

STAY *Connected* AT CCC

**NO YOUTH GROUP, FEBRUARY 15**

There will be no youth group tonight due to winter break.

**NEXT LORD'S TABLE SERVED, FEBRUARY 22**

Come to worship with your heart and mind prepared to celebrate the sacrament of communion.



# Ecclesiastes

*The frustrating Elusiveness of Life  
and a Joyful Faith in the fear of the Lord*

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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 15, 2026

**Prelude**

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship - Psalm 49:1-15**

~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 - *Ascribe***

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

**\*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

~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 - Parakaleo Ministries and  
Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church, Woodstock**

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

**Sermon - The Gatherer's Struggle with the Paradox of Living Wisely  
Ecclesiastes 2:12-17**

**Deacon Installation**

**\*Song of Response - *Death Was Arrested***

~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 - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

~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.*

## Death Was Arrested

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin  
Lost without hope with no place to begin  
Your love made a way  
To let mercy come in  
When death was arrested  
And my life began

Ash was redeemed, only beauty remains  
And my orphan heart was given a name  
My mourning grew quiet  
My feet rose to dance  
When death was arrested  
And my life began

*Oh your grace, so free  
Washes over me  
You have made me new  
Now life begins with you  
It's your endless love  
Pouring down on us  
You have made us new  
Now life begins with you*

Released from my chains  
I'm a prisoner no more  
My shame was a ransom he faithfully bore  
He canceled my debt  
And He called me His friend  
When death was arrested  
And my life began  
(Chorus)

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross  
Darkness rejoiced  
As though Heaven had lost  
But then Jesus arose  
With our freedom in hand  
That's when death was arrested  
And my life began  
(Chorus)

SONG OF  
Response

CALL TO  
Worship

- <sup>1</sup> Hear this, all peoples!  
Give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
- <sup>2</sup> both low and high, rich and poor together!
- <sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak wisdom;  
the meditation of my heart shall be  
understanding.
- <sup>4</sup> I will incline my ear to a proverb;  
I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre.
- <sup>5</sup> Why should I fear in times of trouble,  
when the iniquity of those who cheat  
me surrounds me,
- <sup>6</sup> those who trust in their wealth  
and boast of the abundance of their riches?
- <sup>7</sup> Truly, no man can ransom another,  
or give to God the price of his life,
- <sup>8</sup> for the ransom of their life is costly  
and can never suffice,
- <sup>9</sup> that he should live on forever  
and never see the pit.
- <sup>10</sup> For he sees that even the wise die;  
the fool and the stupid alike must perish  
and leave their wealth to others.
- <sup>11</sup> Their graves are their homes forever,  
their dwelling places to all generations,  
though they called lands by their own names.
- <sup>12</sup> Man in his pomp will not remain;  
he is like the beasts that perish.
- <sup>13</sup> This is the path of those who have  
foolish confidence; yet after them,  
people approve of their boasts. Selah
- <sup>14</sup> Like sheep, they are appointed for  
Sheol; death shall be their shepherd,  
and the upright shall rule over them in  
the morning.  
Their form shall be consumed in Sheol,  
with no place to dwell.
- <sup>15</sup> But God will ransom my soul from the  
power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

“THE GATHERER’S STRUGGLE WITH THE  
PARADOX OF LIVING WISELY”  
ECCLESIASTES 2:12-17  
CAMERON BARHAM

Heavenly Father,  
We come this morning seeking You while  
You may be found;  
We call upon You while You are near;  
We forsake our wicked ways, and our  
unrighteous thoughts;  
we return to You, O Lord, that You may have  
compassion on us,  
for You abundantly pardon in Christ.  
Your thoughts, heavenly Father, are not our  
thoughts, neither are our ways Your ways.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are Your ways higher than our ways and  
Your thoughts than our thoughts.  
For as the rain and the snow come down  
from heaven and do not return there but  
water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout, giving  
seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall Your word be that goes out  
from Your mouth;  
it shall not return to You empty, but it shall  
accomplish that which You purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which You  
sent it—our redemption in Christ.  
For we go out in joy and are led forth in peace;  
Creation breaks forth in a chorus of praise  
and longed-for joy  
At our revealing as Your sons and daughters.  
May we bring everlasting praise to Your name,  
O Lord.

Adapted from **Isaiah 55:6-13**

**Key Truth:** God calls us to live wisely in union with Christ to bear eternal fruits in Him.

**Introduction:**

**Q:** *What makes something worth doing wisely?*

**Ecclesiastes 2:12-17: The Ultimate Futility of Living Wisely Under the Sun:**

“Understandably, Qoheleth hates life for its accompanying grief and brevity. But why are his feelings so strong? The first reason is psychological: as in all frustrations or disappointments, his expectations are momentarily unrealistic—as if any true benefit from wisdom would have an eternal duration or any truly *permanent* fruit. The second reason is theological: it would hardly have been a divine curse if he were passive about the Fall, or loved its impact. That Qoheleth hates life, and the grueling nature of work on a cursed earth, was nothing less than the very design of God’s judgment in the first place.”

**Daniel C. Fredericks, “Ecclesiastes” in *Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs*  
with Daniel J. Estes**

**Application Questions:**

1. *What is helping you to grow in living wisely in union with Christ?*
2. *What is helping you to deal with the delayed gratification of living wisely in union with Christ?*

**Application:**

**Ecclesiastes 2:12-17** teaches us that God calls us to live wisely in union with Christ to bear eternal fruits in Him.

**Benediction:** *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

## *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*

## *Ascribe*

Ascribe unto the Lord  
The glory due His Name  
Ascribe unto the Lord  
The honor and the praise  
For He is holy  
And He is worthy of  
All of the glory  
And all of our love  
(Repeat)

Great and marvelous  
Are Your works, Oh Lord  
Just and true  
Are all of Your ways in all the earth  
Alpha, Omega,  
The Beginning and the End  
Forever we'll praise  
The Name of the Lord most high  
(Repeat)

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 too often fail to live wisely in union with Christ, because we don't see the lasting benefits from having done so **(Ecclesiastes 2:12-17)**.

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>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

(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!**