

STAY *Connected* AT CCC

VBS AT HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We have some opportunities to serve with and be served by Hope Presbyterian Church in Marietta (4101 Sandy Plains Rd, Marietta, GA 30066). The first is that **volunteers are needed to help prepare classroom spaces and other areas on Saturday, July 11th**. Please email Eugene and Katie McKinnon at ekatmckinnon@gmail.com if you can help.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The Student Leadership Program is back and partnering with Must Ministries and their Summer Lunch Program. They hope to **raise \$2,500 to assemble 200 meal kits** that will go to children in the community who face food insecurity during the summer months. **To donate, select Summer Lunch Program on Tithely by July 12th**. If you have any questions see SLP members Shamus Yandle Jr. or Ellie Maphet.

YOUTH GROUP SUMMER SESSION, JULY 12

The youth group will be gathering at the **Searcys' house** for a night of worship and fellowship on **July 12 from 6:30-8pm**. We will discuss what youth group is all about and how to participate in our student ministry. **Rising 6th through 12th graders are invited**. If you would like to provide a snack to share, see the SignUp Genius in the Weekly Update. See John (hopperpo@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

MNA DISASTER RESPONSE WAREHOUSE, JULY 17

Middle and High School students and families are invited to visit the **MNA warehouse in Rome, GA on Saturday, July 17th for a service day**. We will meet at the church office at 8am and plan to return by 3pm. Please wear work clothes, closed toe shoes, and bring water and money for lunch. **Please RSVP to Ransley (ransley621@gmail.com) by Friday, July 10th**.

JULY PRAYER FOR LEADERSHIP

Please pray for the **elders and deacons** as they meet on **Sunday, 7/19**.

MISSIONS GIVING OPPORTUNITY

We **need \$6,757 by August 31st** to fulfill our commitments to the missionaries and missional organizations that we support. Please prayerfully consider giving to Missions at CCC!

COMMUNION SETUP VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a volunteer to prepare the communion trays and set up the table before service. If you are interested or would like more information please reach out to Bonnie.

YOUTH MINISTRY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of a **new meeting location for our middle school group**. We also need **four youth leaders for the 2026-27 ministry year**. Please contact Matt if you would like to learn more about either opportunity!



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Ecclesiastes

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

OUR *Worship* CELEBRATION

July 5. 2026

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship - Psalm 103:15-19**

~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 - *Steadfast

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

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - 1 Peter 1:3-9**

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

***Congregational Response: Amen!**

Song of Comfort - *Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer - Travis & Laura Sawyer. Straight Up Missions Kenya and Grace Presbyterian Church, Douglasville

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - The Gatherer's Joyful Conclusion to Life's Unsolvable Paradoxes Ecclesiastes 8:14-17

Preparation of the Table

Partaking of the Table

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

***Doxology**

Song of Response - *Holy Communion

~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**

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

***Congregational Response: Amen!**

***Stand**

Holy Communion

Gracious Father,
We give You praise
And thanks for this
Holy Communion
The body and blood
Of Your beloved Son

*The body is broken
God's love poured open
To make us new
Lord, make us new*

Abba Father, we bless Your name
And take part in this
Holy Communion
Make us all one
To love like Your Son

*The body is broken
God's love poured open
To make us new
Lord, make us new*

*The body is broken
God's love poured open
To make us new
Lord, make us new*

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

- ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is
gone, and its place knows it no more.
¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is
from everlasting to everlasting on those
who fear him, and his righteousness
to children's children,
¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his
commandments.
¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in
the heavens, and his kingdom rules
over all.

Psalm 103:15-19

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

“THE GATHERER’S JOYFUL CONCLUSION TO LIFE’S UNSOLVABLE PARADOXES”

ECCLESIASTES 8:14-17

CAMERON BARHAM

Key Truth: God calls us to joyfully receive His good gifts in Christ and to trust Him with what we can’t figure out.

Introduction:

Q: *How do you handle not understanding why some things happen?*

Ecclesiastes 8:14-17: The Work of God Joyfully Known and Submissively Unknown:

“...(the Gatherer) is not averse to pleasure-seeking, except when one ignores the fact that life has another and darker side. This latter must be as significant an element in one’s world-view as is pleasure. Only the fool ignores life’s ‘minor’ key. So for (the Gatherer) to advocate enjoyment of the pleasures which life can afford is fully consistent with his view that such pleasures are integral parts of God’s gift of life. What distinguishes the sage from the fool is the level of reflection involved in one’s approach to life. Merely to seek pleasure, without due consideration of death or life as divine gift, is typical of the fool. To enjoy life because it is recognized as God’s gift is a sign of wisdom and theological maturity.... Both life and its pleasures are God-given, and this understanding is vitally important in defining (the Gatherer’s) theological stance. He sees all things as having their origin in God.”

Graham S. Ogden, *Qoheleth*, 2nd Ed.

Application Questions:

1. *What helps you to maintain joyful stability amid changing circumstances that you frequently don’t understand?*
2. *How does gratefully receiving God’s good gifts with joy help you to better love Him and your neighbors?*

Application:

Ecclesiastes 8:14-17 teaches us that God calls us to joyfully receive His good gifts in Christ and to trust Him with what we can’t figure out.

Communion

Benediction: *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

SONG OF
Comfort

Steadfast

I will build my house
Whether storm or drought
On the rock that does not move
I will set my hope
In your love, O Lord
And your faithfulness will prove
You are steadfast, steadfast

By the word you spoke
All the starry host
Are called out by name each night
In your watchful care
I will rest secure
And you lead us with your light
You are steadfast, steadfast
You are steadfast, steadfast

I will not trust
In the strength of kings
On your promise I will stand
I will shout for joy,
I will raise my voice
Hallelujah to the Lamb!
You are steadfast, steadfast
You are steadfast, steadfast

In the moment of emptiness
All was fulfilled
In the hour of darkness
Your light was revealed
In the presence of death
Your life was affirmed
In the absence of holiness,
You are still God.
You are steadfast, steadfast
You are steadfast, steadfast

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 joyfully receive what You have clearly given to us choosing instead to be frustrated by what we can't figure out (**Ecclesiastes 8:14-17**).

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

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9

(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!