



August 23, 2026



***W**elcome to worship at Christ Church!*

Our aim is to enjoy the goodness of our triune God in fellowship within the community he has formed, lifting our hearts as an offering to the Lord using the varied and unique gifts of this local congregation. We await his transformative word in our lives.

We are glad that you have joined us.

Young children are an important part of our community as well. We are very happy to be part of this very significant stage in their lives — learning to worship together in the community of believers. You are welcome to keep your children with you throughout the service, or you may choose to use one of our nurseries for children ages 3 years and younger and Christ Kids Worship at the 9:00 service for 4 and 5 year olds during the sermon. Activity bags for children during the 11:00 service are available in the bulletin table in the foyer. If you would like a quiet space to feed or rock your baby during the worship service, you are welcome to use Room 106 or the Children's Ministry office, Room 102.

Assistive hearing devices are available in the sound booth, located in the back of the sanctuary. If you are experiencing sensory sensitivity, an usher can direct you to a quiet space.

Prelude

*Soon and Very Soon
I Must Tell Jesus*

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent meditation

Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. Romans 4: 3, 9-11

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. Galatians 5:2-6

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 122:1 – A Song of Ascents. Of David.

Elder Bryan Burke

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

*** *All Creatures of Our God and King***

Trinity Hymnal 115

*** *Day by Day***

Trinity Hymnal 676

*** Invocation**

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of forgiveness

2 Timothy 1:8-9

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

* *They Will Know We are Christians by our Love*

arr. Mark Hayes

words & music by Peter Scholtes



1. We are one walk in the spir - it, we are
 2. We will with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All _____ praise to the Fa - ther from _____



one in the Lord. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 walk hand in hand. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 work side by side. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 Whom all things come. And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His



one in the Lord. And we pray that our u - ni - ty will
 walk hand in hand. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that
 work side by side. And we'll guard each man's dig - ni - ty
 on - ly _____ Son. And all praise to the Spir - it Who



one day is be re - stored.
 God _____ is in the _____ land.
 save _____ each man's pride.
 makes _____ us _____ one. And they'll



know we are Christ-ians by our love, by our love, yes they'll



know we are Christ - ians by our love.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Acts 15:1-12

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. ⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, ⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹² And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon Putting God to the Test
An Age Old Challenge

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Requires Godly Collaboration

Reaffirms Incredible Truth

Further discussion/questions? andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* Thy Mercy My God

text, John Stoker; music, Sandra McCracken



1. Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme
2. With - out thy sweet mer - cy I could
3. Thy mer - cy is more than a match
4. Great Fath - er of mer - cies thy good -



— of my song, ♯ the joy of my heart and the boast
— not live here; ♯ ♯ Sin would re - duce me to ut -
— for my heart ♯ which won - ders to feel its own hard -
- ness I — own and the cov - e - nant love of thy cruc -



— of my tongue. Thy free grace a - lone — from the first
- ter des - pair; but through thy free good - ness my spir -
- ness de - part; dis - solved by thy good - ness I fall
- i - fied Son; all praise to the Spi - rit whose whis -



— to the last — hath won my af - fec - tions and
- its re - vive and he that first made me still
— to the ground and weep for the praise of the
- per di - vine seals mer - cy and par - don and



bound my soul ____ fast.
keeps me a - live.
mer - cy I've ____ found.
right - eous - ness ____ mine!

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Missionary Greeting

Greg and Ingrid Orr
serving in Berlin

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory *Desperate*

Jamie McDonald

I'm at the end of myself and I'm
Tired, I've tried all that I know to do
Right now it's just by a thread but I'm
I'm hanging on to You

I'm running out of hope
I need a miracle
And if I ever needed You, it's right now

Oh, God, I'm desperate
Down on my knees
Send help from heaven
'Cause that's what I need
Redeem this wreckage
Restore my peace
I'm not asking, I'm begging
Lord, come through for me

I need heaven and I'm
Desperate, desperate
Oh, I need heaven
Need heaven and I'm

I've prayed all the prayers I can pray but I
I won't stop knocking 'til You open the door
You can move a mountain
You can calm a storm
I know You can 'cause I've seen it before

Oh God, I'm desperate
Down on my knees
Send help from heaven
'Cause that's what I need
Redeem this wreckage
Restore my peace
I'm not asking, I'm begging
Lord, come through for me

I need heaven and I'm

Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I need heaven, need heaven and I'm
Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I need heaven, need heaven and I'm

Oh (Ooh), oh (Ooh), oh (Ooh)

You're my only hope
I need a miracle
And if I ever needed You, it's right now

Oh God, I'm desperate
Down on my knees
Send help from heaven
'Cause that's what I need
Redeem this wreckage
Restore my peace
I'm not asking, I'm begging
Lord, come through for me

I need heaven and I'm

Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I'm desperate (I need heaven)
Oh, I need heaven, need heaven and I'm
Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I'm desperate
Oh, I need heaven, need heaven and I'm

Desperate

*** Doxology** Trinity Hymnal 731

*** Benediction**

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and wave the flags as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** Let the Church Say Amen**

Andrae Crouch

Let the Church say "A - men." Let the Church say "A - men." _

God has spok-en, let the Church say "A - men."

*** Postlude**

Prayer Partners are available to pray with you right now. Come to the area by the organ with anything on your heart: praise, fears, questions, thanksgiving. We'll sit down and pray together.

Worship musician

Janelle Stutzman, piano

Vivian Stutzman, song leader

Mark Lundell, bass

Jude Snyder, drums

All you have made will praise you, O LORD: your saints will extol you. Ps. 145:10

1. All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in
 3. Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for thy
 4. And all ye men of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers,
 5. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in

with us sing al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing
 heav'n a - long, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing
 • Lord to hear, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so
 take your part, O sing ye, al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long
 hum - ble - ness, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the

sun with gold - en beam, thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,
 morn in praise re - joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice,
 • mas - ter - ful and bright, that giv - est man both warmth and light,
 pain and sor - row bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir - it, three in one,

O praise him, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Your strength will equal your days. Deut. 33:25

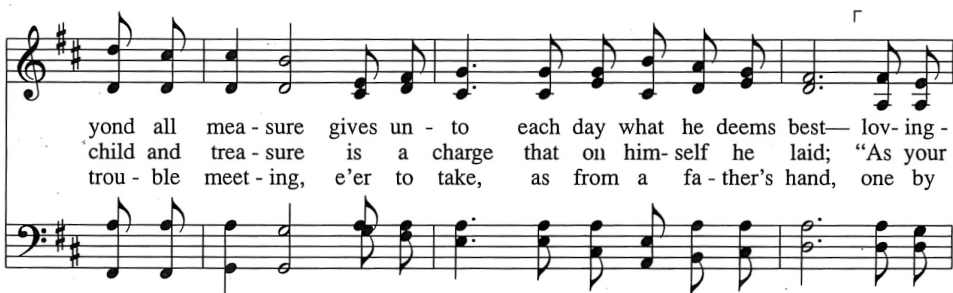

1. Day by day and with each pass - ing mo - ment, strength I find to
 2. Ev - ery day the Lord him - self is near me with a spe - cial
 3. Help me then in ev - ery trib - u - la - tion so to trust your



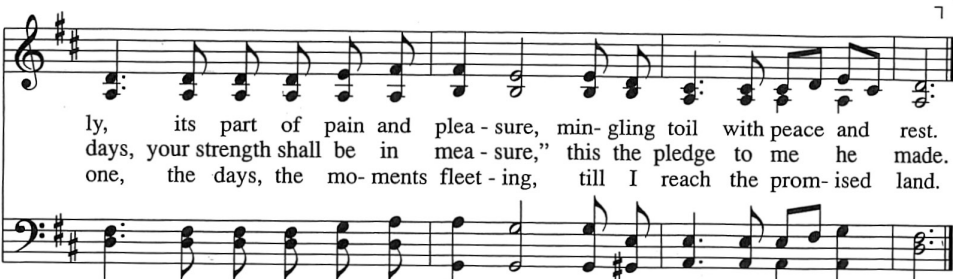
meet my tri - als here; trust - ing in my Fa - ther's wise be - stow - ment,
 mer - cy for each hour; all my cares he fain would bear, and cheer me,
 prom - is - es, O Lord, that I lose not faith's sweet con - so - la - tion



I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear. He whose heart is kind be -
 he whose name is Coun - sel - or and Pow'r. The pro - tec - tion of his
 of - fered me with - in your ho - ly Word. Help me, Lord, when toil and



yond all mea - sure gives un - to each day what he deems best—lov - ing -
 child and trea - sure is a charge that on him - self he laid; "As your
 trou - ble meet - ing, e'er to take, as from a fa - ther's hand, one by



ly, its part of pain and plea - sure, min - gling toil with peace and rest.
 days, your strength shall be in mea - sure," this the pledge to me he made.
 one, the days, the mo - ments fleet - ing, till I reach the prom - ised land.