



Together In Christ

By His Grace

For His Glory

September 6, 2026
10:30 AM Sunday Mornings

Words of Reflection

“Salvation ultimately means the restoration of the image of God in glory. It is accomplished by the one who is himself the image of God. He’s come to restore a true and full humanity, and eventually the dominion that goes with it.”

Sinclair Ferguson

Order of Worship

The story of redemption unfolded in the different elements of our worship service every Lord's Day.

Welcome/Invocation---Jay Delancy

We ask God's Spirit to make the presence and promises of God real to us.

Call to Worship---Jay Delancy

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters our busy lives to speak to us.

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! Psalm 113:1-3

Song of Praise

We sing praises to God and proclaim His glory for what He has done for us through the ministry and work of Jesus Christ. Singing helps us feel the reality of God, connect with Him, and express His truth.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

song, "In Christ Alone" CCLI License #21733601

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Corporate Confession of Sin---Jay Delancy

God cleanses us and restores us through Jesus' death and resurrection. We willingly acknowledge our sin openly to God, considering God's grace that is ours in Jesus Christ.

Our Heavenly Father, You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and we thank You that You hear us when we pray. Yet, Lord, we confess the ways we have wrongly made You in our own image and viewed You as distant and uncaring. Forgive us for not drawing near to You in prayer. Thank You for the death and resurrection of Your Son on our behalf, and we pray that by Your Spirit we would delight in Your presence with us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness---Jay Delancy

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 may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

Intercessory Prayer---Jay Delancy

We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray. The Lord's prayer is our model.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Confession of Faith

We join the church in history by confessing the basic statements of what Christians believe.
(Second through Fourth Sundays)

Song of Response

We respond with thanksgiving and praise for God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ.

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me;
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a Strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my Strength, my victory wins.

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving;
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a Help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking,
He, my Comfort, helps my soul.

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving;
He is with me to the end.

song, "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"
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The Offering---Jay Delancy

Generosity and stewardship are two of the ways that we respond to God's Word and grace. We invest in God's Kingdom as a step of faith, trusting that He will supply all of our needs. You are also invited to give to Christ Church online through your "Church Center" application or at <https://christchurchsanford.churchcenter.com>. Feel free to use our offering box in the foyer for direct giving on Sunday mornings.

Family Time---Jay Delancy

We celebrate how God is working in and through us in our families, community, and world.

- Announcements
- Bernie Lawrence, Pastor to the Pastors, Central Carolina Presbytery
- Great one another

The Reading of God's Word---Rev. Ralph Johnston

God speaks to us primarily by His Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:12-17

Preaching from God's Word---Rev. Ralph Johnston

The truth of God's Word is explained and proclaimed so that we can respond, delight in it, and seek to be more fully shaped into God's image.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper (See Page 10 for Details)

The Lord's Supper is not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. Those who receive the Lord's Supper in the right way share in His body and blood with all His benefits, not physically but by faith, and become spiritually stronger and grow in grace.

Departing Song of Worship

God blesses us and sends us out to be a part of His mission to Lee County, surrounding areas, and the World.

How Great is Our God

The splendour of the King,
clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light
and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at his voice, and trembles at his
voice.

How great is our God,
sing with me: how great is our God.
And all will see how great, how great is our
God.

Age to age He stands,
and time is in His hands;
beginning and the end, beginning and the
end.

The Godhead, Three in One,
Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the
Lamb

Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
my heart will sing: how great is our God.

song, "How Great is Our God"
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The Benediction---Rev. Ralph Johnston

The people of God are sent out into the world to love God and love others where we live, work, and play.

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25

The Sending and Doxology

We close our service with the Doxology, which means “*glory words.*”, a short hymn of praise to God, as we are sent out to where we live, work, and play.

“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.”

**Sermon Notes:
On Earth, as in Heaven**

First, we have to deal with some sense of disappointment.

¹⁴ *...so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled...*

Secondly, the Kingdom is here because the king has come...he really has.

¹⁵ *"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."*

Thirdly, the Kingdom Is near..."at hand."

¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Fourth, our first response is repentance

¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Fifth, the Kingdom confronts every rival rule

¹⁶ *the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."*

Lastly, the not yet of the Kingdom propels us into mission

¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Conclusion:

Announcements

Our announcements remind us of ways that we can connect with and support one another as we go.

Congregational Meeting and Potluck---Ralph & Lisa's last Sunday will be September 27th. Plan on joining us for a congregational meeting to officially release Ralph of his duties followed by a celebration and sharing time potluck around BS BBQ and all the sides. More details to come later.

LIFE Groups---We are excited to expand our LIFE group ministry with a new group hosted by the VanGalders and Thomas's at the VanGalders house. The other two groups will be hosted by the Bostroms/Aulers and the DeLancys/Reeders. LIFE groups meet in homes on the second and fourth weeks of the month. See the flier on the information table. See page 11 of this bulleting to prepare for a lively discussion at the groups.

Men's and Women's Ministry Events---Please pick up a flyer in the foyer with details of upcoming men's and women's ministry events. If you have any questions, please see Harley, Lauren or Marla.

Anchor Student Ministry--- Our Middle and High School students will continue to meet every other Wednesday for fun, fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. They will also host special events. Please grab a flier for details or talk to Kate Blackburn for any questions.

Operation Christmas Child---Please check out the Operation Christmas Child page in the church center app for more information, monthly donation link, as well as an Amazon Wish list
link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/VYRSTLL93TXO?ref_=wl_share

Church Wide Prayer---We will meet for prayer at 10:00 AM every Sunday morning before church. Feel free to join us! All are invited.

Church Center App---To access more information about Christ Church, view calendar/events, announcements, giving, join groups, volunteer sign-ups, directory, etc. please scan the Church Center QR code at the information table. Questions about the Church Center App or Webpage please contact Melanie (910)366-4452.

For bulletin updates, please contact Melanie Lasley at melanie.lasley@me.com or 910-366-4452.

For more information about Christ Church Sanford: Check out our webpage at www.christchurchsanfordpca.com. Contact Ralph Johnston at rwjtarheel@gmail.com or 770-530-2714.

Last Week's Attendance: 44---Last Month's Giving: \$10,765 Year to Date: \$97,632

Children in Worship

¹³ Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:13-14

We value worship.

We value worshipping as a whole family together.

We value worship in the context of a community of families known as the local church.

We believe in additional training and discipleship for our children which begins in the home and is supplemented by the church through worship, special events, and children’s membership.

Feel free to utilize our nursery (0-3) until your children are ready and able to sit quietly in the worship service.

For those of us who have small children, how can we include our children in worship while respecting others who may or may not have children?

7 Steps to help your children worship well on Sundays.

1. Train and teach your children about the value of worship and clarify your expectations for them ahead of time. Saturday evenings are a great time to rehearse these values and get prepared as a family.
2. Arrive early enough to get to the bathroom and snack breaks out of the way before worship begins.
3. We ask that kids arrive on Sunday mornings with an attitude of worship. We want them to connect with their friends, but we ask that they be respectful in anticipation of the beginning of the worship service.
4. Please escort younger children when using the bathrooms for the safety and security of our kids.
5. We know that sometimes children need to wiggle and cry. If your child becomes distracting towards others, please use the nursery or front foyer as a way for you to continue to enjoy and care for your child while being respectful of others as they worship.
6. We are grateful that God has given us a wonderful facility. We encourage our kids to run, jump, and play, but we ask that they be respectful of others and the building. Children need to stay in the area around the worship space and should not wander the halls at any time. Parents, please enjoy great conversation and a second cup of coffee while keeping an eye on your kids.
7. We value honest and open communication, and this is a wonderful area of community where we can work together as families and love one another. If you have any questions or concerns, let’s apply Matthew 18:15-17, the Peacemakers Pledge, and feel free to contact Ralph at any time.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Prayers during the Lord's Supper

A prayer for those searching for truth: *Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

A prayer of belief: *Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.*

A prayer for those struggling against sin: *Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.*

A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith: *Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.*

LIFE Group Summary & Questions

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 4:17

Matthew 4:17 teaches that Jesus’ coming announces the arrival of God’s reign in a completely new way. The kingdom is not primarily a location, program, or political movement, but God’s saving rule breaking into history through Christ, the promised covenant King who creates a new spiritual Kingdom. Because Christ is near, the kingdom is near, and its nearness is first an act of divine grace rather than a human accomplishment.

The proper response to the King’s arrival is repentance—not mere regret or moral self-improvement, but a Spirit-wrought turning from sin and self-rule to God’s rule in Christ. At the same time, because the kingdom has been inaugurated but not yet fully consummated, believers live with urgency in mission, patience in suffering, and hope in Christ’s final victory.

Small Group Questions

1. When you hear Jesus say, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,*” what stands out to you most: the command to repent, the nearness of the kingdom, or the identity of the King? Why?
2. What is the difference between true repentance and mere regret, guilt, or self-improvement? How can we recognize Spirit-wrought repentance in our lives?
3. Jesus’ proclamation confronts every rival rule: sin, self, pride, comfort, and worldly security. Which “rival throne” is most tempting in our cultural moment, and which is most tempting personally?
4. How does the lordship of Christ connect to the forgiveness offered in the gospel? Why is it important not to separate Christ as Savior from Christ as King?
5. How should confidence in Christ’s final victory give the church both urgency and patience as it carries out its mission?



Leadership Team at Christ Church Sanford
All Contact Information can be found on our Church Center App
For more information: melanie.lasley@me.com or 910-366-4452
www.christchurchsanordpca.com

Elders

Noah Bostrom, Class of 2025
Tom Watkins, Class of 2026
Harrison VanGalder, Class of 2026
Jay Delancy, Class of 2026
Randy Thomas, Class of 2026

Deacons

Benjamin Ferrarini, Class of 2025
Harley Reeder, Class of 2026

Key Ministry Team Leaders

Administration & Bookkeeping: Melanie Lasley
Facilities & Set-up: Randy Thomas, Harley Reeder
LIFE Groups: Noah Bostrom
Social Media & Webpage: Amanda Auler
Children's Ministry: Jan Watkins
Youth Ministry: Kate Blackburn, Randy Thomas
Women's Ministry: Lauren Thomas & Marla Bokmeyer
Men's Ministry: Harley Reeder
Pulpit Search Committee Chairman: Harrison VanGalder
Pulpit Search Committee Vice-Chairman: John Kinyon
Pulpit Search Committee Secretary: Marla Bokmeyer