

# STAY *Connected* AT CCC

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, JANUARY 21

6th-8th graders, join us for fellowship and study tonight at the **Okies' from 6:00 to 7:30**. Bring your Bible and see the Weekly Update to bring a snack to share!

## MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP TUESDAY MORNINGS

Starting **Tuesday, 1/23, at 7 am**, we will start the VanDixhorn's *Gospel-Shaped Marriage* at Daily Grind in Marietta. We will meet in the Conference Room. Email Cameron at [cameron@christcommunitycobb.org](mailto:cameron@christcommunitycobb.org) for more information or if you plan to attend.

## CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE ON JANUARY 28

Immediately following worship on **Sunday, 1/28**, we will meet to discuss our options concerning the land and a permanent facility. Please join us!

## HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT, FEBRUARY 23-25

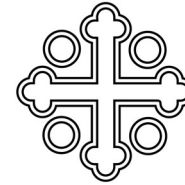
**9th-12th graders**, join us for our annual **Winter Retreat** with East Point Church! The cost is **\$70 per person**, plus \$20 if you would like to play paintball. Our topic is Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17. **Registration closes on February 5th**. Please see the weekly update to register and pay. Contact Matt with any questions!

## UPCOMING MEN'S RETREAT, MARCH 8-9

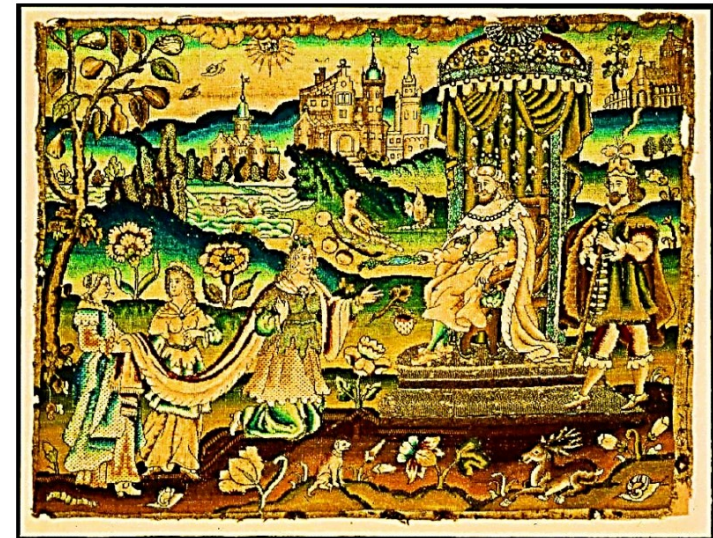
Men, save the date for the 2024 CCC Men's Retreat at Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega AL. The Retreat will begin Friday evening, March 8, and end Saturday afternoon, March 9. Registration will begin in February. Reach out to Robby if you have any questions.

## WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP

Continue to lift up in prayer Mike and Sonya Lightner as they grieve the passing of Mike's dad, Dr. Larry Lightner, who entered the presence of his Savior on January 7th. Be sure to let them know you are thinking of and praying for them.



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[Info@christcommunitycobb.org](mailto:Info@christcommunitycobb.org) ♦ [www.christcommunitycobb.org](http://www.christcommunitycobb.org)  
Christ Community Church is a local congregation of the PCA

**OUR VISION:**  
TO SEE THE GOSPEL CHANGE HEARTS, LIVES, AND COMMUNITY  
BY MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES IN NORTHWEST ATLANTA AND BEYOND  
**CHANGED HEARTS, CHANGED LIVES, CHANGED COMMUNITY**

# OUR *Worship* CELEBRATION

January 21, 2023

## Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

## Welcome

### \*Call to Worship - Psalm 50:1-6

~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

### \*Weekly Congregational Response

~Our humble response to God's call to worship

### \*Prayer of Invocation

~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

### \*Song of Preparation and Praise - *The Lord, Our God*

~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

### \*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Matthew 25:31-46

~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

### \*Congregational Response: Amen!

### \*Song of Comfort - *Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted*

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

### Pastoral Prayer - The Women's Extension and Midway Presbyterian Church, Powder Springs

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

### Sermon - The Garish Celebrations of a Fool: King Ahasuerus's First and Second Banquets Esther 1:1-9

## Preparation of the Table

### Partaking of the Table

~Practiced on a regular basis to make the Word visible.

### \*Doxology

### \*Song of Response - *Come to the Feast*

~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

### \*Announcements

~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

### \*Benediction - 1 Corinthians 15:53-58

~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

### \*Congregational Response: Amen!

### \*Stand

*Giving boxes are located on the table inside the sanctuary by the doors and the welcome table in the lobby.*

## *Come to the Feast*

Go to the highways and hedges  
Go to the farthest of fields  
Go and compel  
The sick and the well  
For our Father's house  
Will be filled

Go to the streets of the city  
Bring in the crippled & blind  
All who would taste  
This banquet of grace  
Must come and  
Waste no more time

*Come to the feast  
Come to the table  
The great and the least  
The rich and the poor  
Come to the feast  
Come to the table  
Come and hunger no more*

In the robe of the lamb  
You'll be covered  
Dressed in his pure  
Righteousness  
For all of your guilt  
His blood it was spilt  
So come by your Father  
Be blessed

SONG OF *Response*

# Doxology

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Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen

# CALL TO Worship

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- <sup>1</sup>The Mighty One, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- <sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.
- <sup>3</sup> Our God comes; he does not keep  
silence; before him is a  
devouring fire, around him a mighty  
tempest.
- <sup>4</sup> He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge  
his people:
- <sup>5</sup> “Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by  
sacrifice!”
- <sup>6</sup> The heavens declare his  
righteousness, for God himself  
is judge!

*Psalm 50:1-6*

<sup>8</sup>To you, O Lord, I cry,  
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:  
<sup>9</sup>“What profit is there in my death,[a]  
if I go down to the pit?[b]  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
<sup>10</sup>Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me!  
O Lord, be my helper!”  
<sup>11</sup>You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
you have loosed my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness,  
<sup>12</sup>that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

*Psalm 30:8-12*

# “THE GARISH CELEBRATIONS OF A FOOL: KING AHASUERUS’S FIRST AND SECOND BANQUETS ”

## ESTHER 1:1-9

### CAMERON BARHAM

**Key Truth: God offers us the opportunity to festively celebrate His eternal gifts accomplished and applied in Christ each week in communal worship.**

#### Introduction:

“Accounts of salvation are always faith-creating and faith-confirming, and somehow Esther conforms to this norm without the necessity to identify that it is God’s hand at work. In other words, the text serves as an invitation. It is as if the author says, ‘I am inviting you to hear this story and to respond to it with faith.’ This journey to faith requires pondering the events, searching for God within the plot, and choosing to see his active presence. So the story ‘veils’ God’s presence rather than hides it, teasing the reader to look beyond the veil to the greater reality that can be uncovered through searching. The story requires a response to the mystery of the veiled presence of God. This response is faith-creating and faith building, for it is a personal and individual response rather than a second-hand one, built only on the author’s own interpretation of the story.”

Debra Reid, *Esther: An Introduction and Commentary*

**Q: *What is more worthy of celebrating than what God has done for you in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit?***

#### Esther 1:1-9: The Festive Celebrations of the Fleeting Accomplishments of a Fool:

“6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.””

*Revelation 19:6-9*

**Q: *What helps you to sing as one who has been eternally forgiven and given eternal life in Christ? How can you partake of the Lord’s Table with greater festivity and joy given what it signifies? How can we be of help to one another in these things?***

#### Application:

**Esther 1:1-9** teaches us that:

-God offers us the opportunity to festively celebrate His eternal gifts accomplished and applied in Christ each week in communal worship.

#### Communion

**Benediction: *1 Corinthians 15:53-58***

## *Come Ye Souls By Sin Afflicted*

Come ye, souls, by sin afflicted,  
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;  
By the broken law convicted,  
Through the cross,  
Behold the crown;  
Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus;  
Look to Jesus;  
Mercy flows through Him alone.

Take His easy yoke and wear it;  
Love will make  
Your obedience sweet;  
Christ will give you  
Strength to bear it,  
While His grace,  
Shall guide your feet  
Safe to glory, Safe to glory,  
Safe to glory,  
Where His ransomed captives meet.

Blessed are the eyes that see Him,  
Blessed the ears that hear His voice;  
Blessed are the souls that trust Him,  
And in Him, alone rejoice;  
His commandments,  
His commandments,  
His commandments  
Then become their happy choice.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,  
Light to newly opened eyes,  
Like full springs in deserts dreary,  
Is the rest, the cross supplies;  
All who taste it,  
All who taste it, All who taste it  
Shall to rest immortal rise  
Look to Jesus; Look to Jesus;  
Look to Jesus;  
Mercy flows through Him alone.

SONG OF  
*Comfort*

## *The Lord Our God*

Promise maker, promise keeper  
You finish what you begin  
Our provision, through the desert  
You see it through to the end  
You see it through to the end

*The Lord Our God is ever faithful  
Never changing through the ages  
From this darkness,  
You will lead us  
And forever we will say  
You're the Lord Our God*

In the silence, in the waiting  
Still we can know You are good  
All Your plans are for Your glory  
Yes we can know You are good  
Yes we can know You are good  
(Chorus)

*We won't move without you  
We won't move without you  
You're the light of all  
And all that we need (3x's)  
(Chorus)*

SONG OF  
*Praise*

# Confession OF SIN

Gracious and Merciful Father,

We come before you to confess our sin as Your redeemed and beloved children. May Your Spirit alone convict us of our sin and remind us of our pardon in Christ through repentance.

*(Take a moment to silently confess.)*

We confess that we are far more festive celebrating worldly things than we are with opportunities to celebrate Your eternal gifts to us accomplished and applied in Christ (**Esther 1:1-9**).

We confess these things before You because You are faithful to forgive us in Christ.

Bless us with the assurance of our pardon by Your Holy Spirit in Christ alone, by faith alone, through Your grace alone, from Your Word.

Amen.

# Assurance OF PARDON

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**Matthew 25:31-46**

(Leader) - And based on the gift of this assurance of pardon to us, God’s people, we all can’t help but say,

**(Congregation) - Amen!**