



CHRIST  
CHURCH

October 3, 2021



## ***Welcome 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 for 4- to 6-year olds during the sermon. If you have a baby and would like a quiet space, you are welcome to use the nursery or room 102.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Pastor Andrew Vander Maas

**Moment of silent meditation**          Ephesians 2:4-5a

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...

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

**Call to worship**          Proverbs 3:19-22

Elder Mike Wilbraham

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;  
by understanding he established the heavens;  
by his knowledge the deeps broke open,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.

My son, do not lose sight of these—  
keep sound wisdom and discretion,  
and they will be life for your soul  
and adornment for your neck.

\* *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*    Trinity Hymnal 457

\* **Prayer of adoration**

## GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

**Call to confession**    Hosea 7:14-16a

They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me. Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue.

**Prayer of confession**    Psalm 52    responsively and with sung refrains

music, Aaron David Miller

*Congregation reads bold type.*



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Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?

The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

Your tongue plots destruction,

like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

You love evil more than good,

and lying more than speaking what is right.

**You love all words that devour,**

**O deceitful tongue.**

*refrain*

But God will break you down forever;  
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living.  
The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,

**“See the man who would not make  
God his refuge,  
but trusted in the abundance of his riches  
and sought refuge in his own destruction!”**

*refrain*

But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.  
I will thank you forever,  
because you have done it.

**I will wait for your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.**

*refrain*

**Declaration of forgiveness**                      Hosea 11:8

How can I give you up, O Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.

*At the 8:30 service, during the following song, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

\* Beautiful, Scandalous Night



1. Go on\_\_ up to the moun - tain of mer - cy\_\_
2. Fol - low Christ to the ho - - - ly moun - tain, \_\_
3. On the hill - side you will\_\_ be de - li - vered; \_\_



to the crim - son per - pe - - tu - al\_\_ tide. \_\_  
 Sin - ner sor - ry and wrecked\_\_ by the\_\_ Fall. \_\_  
 at the foot of the cross\_\_ just - i - fied\_\_



\_\_ Kneel down on the shore, \_\_ be\_\_ thir - sty no \_\_  
 Cleanse your\_\_ heart and your soul\_\_ in the fount - ain that \_\_  
 \_\_ and your spir - it re - stored\_\_ by the riv - er that \_\_



more. Go\_\_ un - der and be\_\_ pur - i - fied. \_\_ Go to Vs. 2  
 flows for\_\_ you and for me\_\_ and for\_\_ all. to chorus  
 pours from our bless - ed Sa - - - vior's side. to chorus



At the won - der - ful, tra - gic, my - ster - i - ous tree on that beau - ti - ful,



scan - da - lous night you and me\_\_ were a - toned by His blood and for - ev - er washed



white\_\_ on that beau - ti - ful, scan - da - lous night.

**\* Psalm 52: Green Olive Tree**

refrain



But I am like a green ol-ive tree in the house of God.

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**GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US**

**\* Scripture reading**

Hosea 14

<sup>1</sup> Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,  
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

<sup>2</sup> Take with you words  
and return to the LORD;  
say to him,

“Take away all iniquity;  
accept what is good,  
and we will pay with bulls  
the vows of our lips.

<sup>3</sup> Assyria shall not save us;  
we will not ride on horses;  
and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’  
to the work of our hands.  
In you the orphan finds mercy.”

<sup>4</sup> I will heal their apostasy;  
I will love them freely,  
for my anger has turned from them.

<sup>5</sup> I will be like the dew to Israel;

he shall blossom like the lily;  
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> his shoots shall spread out;  
his beauty shall be like the olive,  
and his fragrance like Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup> They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;  
they shall flourish like the grain;  
they shall blossom like the vine;  
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?  
It is I who answer and look after you.  
I am like an evergreen cypress;  
from me comes your fruit.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;  
whoever is discerning, let him know them;  
for the ways of the LORD are right,  
and the upright walk in them,  
but transgressors stumble in them.

**Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\* Prayer**

**Sermon**      Gospel Flourishing  
Humbled

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Lifted Up

Spread Out

Further discussion/questions?    [andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org](mailto:andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org)  
Sermons are available online at [www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org)



# DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

## \* *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.

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## Invitation to the Lord's Table

*The bread served is gluten free. Rows will be dismissed to walk forward.*

### ***He Will Hold Me Fast***      congregation sings during communion

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

## Prayers of the People

*Give online at [christchurchgr.org](http://christchurchgr.org) or by texting (616) 208-2820.*

**Offertory**      *Teach Us Your Ways (Psalm 119)*

Isaac Wardell, Leslie Jordan  
Orlando Palmer, Paul Zach

Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways  
As we learn from one another  
Learn to love each other  
Teach us Your ways

Teach us to give, teach us to give  
Give ourselves for one another  
Learn to love each other  
Teach us to give

Teach us to weep, teach us to weep  
Let us weep with one another  
Learn to love each other  
Teach us to weep

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Let us learn from one another  
Learn to love each other  
Teach us Your ways

**\* 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.

**\* Benediction**

**\* Postlude**

*Join us for brunch in the atrium at 10:00am.  
Sunday School for all ages will resume next week.*

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**Worship musicians**

Debbie and Annie Bukovietski, song leader (8:30 service)  
Vivian Stutzman, song leader (11:15 service)  
Susan Guerra, piano

## Life of the church

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### **Today is Deacon Fund Sunday.**

Take this opportunity to serve those in need. This offering, beyond your regular tithe, should be marked for the Deacon Fund or give online at <https://christchurchgr.breezechms.com/give/online>

### **Summer '21 Rewound & Chili Cook-off, Oct.**

**10, 5:30 – 8:00.** Come together for a wonderful and encouraging evening together as a church family and encourage our youth in the process. We will share testimonies of God's blessings from our Jr High mission trip to Cedar Bay, our Sr High mission trip to Chattanooga, our Sr High conference in Baltimore, and we'll sneak in our spring Sr High backpacking trip to Pisgah National Forest. Our evening will start with a chili cook-off, so if you want to enter that read below, otherwise just come and enjoy being the taste testers. **Chili Cook-off:** Bring a full pot (approx. 2 gallons) of chili (no dessert chilies please) to church at 5:15PM. It does not need to be in a crockpot, but it should be heated through and ready to serve. Prizes awarded to the top 3 placing chilies

**Senior (55+) luncheon** will be Tuesday, Oct. 12th at noon in the Atrium. We plan on bringing soup and bread for the occasion. Text or email Jerry Gortmaker and as to what you can bring. There will be a sign up at welcome center on Sunday Oct 10th. See you there.

**Volunteer reminders** for nursery, AV team, ushering, CKW, coffee service, etc., will be sent via email six days prior to scheduled time slot, and via text & email two days before volunteering spot. If you have any questions, contact the leader of your volunteering group, or the church office. Please add [office@christchurchgr.org](mailto:office@christchurchgr.org) to your list of contacts.

**C-Groups** are a way to connect, care and challenge one another in community. Learn more about C-Groups and connect with current C-Group facilitators at our Fall Launch on September 19 & 26 or you can find information on our website at <http://christchurchgr.org/connect/c-groups/>

**Interested in learning more about Christ Church?** Currently you can participate in the First Things class online and then either meet with an elder or pastor or wait for the in person offering coming this fall in our Adult Institutes. Participating in this class doesn't in any way obligate you to become a member of Christ Church, but hopefully will help prepare those who do wish to become members. If you'd like to sign up, contact the office at [office@christchurchgr.org](mailto:office@christchurchgr.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

**We still need adults and youth helpers to serve in the nursery and in Christ Kids Worship!**

Contact Debbie Bukovietski (nursery) or Ginnie Stawicki (CKW) to find out how you can get involved.

**If you're intersted to help with AV contact Matt at [mbkelly@me.com](mailto:mbkelly@me.com).** No experience necessary.

## YOUTH

### **Jr & Sr High**

It's back! Our annual Summer Rewound and Chili Cook-off happens next Sunday, Oct. 10. We'll be sharing stories from the past summer and putting on the cook-off. Plan to be around from 4:30-8:30 to help set up, run and clean up the event

Youth group meetings will start on the 17th: Jr High from 4:30-6:00 and Sr High from 6:30-8:00, with dinner between for both groups

### **Jr High**

Oct. 16, 6:30-8:30. Fall festivities: pumpkin carving, cookie decorating, hayride; starts and ends at church

### **Sr High**

Oct. 15, 5:00-9:00. Corn maze, bonfire, donuts, maybe apple picking, but for sure good times; starts and ends at church

## MEN'S MINISTRY

**No Monday Evening Bible Study this week.**

## WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

**Single Women will meet Friday, Oct. 8, at 6:00 pm** in room 203/204 for a potluck meal. Note date & time change.

**October 14, 7:00-8:30pm**, a meeting co-sponsored by Women's Discipleship and Advocates for the Wounded & Abused (AWA). Last year we discussed Rachel denHollander's book, *What is a Girl Worth*. We will look further into her insights through the lens of Scripture to wrestle with some big questions. More information to come.

**Saturday, October 16th** Come for a **morning hike** in the beautiful woods surrounding Pickerel Lake (6001 Ramsdell Dr NE, Rockford). We will gather and meet in the parking lot of the park at 9:00am Contact Leah ([slgritter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slgritter@sbcglobal.net))

# Financial Report

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	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Jan - August Receipts	\$697,956	\$ 689,567
Jan - August Expenses	\$658,169	\$ 689,779
Jan - August Over (Under)	\$ 39,787	\$ (212)
Tithes and Offerings		
September 5	\$ 22,500	
September 12	\$ 16,083	
September 19	\$ 17,631	
September 26	\$ 11,561	
September Total Tithes & Offerings	\$ 66,776	\$ 82,125
EXTENDING COMMUNITY		
ENABLING MISSION CAMPAIGN		
Total Commitments	\$1,724,032	
Campaign Funds Received	\$1,201,994	

## This Week's Events

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<b>Today</b>	8:30 AM	All Church Retreat - Cran-hill Ranch
	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:15 AM	Brunch
	2:30 PM	Worship Service
	7:00 PM	College-Age Men's Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	6:45 PM	College-Age Women's Bible Study
		Women's 7 Feasts Study ( <i>over Zoom</i> )
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 AM	Men's Breakfast - <i>Russ' - 2750 28th St</i>
	8:00 PM	College-Age Men's Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 AM	Men's Gospel of John Study - <i>contact Bob 616-915-5477</i>
	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast - <i>Rainbow Grill - 4158 Chicago Drive</i>
	9:00 AM	Women's 7 Feasts Study
	6:00 PM	Together in Prayer - <i>in lounge or via Zoom (click on praying hands slide on website)</i>
	7:00 PM	Adult choir rehearsal
<b>Friday</b>	5:00 PM	College-Age F.I.S.H. Friday



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[www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org) • [office@christchurchgr.org](mailto:office@christchurchgr.org)  
Worship Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:15 am in the sanctuary.

office hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 9:00-2:00pm

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Tuesday to [prayer@christchurchgr.org](mailto:prayer@christchurchgr.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** please submit by 7:30pm Wednesday to [announcements@christchurchgr.org](mailto:announcements@christchurchgr.org)

#### STAFF

**Betsy Bray**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Debbie Bukovietski**  
Director of Children's Ministry  
**Paul Cha**  
Pastoral Partner  
**Jerry & Nina Gortmaker**  
Visitation Coordinators  
**Scott Gritter**  
Director Youth Ministries  
**Rick Groggel**  
Treasurer  
**Susan Guerra**  
Director of Music & Arts

**Kuni Hotta**  
Pastoral Intern  
**Addison Hawkins**  
Associate Pastor  
**Greg Meibeyer**  
Operations Director  
**Ben Seneker**  
Pastor of Gracehill Church  
**Andrew VanderMaas**  
Lead Pastor  
**Morgan VanderMaas**  
Youth Discipleship  
**Jim Visser**  
Executive Director  
**Kimberly Visser**  
Office & Communications Manager

#### ELDERS *with fold zip codes*

**Bryan Burke & Jim Visser**  
49301, 49341, 49503, 49504, 49505, 49525, 49538  
**Mike Buwalda & Bob LaFleur**  
49506, 49507  
**David deJong & Jerry Stutzman**  
49302, 49331, 49546

**Dick Friedrich & John Streefkerk**  
49007, 49508, 49512, 49315, 49323, 49316, 49058  
**Jerry Gortmaker**  
49418, 49423, 49426, 49428, 49464, 49509, 49519, 49534, 49535, 49548  
**Ken Morse**  
Gracehill

#### DEACONS

Randy Bosma  
Ray Chamberlain  
Jon Deur  
George Dykstra  
Jon Eldersveld  
Paul Lammers  
Greg Stawicki