:	Leonard Rutkowski, Helen McLiverty
Communion Set-up:	Kim Kirk
Greeters:	Felicia Eybl
Nursery Assistant:	Ann Whitener
C&C Kids:	Pastor, Kia Smith
Contribution Counter:	Julie Wright, Sharon Davis

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

Melody Simpkins	Co-Pastor	pastormelody@crossandcrown.org
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