



14th Sunday After Pentecost

August 30, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Here I Am, Lord

Carter

Worship Song

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

Johnson, Riddle, Gifford

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: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess to you 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

**Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord**

Trusting that God will provide what we need, we pray for our community, our world, those who are hurting, and all of creation. You may kneel, sit, or stand as you are able.

For churches and faith communities everywhere, help us stay grounded in the love of Christ. When challenges come, give us courage to keep following Jesus and to live out his call to love others.

For the health of our planet, we pray for everything that lives and grows. Bring relief to communities affected by drought, floods, fires, storms, and other natural disasters. Give people wisdom and determination to care for the earth.

For countries and those who lead them, help them work toward peace rather than conflict. Bless diplomats, international organizations, and everyone working to bring peace to places marked by violence and division.

(Refrain)

For everyone who is struggling or in need, make sure no one goes without food, clean water, a safe place to live, or medical care. Bring healing to those who are hurting in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer list and those we name aloud or in our hearts now.

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

For our congregation, help us continue to grow in faith and work together with a shared purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and gatherings so that we listen well, speak honestly, and treat one another with kindness and respect.

For those who have struggles in life, remind us that we never face them alone. Give us courage to take up our cross by choosing love, compassion, justice, and faithfulness, even when the path is difficult. When our burdens feel too heavy, help us trust that you are walking beside us and giving us strength to keep following Jesus.

Hear our prayers, O God, and respond with the love and mercy you have promised. We offer all of this in the name of 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: The 10 Plagues
**Icebreaker Question: Would you rather live
in a treehouse or a cave?**

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

THE WORD

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

The Gift of Love

arr. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, com, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed, by this we worship, and are freed. Amen, Amen, Amen.

Offertory Hymn

182 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



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.

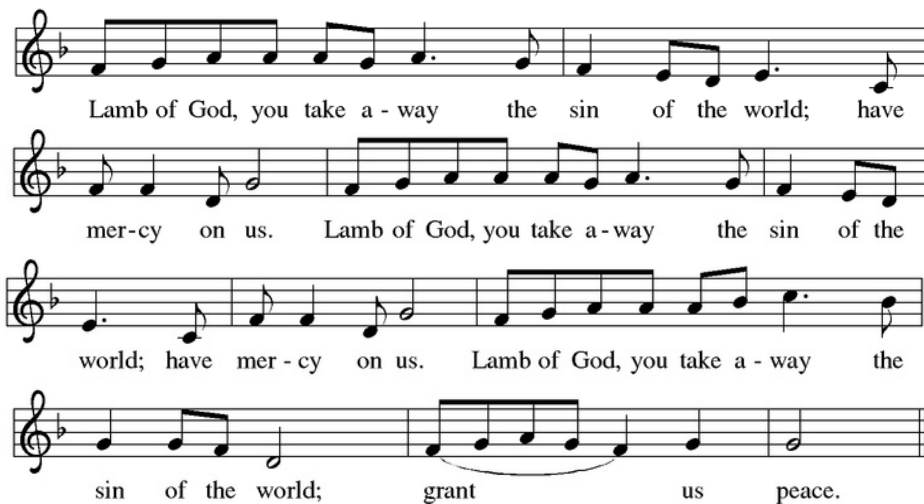
Welcome to the Table

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

Lord, I Need You

Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill, Maher

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

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

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

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

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.

Closing Song

Blessed Be Your Name

Beth Redman, Matt Redman

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

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!**

SUNDAY *Announcements*

SEPTEMBER 20



Rooted Sunday is back for YEAR 2! After an amazing first year, our Rooted Sunday program grew quickly, and we're excited to continue creating a place where children and youth can grow deeper in faith together. Once a month, elementary students, middle schoolers, and high schoolers will explore a common theme through age-appropriate Bible stories, hands-on activities, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to ask questions and connect faith to everyday life. There's something for everyone, and we can't wait to see how God continues to grow our Rooted family!

LUNCH IS PROVIDED! 11:30-2:30

Sept
20

Foundations: What Is Church?/ What is Confirmation?

We'll explore that the Church is not just a building, but the community that gathers around Word and Sacrament. Children will discover that the Church is a place where we hear God's Word, receive God's grace, and grow together in faith. We'll also explore confirmation as a time to ask questions, deepen our understanding of faith, and claim the promises God made to us in baptism as we grow into our lives as followers of Jesus.

Women & Wine

Mimosas, munchies, and morning laughs—what could be better?

You're invited to Women & Wine where the vibes are light, the glasses are bubbly, and the company is fabulous. Hosted by Kati Goode & Tammie Hersey, Saturday, Sept. 12th, 9am-noon

Kati & Tammie will have the Mimosa Bar (non-alcoholic options available, too!) ready to go! All you need to do is bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage of choice (wine, coffee, tea... whatever makes you smile!) Let's sip, snack, and soak up some morning fun together!



SCAN TO RSVP!

Suds & Duds: We Need Your Quarters!



The Community Care Team is getting ready for our Suds & Duds event this October, and we need your help—one quarter at a time!

Did you know that an average load of laundry can cost \$4–\$5 to wash and another \$3–\$5 to dry at a laundromat? We want to help make laundry day a little easier for someone in our community by gifting a small bottle of laundry detergent and a roll of quarters at several local laundromats.

So, start saving those quarters! Drop your spare quarters into one of the collection jars each week and help us spread a little kindness, encouragement, and joy this October. Your quarters can make someone's laundry day—and their day—a whole lot brighter!

YouthQuake- Sept. 26

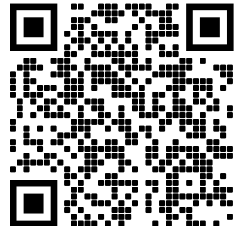
YouthQuake is a gathering for 3rd-5th grade from across the NC Synod for fellowship, learning, service, and worship.

This year, the theme is What is the Church? This year's YouthQuake, Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at First Lutheran, Greensboro. The cost of \$25/person includes lunch and a T-shirt!

Adults: All adults attending must have Safe Gathering Certification or provide proof of other background check and training approved by the church.



**Scan to
Register!**



Hey Kids! Welcome to Worship!

Families with children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to Welcome to Worship on Sunday, September 13, immediately following the 10:15 am service.

This fun, 30-minute experience will help children and parents feel more comfortable and confident worshipping together at Cross & Crown. Parents will meet with Pastor Melody in the Common Room to talk about children in worship and how we can help them grow in faith.

Children will meet with our C&C Kids Leaders in the Fellowship Hall to learn about C&C Kids this fall. Then, we'll head into the sanctuary together to explore the different parts of worship and learn why we do what we do each Sunday. We'll have snacks (allergy friendly snacks, too!)



**Scan to purchase
your book!**

Women's Zoom Bible Study Resumes September 14th!

The Women's Bible Study group meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. We will be starting our next study on Monday, September 14th with "Friends & Sisters; Belong & Relating to One Another in the Family of Faith". This study will run from September 14th – October 12th. If you'd like to join this study please contact

Allison Muzevich @ acm0321@gmail.com.

Books can be purchased from Lifeway Women or by scanning the QR Code!



LOVE WHERE GOD HAS PLANTED US: ROADSIDE CLEANUP

At Cross & Crown, we always say, "Welcome Home." But being at home also means caring for the place God has called us to serve. One simple way we can show Christ's love to our neighbors is by helping keep our community clean and beautiful.

Join us for our next Roadside Cleanup on **Saturday, September 12**. We'll gather at the church at 8:45 a.m. for a brief safety review before beginning cleanup at 9:00 a.m. Most teams finish in about two hours, but the difference. No experience is needed, and volunteers ages 12 and older are welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside fellow members,

meet new people, and be a visible reminder that Cross & Crown cares about our community. Use the sign-up link below or contact Jason Watts @ jswatts72@gmail.com for more information.

Together, let's care for our community and help everyone feel a little more at home!

Why Do You Serve? What does serving at Cross & Crown mean to you?

Our Annual Ministry Fair is returning **September 13-20** in the Narthex, featuring the many active ministries that make our church community thrive. This is a great opportunity to discover ways to get involved, learn more about the ministries happening at Cross & Crown, and find a place where your gifts and passions can make a difference.

This year's theme is "Why Do You Serve?" We want to hear from you! Maybe you serve because you love connecting with others. Maybe you have a passion for helping children, caring for others, worship, outreach, or hospitality. Maybe serving has helped you grow in your faith or has connected you with people you now consider family. Whatever your reason, your story matters.

We invite everyone who serves in a Cross & Crown ministry to share a sentence or two about why you serve. Your responses will be featured as part of the Ministry Fair and may encourage someone else to take that first step into serving. Email your responses to Laura Van Landingham at ministries@crossandcrown.org.

Stop by the Narthex **September 13-20**, explore the ministries represented, and discover where God might be calling you to serve. And if you're already serving, take a moment to share why you serve—you never know who your story might inspire!



LADIES! YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BREAKFAST CLUB!

Good food, good friends, and great conversation!

Collective Café
(1031 Matthews-Mint Hill Rd.)

Sept. 2
7 am



TOWN HALL SEPT. 13

Between Services



Friday Walking Club is BACK!

September 18

**4:25 pm @ Squirrel
Lake Park**



*Think of it as happy hour...
but with sneakers instead of snacks!*

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

7 am Breakfast Club @ Collective Cafe
1 pm- Mahjong
5 pm- Care Givers Support Group
6:30 pm- Council Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 3

7 pm- Evening Book Club

Sunday, September 6

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

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Vaughn Herlong
Acolyte:	Rori White
Communion Assistants:	Mike Meath, Hugh Kluttz
Usher:	Garry Rudolph, David Cox
Communion Set-up:	Rita Deppe
Greeters:	Brittany Wellborn
Nursery Assistant:	John Hejka
C&C Kids:	Kia Smith, Jared Blackburn
Contribution Counter:	Vivian Farland, Cathy Kozlinski

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

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

Melody Simpkins
Matt Simpkins
Larry Stratemeyer
LeAnne Bates
Laura Van Landingham*
Dan Goldstein
Terry McClure
Jessica Carter

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Co-Pastor
Dir. of Music Ministries
Church Administrator
Ministry Program Coordinator
Technical Director
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