

# STAY *Connected* AT CCC

## NO YOUTH GROUP, FEBRUARY 25

There is no youth group tonight due to the High School Retreat.

## FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

As of **February 11th**, we've **given \$32,294 to Faith Promise**. Thank you! We need **\$13,706 to stay on budget for February**. Please help us not fall too far behind on our commitments to others!

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

We will be mailing care packages with small gift cards, treats, and other items to CCC students attending college away from home. See the weekly update for a sign up link to contribute items or to donate the shipping cost or cost of an item. Donations are due by today, **Sunday, Feb. 25**. There will be an info table in the lobby before and after **today's service** where you can ask questions and drop off donations. Thank you for helping our church show Christ's love to these college students!

## MEN'S RETREAT, MARCH 8-9

Registration is still open 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.

## NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Beginning Wednesday, Feb 28**, we will prepare for Sunday morning worship by reading over and meditating on each week's sermon passage for the rest of the book Esther. The study begins at 7pm at Alyssa Hood's house (341 Kirkpatrick Dr, Marietta). Please contact Alyssa for further info or rsvp by email ([alyssanhood@gmail.com](mailto:alyssanhood@gmail.com)) or phone 678-687-0227.



*Divine Deliverance from Death to Life in Esther*

Scan this QR code for Online Giving, Visitor Information and Prayer Requests



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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 25, 2024

## **Prelude**

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

## **Welcome**

### **\*Call to Worship - Psalm 121**

~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 - *Be Thou My Vision***

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

### **\*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Luke 22:39-46**

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

### **\*Congregational Response: Amen!**

### **\*Song of Comfort - *Did Christ Over Sinners Weep?***

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

### **Pastoral Prayer - Chris and Kelsey Blackman - RUF at KSU, and James Li, Atlanta Covenant Church, Marietta, GA**

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

### **Sermon - The Wise Use of the Means of Grace and Faithful**

Obedience: How Best to Wait on God

Esther 4:1-17

### **Preparation of the Table**

#### **Partaking of the Table**

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

### **\*Doxology**

### **\*Song of Response - *Come As You Are***

~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 As You Are***

Come out of sadness  
From wherever you've been  
Come broken hearted  
Let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy  
Oh sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

*So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are*

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table  
Come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't cure  
(Chorus)

There's joy for the morning  
Oh sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
(Chorus)

*Response*  
**SONG OF**

# 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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I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade on your right  
hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

*Psalm 121*

"THE WISE USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE AND  
FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE: HOW BEST TO WAIT ON GOD"  
ESTHER 4:1-17  
CAMERON BARHAM

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**Key Truth: God calls us to use the means of grace and remain faithful in obedience while we await His most wise response to our distress.**

**Introduction:**

**Q: Which way do you run when in distress? How do you run? Who do you invite with you?**

<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,  
if I go down to the pit?  
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*

**Esther 4:1-17: Fasting, Prayer, and Faithfulness: Mordecai and Esther's Examples:**

"...the book (of Esther) assumes God's activity, evident in God-shaped holes in the narrative, and these become apparent by a close reading of the text. Somehow, in the faithful action of God's people we discover the working of God for His people."

David G. Firth, *The Message of Esther: God Present But Unseen*

**Q: When in distress, which means of grace do you make use of? Do you think you get God's attention more by disobedient pouting as you distance yourself from Him or by faithful lament as you draw near to Him?**

**Application:**

**Esther 4:1-17** teaches us that:

-God calls us to use the means of grace and remain faithful in obedience while we await His most wise response to our distress.

**Communion**

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

SONG OF  
Comfort

*Did Christ Over Sinners Weep?*

Did Christ over sinners weep  
And shall our cheeks be dry?  
Let floods of penitential grief,  
Burst forth from every eye  
Burst forth from every eye

*Behold the Son of God in tears,  
The angels wondering see  
Hast thou no wonder, O my soul?  
He shed those tears for thee!*

He wept that we might weep,  
Might weep over sin and shame  
He wept to show His love for us,  
And bid us love the same  
And bid us love the same  
(Chorus)

Then tender be our hearts,  
Our eyes in sorrow dim  
Til every tear from every eye,  
Be wiped away by Him  
Be wiped away by Him  
(Chorus)

SONG OF  
Praise

*Be Thou My Vision*

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

Be Thou my Wisdom  
Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee  
Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father  
I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling  
And I with Thee one

Riches I heed not  
Nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance  
Now and always  
Thou and Thou only  
First in my heart  
High King of heaven  
My Treasure Thou art

High King of heaven  
My victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys  
O bright heav'ns son!  
(Heart of my own heart  
Whatever befall  
Still be my vision  
O Ruler of all) (Repeat)

# 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 often fail to make use of the means of grace and continue in faithful obedience while we wait on You in our distress (**Esther 4:1-17**).

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>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**Luke 22:39-46**

(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!**