

STAY *Connected* AT CCC

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, MAY 17

9th-12th graders, join us for fellowship and study tonight at the **Starts' from 5:30 to 7:30**. Be sure to bring your own dinner! See the Weekly Update to sign up to bring a dessert to share.

HIGH SCHOOL GUYS SUMMER DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

John will be leading a summer **discipleship group for high school guys** focused on learning how to participate in the worship and liturgy of the church. The group will meet from **9-10:30am on Tuesdays in June and July at Lazy Labrador Coffee Shop**. If you are interested in participating, **email John at hopperpo@gmail.com by May 26th**. The first meeting will be on **June 2nd**.

RAFTING TRIP, JUNE 13

Rising **6th - 12th graders, college students, and parents** are invited to our annual **rafting trip on the Nantahala**. The cost is **\$20 per person**. Please see the Weekly Update to **RSVP and pay by May 31st**. College students and parents, please let Matt know if you are able to serve as a driver and/or raft guide!

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE MAPHET FAMILY

Join us in celebrating the arrival of George Andrew with the Maphet family! George was born on **May 6th**, weighing **7 lbs 7 oz** and measuring **19.75 inches long**. Both he and Amanda are healthy and doing well. Please visit the weekly update if you would like to bless them with a meal as they adjust to being a family of five.

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE CLASSES

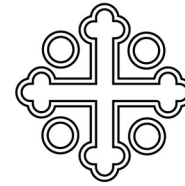
May 17th is the last day of Sunday school classes before we take a break for summer. Stay tuned for more information regarding the new fall classes beginning in August.

SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Rising **6th - 9th graders** are invited to a summer Bible study on **Thursdays from 10:30 to 12:00**. Rising **11th - 12th graders** are invited to the **Student Leadership Program**. See Matt for more information and to sign up for both opportunities!

CAR NEED FOR ASA MILLS

The Mills, who serve with MTW in Bangkok, are looking for a reliable, used car for their son Asa, who is attending Covenant College. If you know of an available vehicle, please email Tim Mills at rhitim@yahoo.com.



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH

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
May 17, 2026

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome

***Call to Worship - Psalm 119:25-32**

~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 - Psalm 86**

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

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - John 16:16-24**

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

***Congregational Response: Amen!**

***Song of Comfort - Come Ye Sinners**

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

**Pastoral Prayer - Bruce Clark, RUF @ KSU and
Seven Hills Fellowship, Rome**

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

**Sermon - The Gatherer Wrestles with the Sorrows of Sin and Death
Ecclesiastes 7:1-6**

Preparation of the Table

Partaking of the Table

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

***Doxology**

***Song of Response - We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

~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*

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

*We will feast
In the house of Zion
We will sing
With our hearts restored
He has done great things,
We will say together
We will feast
And weep no more*

We will not be burned
By the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed,
By the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night,
Before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning,
Oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob,
Be my strength

Every vow we've broken
And betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden
To the grave
Bind us together,
Bring shalom

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

- ²⁵ My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to your word!
- ²⁶ When I told of my ways, you answered
me; teach me your statutes!
- ²⁷ Make me understand the way of your
precepts, and I will meditate on your
wondrous works.
- ²⁸ My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word!
- ²⁹ Put false ways far from me
and graciously teach me your law!
- ³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your rules before me.
- ³¹ I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame!
- ³² I will run in the way of your
commandments when you enlarge my
heart!

Psalm 119:25-32

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 WRESTLES WITH THE SORROWS OF SIN
AND DEATH ”
ECCLESIASTES 7:1-6
MATT O’SULLIVAN

Key Truth: God uses the sorrows of sin and death to teach us to seek joy with integrity by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone.

Introduction:

Q: *How do you handle the parts of your life or yourself that you don’t like?*

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6: Wisdom for Seeking Joy with Integrity in a World Marked by Sin and Death

“The person who lives like this is not morbid. On the contrary, what characterizes a person who lives like this is depth; they have depth of soul, depth of character. But superficiality is the mark of the escapist who is living in denial.... Instead of being superficial, death invites you to be a person of depth.... Will you let death teach you the limitations of your life? Will you let it reshape your goals, your attitudes, the things you long for and work for and pray for and hope for the most? For if death is not your lord and does not own you—it never, ever can be if you are in Christ—then it can teach you.”

David Gibson, *Living Life Backward: How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us to Live in Light of the End*

Application Questions:

- 1. *Are you open to hearing the wise rebuke of those God has provided for your growth in joy and integrity?***
- 2. *How can the promises of joy in Christ help you face the sorrows of sin and death with integrity?***

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6 teaches us that God uses the sorrows of death and sin to teach us to seek joy with integrity by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone.

Benediction: *Ecclesiastes 12:13*

SONG OF
Comfort

Come Ye Sinners

Come ye sinners
Poor and needy
Weak and wounded
Sick and sore
Jesus ready
Stands to save you
Full of pity
Love and power

Come ye thirsty
Come and welcome
God's free bounty
Glorify
True belief and
True repentance
Every grace that
Brings you nigh

*I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
And in the arms of my dear Savior
There are ten thousand charms*

Come ye weary
Heavy laden
Lost and ruined
By the fall
If you tarry
'Til you're better
You will never
Come at all

Psalm 86

O Lord my God, incline Your ear
And answer me for I am poor.
Preserve my life,
Rescue this slave
Who trusts in You, O Lord my God

O Lord my God,
Show me Your Grace
To you I cry all the day
Make glad this soul,
Your servant save
My soul I lift, to You my God

*Teach me Your way and I
Will walk in Your truth,
In Your Truth
Unite my heart that I
May fear only You, only You*

O Lord my God, you are so good
Quick to forgive and bountiful
in lovingkindness to everyone
who calls on you, O Lord my God

O Lord my God, I will give thanks
With my whole heart and glorify
Your name forever,
For You have saved
My soul from Hell, O Lord my God

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 often use distractions to avoid facing the realities of our sin and death (**Ecclesiastes 7:1-6**).

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

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”
¹⁷ So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?”¹⁸ So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?”
²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.
²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.
²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.
²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.
²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

John 16:16-24

(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!