

# STAY *Connected* AT CCC

## NO YOUTH GROUP

There will be no youth group tonight due to the winter retreat.

## RAMP TO LARGE MEETING ROOM INACCESSIBLE

The ramp to the large meeting room is currently inaccessible due to early voting. Please supervise your children before and after the service and remind them to not play in this area.



## 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 22, 2026

**Prelude**

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship - Psalm 145:1-13**

~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 - Goodness of God**

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

**\*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - Ephesians 1:3-14**

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

**\*Congregational Response: Amen!**

**\*Song of Comfort - Amazing Grace**

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

**Pastoral Prayer - Chris & Kelsey Blackman, RUF @ KSU and  
Christian Community Presbyterian Church, Marietta**

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

**Sermon - The Gatherer's Despair Over the Elusiveness of Toil  
and Call to Enjoy God's Good Gifts  
Ecclesiastes 2:18-26**

**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 12:13-14**

~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

- <sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.
- <sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord, and greatly to be  
praised, and his greatness is  
unsearchable.
- <sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your  
works to another, and shall declare  
your mighty acts.
- <sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your  
majesty, and on your wondrous works,  
I will meditate.
- <sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your  
awesome deeds, and I will declare your  
greatness.
- <sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of  
your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your  
righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love.
- <sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is  
over all that he has made.
- <sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you,  
O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!
- <sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your  
kingdom and tell of your power,  
<sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man  
your mighty deeds, and the glorious  
splendor of your kingdom.
- <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting  
kingdom, and your dominion endures  
throughout all generations.  
The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.

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 DESPAIR OVER THE ELUSIVENESS OF TOIL  
AND CALL TO ENJOY GOD’S GOOD GIFTS”

ECCLESIASTES 2:18-26

CAMERON BARHAM

**Key Truth:** God calls us to gratefully enjoy His good gifts as the temporal antidote to despair over the elusiveness of our toil.

**Introduction:**

*Q: What hope do you have in and for the fruits of your labor? Who do you hope will enjoy them after you’re gone?*

**Ecclesiastes 2:18-26: Grateful Joy in God’s Good Gifts: The Temporal Antidote to Despair Over Our Toil:**

“Verses 24-25 are the key to the book of Ecclesiastes. They form the first of the refrains that pulsate through the book (3:12-13; 3:22; 5:18-19; 8:15; 9:7-9). These six refrains are like a chorus in a hymn. They underscore the central message of the book. The refrain answers the question Solomon has been dealing with regarding the meaning of life. It is simple: eat and drink and make your soul enjoy the good of its labour because these things are a gift from God. There is a purpose, meaning, and, yes, even joy in this life, when it is founded upon one’s relationship to the Creator.”

**John D. Currid, *Ecclesiastes: A Quest for Meaning***

**Application Questions:**

1. *What helps you to take joy in the food and drink that God gives you as gracious gifts from your toil?*
2. *What practices do you have to regularly express gratitude in God’s good gifts from your toil?*

**Application:**

**Ecclesiastes 2:18-26** teaches us that God calls us to gratefully enjoy His good gifts as the temporal antidote to despair over the elusiveness of our toil.

**Communion**

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

SONG OF  
*Comfort*

*Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught  
My heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

When we've been there  
Ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days  
To sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun

We've no less days  
To sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun

SONG OF  
*Praise*

*Goodness of God*

I love You, Lord  
For Your mercy never failed me  
All my days,  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing  
Of the goodness of God

*All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so,  
So good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing  
Of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest nights  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived  
In the goodness of God (*Chorus*)

Your goodness is running After,  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after,  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down,  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after,  
It's running after me (*Chorus*)

# 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 despair over the results of our toil and fail to gratefully enjoy them as good gifts from Your hand in Christ (**Ecclesiastes 2:18-26**).

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>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

(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!**