



FELLOWSHIP
WITH GOD
THROUGH THE GOSPEL



CHRIST
CHURCH

September 14, 2025

Prelude *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* violin and piano arr. Kristin Campbell

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
 the God of all creation,
 the God of wonders, power, and love,
 the God of our salvation!
 With healing balm my soul he fills,
 the God who every sorrow stills.
 To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need:
 Lord God, O hear my calling!
 For death he gave me life indeed
 and kept my feet from falling.
 For this my thanks shall endless be;
 O thank him, thank our God, with me.
 To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made
 his gracious mercy keepeth;
 by morning dawn or evening shade
 his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
 within the kingdom of his might,
 lo, all is just and all is right.
 To God all praise and glory!

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent meditation

I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. — Romans 8:38-39

“Regardless of a man's system, he has to live in God's world.”

— Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*

G O D C A L L S U S T O W O R S H I P

Call to Worship Isaiah 60:1-4a

Elder Drew Jelgerhuis

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
 and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
 and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the LORD will arise upon you,
 and his glory will be seen upon you.
 And nations shall come to your light,
 and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see....

** Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*

* O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

words by George Matheson
music by Christopher Miner



1. O Love that will not - let me go,
2. O Light that foll - ow'st all my way,
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head



I rest my wear - y soul in thee;
I yield my flick' - ring torch to thee;
I can - not close my heart to thee;
I dare not ask to fly from thee;



I give thee back the life - I owe,
My heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,



That in thine o - cean depths its flow
That in thy sun - shine's blaze its day
And feel the prom - ise is not vain,
And from the ground there bloss - oms red



May rich - er, ful - ler be.
May brigh - ter, fair - er be.
That morn shall tear - less be.
Life that shall end - less be.

© 1997 Christopher Miner Music
Used by permission. All rights reserved

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession

II Corinthians 5:17-21

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Ephesians 2:8-9

...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 may boast.

8:30 service On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:15 service Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.

** Come Light Our Hearts*

Sandra McCracken



For you, O Lord, our souls in still-ness wait. For you, O Lord, our



souls in still-ness wait. Tru-ly our hope is in you, tru-ly our hope is in you,



1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, your ra - diance shines on all who
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in you we find more than e -



look to you in the dark. Em-man - u - el come, come light our hearts.
nough, we come as we are, O heal and re-store, come light our hearts.

2014 Drink Your Tea

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading I John 1:1-7, 3:1-3, 4:7-12, 16

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

^{3:1} See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

^{4:7} Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ... ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon Fellowship with God

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

God is Light

God is Love

God is

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Trinity Hymnal 38

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

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

O God beyond All Praising

violin and piano

arr. Mark Albrecht

O God beyond all praising,
We worship you today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder
At every gift you send,
At blessings without number
And mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you
And wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you,
Our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
Accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor
May serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty
And glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise.

*** The God We Love (Nicene Creed chorus)**

by Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson
& Matt Redman

All glo - ry to the Fa - ther now, all
hon - or to the Son. And praise the Spir - it,
now and al-ways. This is the God we love.

©2025 CityAlight Music; CCLI 332344

*** Benediction**

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

*** Let the Church Say Amen**

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

The first system of the musical score is for the first part of the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. The bass staff provides accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

The second system of the musical score is for the second part of the song. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The melody in the treble staff continues with a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F5. The bass staff continues with accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

©2011 New Spring Publishing

*** Postlude**

Worship musicians

Craig Kooienga, song leader & guitar

Sarah Helder, violin

Susan Guerra, piano