

STAY *Connected* AT CCC

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, FEBRUARY 4

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!

FEBRUARY LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Pray for the elders meeting on Tuesday, 2/20, to pray and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in overseeing the spiritual health of our church.

NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, FEBRUARY 18

We will not have Sunday School classes on **February 18th** due to the beginning of winter break. Classes will resume February 25th.

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!

MEN'S RETREAT, MARCH 8-9

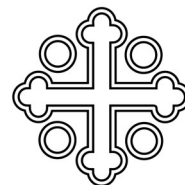
Registration has begun for our upcoming Men's Retreat at Shocco Springs in Talladega, AL. The Retreat will begin Friday evening, March 8, and end Saturday afternoon, March 9. The cost to register is \$100 and includes accommodation, dinner Friday night, and breakfast and lunch Saturday. An optional game of paintball is also planned and requires an additional \$20 to participate. See the Weekly Update for the link to register and reach out to Robby if you have any questions.

WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP

Join us in praying for the Joseph family as they grieve the recent passing of Brianna Joseph's grandfather. Be sure to let Brianna and the Joseph family know that you are thinking of and praying for them.

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

As of January 28th, you've given \$30,116 to Faith Promise. Thank you! **We need \$8,134 to make up the deficit from January**. Please remember that we need \$7,650 per month to fulfill our commitments. We received only \$2112 for January. Please help us stay on budget!



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH



Divine Deliverance from Death to Life in Escher's

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Info@christcommunitycobb.org ♦ 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

February 4, 2024

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship - Psalm 37:1-7**

~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 - *How Long?

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

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - John 17:1-5**

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

***Congregational Response: Amen!**

Song of Comfort - *All Must Be Well

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer - The Stocks, MTW Malaysia and Smyrna Presbyterian Church, Smyrna

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - The Commodifying Love of a Foolish King Esther 2:1-18

CCC Family Addition- The Odom Family

~Our commitment to the life of the Church

Preparation of the Table

Partaking of the Table

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

***Doxology**

Song of Response - *Fast From, Feast On

~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.

Fast From, Feast On

Fast from the swelling darkness,
Feast on the power of his light
Fast from discontentment,
Feast on the joy that he brings

*Sustainer, Protector,
The Well of Life
My Helper, My comfort,
The bread of life
Is you
Is you*

Fast from the fear that haunts us,
Feast on the power of his might
Fast from the trap of judgment,
Feast on all that's been redeemed
(Chorus)

From the sorrow's shadow
To perfect light!
From the darkness of our doubt
To a cleansing white
From the sorrow's shadow
To perfect light
From the blindness of our sin
To healing sight
(Chorus)

Response
SONG OF

Doxology

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

- ¹ Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
- ² For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend
faithfulness.
- ⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your
heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as
the light, and your justice as the
noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently
for him; fret not yourself over the one
who prospers in his way, over the man
who carries out evil devices!

Psalm 37:1-7

“THE COMMODYING LOVE
OF A FOOLISH KING”
ESTHER 2:1-18
ROBBY BAXTER

Key Truth: Jesus showed His love for us by serving us and suffering in our place in order to make us His bride.

- ⁸To you, O Lord, I cry,
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:
⁹“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
¹⁰Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”
¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,
¹²that 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

Esther 2:1-18: The Fool Manipulated at the Cost of Love:

“What a husband we are being prepared for! Christ is no despot in the mold of Ahasuerus, eager to use us and dispose of us, like so many discarded toys. Such a man would not be worthy of our eager submission. But our husband is Jesus Christ, who has loved His bride, the church, with an everlasting love. For our sake, He took on a form utterly without beauty, was despised and rejected by those He came to save, was cut off from the land of the living (Isa. 53:3-2). In contrast to Esther’s twelve-month-long course of beauty treatments, our divine husband undertook a thirty-three-year pilgrimage, stripped of His eternal radiance. No comfortable beds and fattening food for Him, nowhere to lay His head and nothing to call His own. His pain was the prerequisite for our beauty.”

Iain M. Duguid, *Esther & Ruth*

Q: *In what ways are you growing in your affection for Jesus? In what ways are you tempted to adopt a commodified mode of relating to Jesus?*

Application:

Esther 2:1-18 teaches us that:

-Jesus showed His love for us by serving us and suffering in our place in order to make us His bride.

Communion

Benediction: *1 Corinthians 15:53-58*

SONG OF
Comfort

All Must Be Well

Through the love of God our Savior,
All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor,
All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand
Stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation,
All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's Guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well
Faith can sing
Through days of sorrow,
All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

SONG OF
Praise

How Long?

How long
Will You turn Your face away?
How long
Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on,
Still we walk this pilgrim way
How long?

How long
'Til Your children find their rest?
How long
'Til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on
Holding to Your promises
How long?

*'Til You wipe away the tears
From ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending From the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long
'Til Your word will still the storm?
How long
'Til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan
'Til You snatch us from the thorns How long?

How long?
Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long?
Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on...
Great that cloud of witnesses!
How long?

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 slow to celebrate the dignity Jesus bestowed upon us by suffering for us to make us His bride **(Esther 2:1-18)**.

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

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

John 17:1-5

(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!