

"The kingdom
of *heaven*
is like a mustard seed..."

Matthew 13:31



Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship





Following Jesus. Loving & Serving All.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship! Cross & Crown is an inclusive, vibrant Christ-centered church committed to caring for and serving our communities and each other. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome and will worship with us again!

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 & Common Room so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the Common Room 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 & 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 Sharing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

ADDITIONAL 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!

Cross & Crown has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. Come join us for a home-cooked meal on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. See the back of the bulletin for more details and how to RSVP.



Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know your story by scanning the QR code to fill out our First Time Guest Connection Form- share as much or as little as you'd like. It takes less than a minute!



SCAN HERE

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

In Thee is Gladness

arr. Wood

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.

Confession

P: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: **Amen.**

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

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

Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to unite this broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation, kneeling, sitting, or standing as you are able.

God of mercy, you call your church to a life filled with acts of grace and mercy. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world, offer welcome, and proclaim your peace. Give us courage to love our neighbors as you have loved us, especially those who are hurting, forgotten, or in need. Through our words and actions, make us instruments of your healing and reconciliation.

God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, and sustain those who advocate for peace. You call us to act justly and love mercy. Give us strength to be your voice in a broken world. And we sing...

(Refrain)

God of healing, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disabilities. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering, especially those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time...

(We now invite you to speak aloud the names of those for whom you are praying.)

We lift these prayers to you, trusting you hear our hearts and walk with us on this journey through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. We sing our Amen.

(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: Noah's Ark

Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite animal at the zoo?

Welcome Home and Announcements *(See back page for additional announcements.)*

THE WORD

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

Offertory Hymn

182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Hillert



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

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.

COMMUNION

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!

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

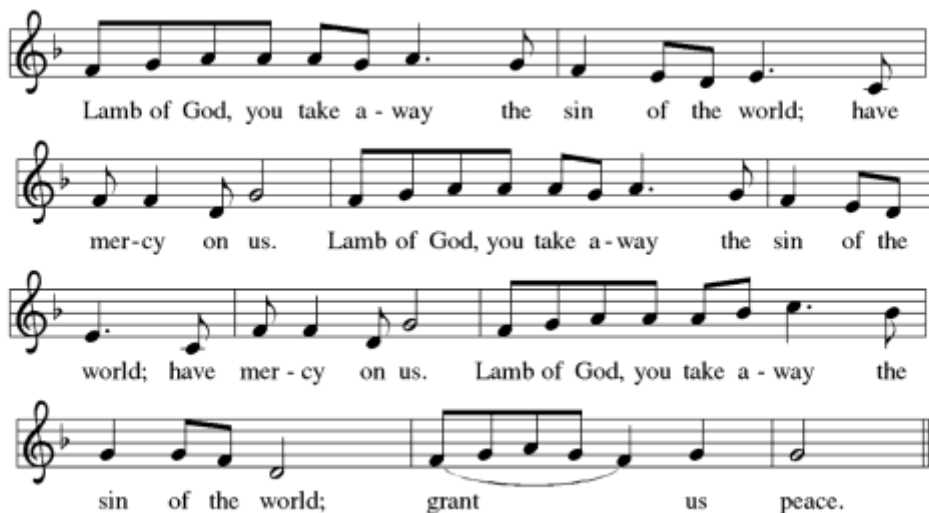
Welcome to the Table

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



Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Rest On Us

Lake, Figueroa, Bashta, Jay, White, Brown

Verse 1

As the Spirit was moving over the water
Spirit come move over us
Come rest on us come rest on us

Chorus

Come down Spirit when You move
You make my heart pound
When You fill the room
You're here and I know You are moving
I'm here and I know You will fill me

Verse 2

Fire and wind come and do it again
Open up the gates let Heaven on in
Come rest on us come rest on us

Bridge

Holy Spirit
Come rest on us
You're all we want You're all we want

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: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Commissioning of those attending the mission trip to Spark Dwell: Austin Goode, Julianna Roach, Dagny White, Rori White, Kenzie Simpkins, Taylor Simpkins, Patrick Watts, Dawn Watts, Margaret White, Pastor Melody

Sending Song

I Thank God

Verse 1

Wandering into the night wanting a place to hide
This weary soul this bag of bones
I try with all of my might
But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting a vagabond

Pre-Chorus 1

And just when I ran out of road
I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone

Chorus

You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

Moses, Butler, Bowe, Cline, Holmes, George

Verse 2

I cannot deny what I've seen
Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving
Nah you ain't welcome here

Pre-Chorus 2

From now till I walk streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home

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: Together we say our mission statement:
C: **Following Jesus, loving and serving all!**
L: Now, go and live it out!
C: **Thanks be to God!**

SPARK'DWELL

Youth Mission Trip to The Dwelling – Leaving TODAY!

Our youth are preparing to embark on a powerful and meaningful mission trip to The Dwelling in Winston-Salem, NC! This unique ministry serves individuals who are experiencing homelessness, and our youth will spend the week learning, serving, and building relationships with this community. They leave this afternoon, and we invite you to keep them in your prayers throughout the week—for safety, growth, compassion, and open hearts. We are so proud of their willingness to step out in faith and serve others in such a hands-on and impactful way.

Thank you for supporting our youth ministry and helping make this experience possible!

Our youth attending are: Austin Goode, Dagny White, Rori White, Patrick Watts, Kenzie Simpkins, Taylor Simpkins, & Julianna Roach. They are being accompanied by Dawn Watts, Margaret White & Pastor Melody.

Celebration of Life Planning Party August 2



**SCAN TO
RSVP!**

Join us for a special afternoon of planning, fellowship, and peace of mind. Whether you're creating your Celebration of Life plans for the first time, or simply want to review and refresh the choices you made last year, this event is for you. Representatives from local funeral homes will be available to answer questions and provide guidance through the planning process, making it easy to explore your options and complete important details. Larry will also be on hand to play a selection of beloved hymns, helping inspire your music selections for your service. Give yourself—and your loved ones—the gift of having your wishes in place, all while surrounded by your church family. Everyone is welcome!

YARD SALE HELP:

Saturday, August 1 | Yard Sale Day

The doors open at 7:00 a.m., and we'll need volunteers throughout the day to greet shoppers, assist with sales, and keep things running smoothly. We'll especially appreciate extra hands around 1:00 p.m. to help take down tables, return chairs to the Fellowship Hall, and wrap things up. A few volunteers will be needed for the heavier lifting.

Thank you for helping make this event a success! Your time and willingness to serve help support the ministries of our church, and we truly couldn't do it without you.



A Practical Way to Help Our Members in Need

One of the things that makes Cross & Crown so special is the way we care for one another. Right now, we have a number of individuals and families within our congregation who could use a little extra support.

Many of these needs are not widely known, as people often face difficult circumstances quietly. Through conversations with Pastor Melody and our Congregational Care Team, we are aware of situations where a little extra help can make a meaningful difference.

Rather than focusing on one specific family or circumstance, we are asking our church family to help us build a supply of gift cards that can be shared as needs arise. Gift cards for grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, Uber, Walmart, Target, pharmacies, or other retailers allow us to respond quickly and thoughtfully to a variety of situations.

During the school year, when we gather for Wednesday Night Happenings, our church family often prepares and delivers meals to members who are recovering from illness, grieving, welcoming a new baby, or simply going through a difficult season in life. During the summer months, however, those meals are not as readily available. A restaurant or grocery gift card allows us to continue extending that same care and support, even when Wednesday Night Happenings is on break.

Whether it's helping someone put food on the table, fill up a gas tank for work or medical appointments, or purchase everyday necessities, even a small gift card can be a tangible reminder that they are seen, loved, and supported by their church family.

You may remember receiving scam emails in the past that falsely claimed to be from Pastor Melody asking for gift cards. Those messages were fraudulent, and we appreciate everyone who helped spread the word. **This request is different—it's really from Pastor Melody and our Congregational Care Team.**

If you would like to help, you may drop off gift cards at the church office or place them in the offering plate in a sealed envelope marked "**Member Care Gift Cards.**"

Thank you for helping us live out Christ's call to love one another. Your generosity allows us to care for members of our Cross & Crown family with dignity, compassion, and discretion whenever the need arises.

Grace & peace,
Pastor Melody, Pastor Matt & The Congregational Care Team

GIFT SHARE UPDATE

Our Gift Share program is taking a break this summer, but what a wonderful experience it has been! There was plenty of fun and learning for everyone. Pam, Criss, and Beanie learned so much about these special adults and were able to adjust along the way to best meet their needs.

Most importantly, as a ministry of Cross & Crown, these adults received a weekly invitation and knew they were truly welcome—in our program, in our church halls,

and in our community. Our partnership with Next Step Clubhouse is truly a beautiful thing. The Clubhouse provides teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities access to inclusive, high-quality social and recreational programs that encourage healthy living, meaningful relationships, creative expression, skill development, and community engagement. Through structured activities and a supportive environment, Next Step Clubhouse helps foster a sense of belonging, dignity, and connection for individuals who can often feel socially isolated after high school.

The next semester of Gift Share begins in September. If you'd like to be part of this special ministry, reach out to Beanie Bragg



Miriam Circle Answers a Need with Compassion

When Miriam Circle learned about a unique need at Anson Correctional Institution, they saw an opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

Forty-eight women at the facility have earned the privilege of living and working together in a special housing unit. They pack and ship food boxes ordered by incarcerated individuals across North Carolina, maintain exemplary inmate status, and voluntarily contribute a portion of each paycheck to a fund that supports victims' families.

Although the women have desks in their cells, they had no chairs. For years, they have written letters, studied, eaten meals, and spent personal time sitting on the floor or on their mattress. Over time, this has contributed to chronic back and joint pain, as well as poor circulation. Touched by this need, Miriam Circle used \$750 from their ministry funds to purchase a chair for each of the 48 women.

What may seem like a simple gift has made a significant difference. More than providing physical comfort, these chairs are a reminder that someone cares. The women expressed heartfelt gratitude for this thoughtful act of kindness, and their appreciation is reflected in the accompanying photo.

Through this generous gesture, Miriam Circle shared Christ's love in a practical and meaningful way, offering comfort, dignity, and hope to women who needed to know they had not been forgotten.



One woman drew a picture of a chair as a thank you to the Miriam Circle.

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, July 28

12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Congregational Care Team Meeting
2 pm- Community Care Team Meeting

Sunday, August 2

8:15 am- Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School
10:15 am- Worship
11:30 am- Celebration of Life Planning

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Hugh Kluttz
Acolyte:	Nevaeah McClinton
Communion Assistants:	Terry McClure
Usher:	David Cox, Brian Deppe
Communion Set-up:	Rita Deppe
Greeter:	Brittany Wellborn
Nursery Assistant:	Amanda Hayes
C&C Kids:	Jason & Dawn Watts
Contribution Counter:	Ann Whitener

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	

***Free Notary Services:** Laura Van Landingham is a commissioned Notary Public. Free notary services are available to Cross & Crown members. Contact Laura to to schedule.

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