



The *Missio Dei* in the Psalms



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
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The Missio Dei in the **Psalms**

Introduction

The *missio Dei* (or mission of God) has always been for Him to dwell with His people in the fullness of joy and peace in His relationship to us as His children who bear His image. This mission accomplished would fill the heavens and earth with His glory. Ultimately, the *missio Dei* was God's purpose in placing humanity in the Garden of Eden to serve as vice regents to tend and expand the Garden where they dwelt with Him to fill the earth with His glory (cf. **Genesis 1-2**). This mission would not be thwarted by the fall. From the wreckage of Adam's sin, the promise of a Son who would reconcile God's children to Him rises in **Genesis 3:15**. The seed of God's mission finds further purchase in the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant in which God's blessed presence and Fatherly love are promised to the nations (cf. **Genesis 12**). God goes on to choose and form a people for His missional purpose as He delivers Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. They were to learn how to worship and relate to Him in the wilderness before receiving the Promised Land to serve as a priesthood of His love and holiness to the surrounding nations as part of the Abrahamic Covenant (cf. **Exodus 19:1-6**). The Davidic Covenant in **2 Samuel 7** ensures that they will always have a man after God's own heart to lead them to be obedient to God's mission in both triumph and defeat. This covenant would hold in seed form throughout the darkest nights of both body and soul for the people of God as they bore the disciplinary stroke of exile for both kingdoms, yet the mission of God would continue according to His faithfulness (cf. **Jeremiah 29:1-14, Daniel**). Even when the prophetic silence of God descended like a thick darkness for close to 400 years after **the prophecy of Malachi**, the mission of God carried on in history through His faithful servants and their worship and discipleship.

One of the key elements of their worship and discipleship during this long silence was **the book of Psalms** (or the Psalter).¹ It served as their primary hymn book and reminder that God had not forsaken them or His mission in this world. Though God had fallen silent, the people were still able to feed on what He had said. Through their worship, the people of God would be reminded weekly of God's covenants and promises related to His mission. The Psalter was critical to informing, shaping, and sustaining their identity and hope in God fulfilling His redemptive mission. As George Peter's observes, "... missionary preaching is supported in the Psalms by more than 175 references of a universalistic note relating to the nations of the world. Many of them bring hope of salvation to the nations....Indeed, the Psalter

¹ See Bruce K. Waltke and James M. Houston with Erika Moore, *The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2010) for further information.

is one of the greatest missionary books in the world, though seldom seen from that point of view.”²

Given that we are a royal priesthood chosen in Christ to proclaim the glory of God in this darkened world according to **2 Peter 2:9-12**, we too would benefit from being informed, shaped and sustained by God’s covenants and promises related to God’s mission as declared in the Psalms. We will delve into but 6 of the Psalms that reflect the various aspects of the *missio Dei*. Each week will highlight a different facet of His mission: Christ’s purpose (**Psalm 2**), God’s love for the poor and the oppressed (**Psalm 72**), our purpose (**Psalm 51**), God’s love for the nations (**Psalm 67**), the purpose of worship (**Psalm 96**), and our responsibility to the coming generations (**Psalm 145**). It will be important for us to come to worship with teachable hearts and minds and willing hands and feet for the purpose of the mission of God. Remember, you were saved and given gifts and resources in order to display God’s glory and proclaim His goodness in this world. Christopher J.H. Wright points out that “God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God’s mission.”³ Please humbly know that it is not your responsibility to participate in every missional thing, but you should be participating in something missional. In addition, remember that it is God’s mission to which we are being called and not our mission to which we are calling God. We should seek to be obedient to His word in the context that He has sovereignly placed us engaging the opportunities He providentially brings us with the array of resources that He graciously provides.⁴

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from the **Isaiah** in which the prophet declares the mission of God in all of its redemptive glory. We will confess together each week **John 3:16-21** to remind us of why God sent His Son into this broken and fallen world. The assurances of pardon will come from **the Gospel of John** which declares the glorious love of God in the person and redemptive work of Christ. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from **Revelation 7** to remind us of the missional goal of redemptive history which we are to eagerly look forward to and long for as the blessed consummation of all things. The goal of these various elements is to show us that the person and work of Christ is critical for our understanding of how to serve as ambassadors of reconciliation.

² George Peters, *A Biblical Theology of Missions* (Chicago: Moody, 1972), 115-116.

³ Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible’s Grand Narrative* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2007), 62.

⁴ Please see the Appendix: Faith Promise at the end of this devotional to read about the various missional opportunities that our church supports locally and world-wide.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC through Faith Promise and Local Missions. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the Holy Spirit to cultivate our heart to reflect the missional heart of our Heavenly Father, or prepare for the appropriate sacrament, and on Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, to prepare ourselves for worship in the presence of the Lord. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Sermon Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Call to Worship</i>	<i>Assurance of Pardon</i>	<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Sacrament</i>
<i>Sunday, 1/14:</i> Psalm 2	Isaiah 11:1-10	John 3:31-36	Revelation 7:9-12	
<i>Sunday, 1/21:</i> Psalm 72	Isaiah 1:9-20	John 6:41-51	Revelation 7:9-12	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 1/28:</i> Psalm 51	Isaiah 12:1-6	John 8:31-36	Revelation 7:9-12	
<i>Sunday, 2/4:</i> Psalm 67	Isaiah 19:19-25	John 12:44-50	Revelation 7:9-12	
<i>Sunday, 2/11:</i> Psalm 96	Isaiah 25:1-9	John 17:1-5	Revelation 7:9-12	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 2/18:</i> Psalm 145	Isaiah 62:1-5	John 17:20-26	Revelation 7:13-17	

Weekly Congregational Confession

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

John 3:16-21

Psalm 2

The Week of January 14th

Monday, 1/8: **Isaiah 11:1-10:** Meditate on the results of the reign of the Root of Jesse in **verses 6-10**. Give thanks for what you are most looking forward to in His realized reign.

Tuesday, 1/9: **John 3:31-36:** What are some ways in which you have experienced Christ giving you the Holy Spirit without measure?⁵

Wednesday, 1/10: Pray for the Caltons with RUF at KSU that the Holy Spirit would use their ministry to help others to come to worship Jesus Christ as the King of all nations.

Thursday, 1/11: **Psalm 2:** What are some ways in which you are comforted by the sovereignty of the Lord over this world? How does this affect your view of current events?

Friday, 1/12: **Revelation 7:9-12:** Praise God for the blessing that your salvation belongs solely to Him through the Lamb who sits on the throne.

Saturday, 1/13: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw those who have raged against Jesus in vain to worship on Sunday to become the blessed who take refuge in Him.

Sunday, 1/14: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to draw us into a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ the King.

⁵ Remember that the Holy Spirit was sent to convict, comfort, guide us in the truth, glorify Christ, and provide us with gifts to use to edify one another and serve God's mission (cf. **John 14:4-15, 1 Corinthians 12-14**).

Psalm 72

The Week of January 21st

Monday, 1/15: **Isaiah 1:9-20:** What is the clear evidence of our having been washed clean according to this passage? Is this evident in some way in you?

Tuesday, 1/16: **John 6:41-51:** What are some ways in which you have been nourished by the life and work of Jesus who is the bread of life?

Wednesday, 1/17: Pray for Chris Foglesong and Mountain City Church in Jasper that the Holy Spirit would use their church to proclaim the Lord as a stronghold for the oppressed.

Thursday, 1/18: **Psalm 72:** What cause does the Royal Son defend? Who does He deliver? Who does He crush?

Friday, 1/19: **Revelation 7:9-12:** Give thanks to God for delivering the poor, needy, and oppressed from all tribes, peoples, and languages.

Saturday, 1/20: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ making your cause just in His applied righteousness.

Sunday, 1/21: **The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:** Pray for the means of grace to nourish our love for justice for the poor and oppressed to the glory of God.

Psalm 51

The Week of January 28th

Monday, 1/22: **Isaiah 12:1-6:** Meditate on the ways in which the Lord has comforted you after His anger was turned from you. Praise Him for being your strength and song!

Tuesday, 1/23: **John 8:31-36:** What are some evidences of Jesus having set you free indeed?

Wednesday, 1/24: Pray for Morgan Rogers, intern with CO at KSU, that the Holy Spirit would use her to make disciples with clean hearts and right spirits who make disciples.

Thursday, 1/25: **Psalm 51:** Has your salvation led you to teach others of God's redemptive ways? If not, what is keeping you from being obedient to this call?

Friday, 1/26: **Revelation 7:9-12:** Give thanks to the Lord for blessing your efforts to share the Gospel with others who might be numbered among the great multitude.

Saturday, 1/27: Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you an opportunity to share your story of redemption with someone whom the Spirit will return to the Lord.

Sunday, 1/28: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to cultivate a broken and contrite heart within us for God's glory.

Psalm 67

The Week of February 4th

Monday, 1/29: **Isaiah 19:19-25:** Who all is the Lord pursuing for redemption in this passage? Why is this so significant?

Tuesday, 1/30: **John 12:44-50:** Who actually grants us eternal life? What impact should this have on our understanding of the person and work of Christ?

Wednesday, 1/31: Pray for the Mills with MTW in Thailand at Grace City Bangkok that the Holy Spirit would use their ministry to help others know your saving power and sing for joy.

Thursday, 2/1: **Psalm 67:** What is the evidence of God's favor upon His people? How should this affect what we pray for at CCC?

Friday, 2/2: **Revelation 7:9-12:** What are some ways in which you have been blessed by God's redeeming people from every tongue, tribe, and nation?

Saturday, 2/3: Pray that God would make His face to shine upon us through the fruit born of our missional efforts to make His way and saving power known among the nations.

Sunday, 2/4: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to stir us to be glad and sing for joy because of God's redemptive equity and guidance among the nations.

Psalm 96

The Week of February 11th

Monday, 2/5: **Isaiah 25:1-9:** Meditate on what we have to look forward to in the new Heavens and new Earth. What most excites you from this vision?

Tuesday, 2/6: **John 17:1-5:** What is eternal life according to this verse? How are you cultivating your knowledge of the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent?

Wednesday, 2/7: Pray for Avery Mayes, intern with RUF at KSU, that the Holy Spirit would use her ministry to help others come to worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Thursday, 2/8: **Psalm 96:** What is the missional message that we are to share with the nations? What role does worship play in this?

Friday, 2/9: **Revelation 7:9-12:** What are some ways in which God has blessed you through your worship of Him?

Saturday, 2/10: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ granting you the ability to come before the Lord to worship.

Sunday, 2/11: **The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:** Pray for the means of grace to nourish our worship of the Lord in spirit and truth.

Psalm 145

The Week of February 18th

Monday, 2/12: **Isaiah 62:1-5:** Meditate on the fact that God will rejoice over you as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride. What causes you to struggle with this reality?

Tuesday, 2/13: **John 17:20-26:** What did Jesus pray for concerning us? Are these things important to you?

Wednesday, 2/14: Pray for the First Care Women's Clinic in Marietta that the Holy Spirit would use their ministry to preserve and commend your works to the next generation.

Thursday, 2/15: **Psalm 145:** What is our responsibility to the coming generations? What are some ways in which you are being obedient to this responsibility?

Friday, 2/16: **Revelation 7:13-17:** Give thanks for the blessed end of hunger, thirst, scorching exposure, and tears in the fully realized reign of the Lamb.

Saturday, 2/17: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw our children to God in Christ so that they would pour forth the fame of His abundant goodness and sing aloud of His righteousness.

Sunday, 2/18: **The Lord's Day Sabbath:** Pray for the means of grace to nourish our desire to share the Gospel with the coming generations.

Appendix:

Faith Promise

Support for Missions at Christ Community

Each February (soon to transition to September: *see Special Note below*), we invite those who are a part of Christ Community to make commitments via a pledge card as to what they will give toward missions at our church. Rather than waiting to respond to individual appeals as they come along, believers ask the Lord how much they should give to missions over the next year. They then commit to that annual total as a "Faith Promise" that you believe God is calling you to and that God will provide for you to keep in His faithfulness to you and your family. Faith Promise thus makes missions giving strategic rather than sporadic and faith-based rather than if we have it to give. Other benefits of Faith Promise giving include: encouragement of Christ's lordship in our lives; a reminder to us to keep an eternal perspective; promotion of voluntary giving that is not duty-oriented or compulsory, but rather is motivated by God's grace; the teaching that the "promise" in Faith Promise is not ours to keep to God, but rather it is a promise of His faithfulness to us; and the development of trust in God that He will provide for our own needs.

Faith Promise giving is over and above the tithe. Tithing is a clear scriptural principle, dating back to the earliest pages of Genesis. Tithing recognizes God's ownership over us and all that we have. In practical terms, tithe money runs the local church and its ministries. Faith Promise is a financial commitment to generously give to efforts to reach the unreached both near and far. We want to be able to give substantially to the missionaries we support as part of a deeper relationship with each one. Our hope is to be able to grow in the number of church plants, missionaries, and pastoral candidates that we support.

Our budget for **March 2017-February 2018** is **\$56,500**. Any excess that we receive will be used for whatever missional needs that the Lord brings to us in the Spirit. Every dollar given to Faith Promise is used for missions.

Special Note: We will keep this same basic budget for **March 2018-August 2018** which is **\$28,250** for the six months so that we can match our fiscal year for Faith Promise with that of our general budget. We will pledge again in **September 2018** for the **September 2018-August 2019** year. Join us in praying that the Lord would trust us with the resources to add missionaries, church plants, or other missional causes for His glory!

Church Plants:

We recognize that church planting is critical to the mission of God in local contexts which is why we want to support church plants where there is a need for Gospel in word and deed. We currently support 2 church plants in Georgia. **Riverside Community Church** (<http://www.riversidecartersville.com/>) is in Cartersville, Georgia. Jody Stancil serves as the planting pastor and was a church planting intern at CCC. We continue to give \$600 per month in order to help them move toward particularization. Marc Start, ruling elder, serves once a month on the music team and helps serve communion. **Mountain City Church** (<http://www.mccjasper.com>) is in Jasper, Georgia (Pickens County is currently the least churching county in Georgia). Chris Foglesong serves as the planting pastor and is a friend to several of us at CCC. We started currently support them at \$175 per month.

International Missionaries:

We know that God longs to reach the nations through His church so we support several works across the globe as a reflection of His heart for the lost from every tongue, tribe, and nation. We currently support 4 missionaries on a monthly basis:

- The Stocks with Mission to the World (MTW) in Southeast Asia: \$500/month
- The Larsens with MTW's NEXT, a global youth ministry: \$500/month
- The Robertsons with MTW in Chile: \$600/month
- The Mills with MTW in Thailand: \$1,000/month

The goal is to be able to support them with a significant financial gift as well as regularly praying for and maintaining a relationship with them.

Campus Ministry:

We are aware of how challenging college can be to those who profess faith and for those who don't believe. Campus ministry often provides opportunities to strengthen and make disciples. We currently support the Caltons with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at KSU at \$500/month. We also have given one time gifts of \$3,500 to Campus Outreach (CO) and RUF interns at KSU and to Johann Guadalupe starting CO at Dalton State.