



*Together In Christ*

*By His Grace*

*For His Glory*

February 8, 2026  
10:30 AM Sunday Mornings

**Words of Reflection**

*“The Christian life is not about all the things we do for God—it’s about being loved by Him, loving Him in return, and walking in intimate union and communion with Him.”*

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

## Order of Worship

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

### Welcome/Invocation

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

### Call to Worship

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

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; And let them say among the nations, 'The LORD reigns.' O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His loving kindness is everlasting. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, 'Amen,' and praised the LORD. 1 Chronicles 16:31-36*

### 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.

#### Come Thou Fount

Come Thou Fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy Redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy Great help I come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, that day when free from sinning,  
I shall see thy loving faith;  
Clothed in the blood washed linen,  
How I see Thy Wondrous Grace.

Come my Lord, no longer tarry,  
Take my Ransomed soul away;  
Send Thy angels out to carry,  
Me to realms of endless days.

O to grace how great a debtor,  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Her's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Traditional Song, "Come Thou Fount"

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758

Melody: John Wyeth

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### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

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.

*Most Merciful God, We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.*

### **Silent Personal Confession**

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

*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—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6*

#### **Intercessory Prayer**

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.

## **The Apostles Creed, Trinity Hymnal**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **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"  
Music and words by John Wilbur Chapman,  
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## **Family Time**

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

- Anna Blackburn, Working on her “*Stars and Stripes Award*” with American Heritage Girls
- Webpage Update---Thank you to Amanda Auler...awesome job

## **The Offering**

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.

## **The Reading of God’s Word**

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

*<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14*

## **Preaching God’s Word**

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** (Celebrated the First Sunday of Every Month)

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 Deep the Father’s Love for Us**

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

song, "How Deep the Father's Love For Us"  
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## **Announcements**

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

## **The Benediction**

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

*<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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.

*"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**  
Rev. Tom Buiters  
The Pharisee and the Publican

Luke 18:9-14

*<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

The Pharisee

The Publican

The Pronouncement

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

Leadership Training---All are invited to join us for our leadership training this winter and spring. The training includes seven Sunday afternoons from 4:00-6:00 PM at the Johnston's house and includes a 90-day reading plan. For questions, see Ralph. Here are the dates: 2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22, 4/12, 4/26.

Security Team---We are looking for a few men to help Steve Hallbrook with security on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Ralph.

Church-wide Cookbook---We are going to pull together our best recipes for shared meals, sides, and deserts and create a fun "Christ Church Sanford Cookbook." Grab your best recipe and send it to Sandra. We look forward to making hospitality and our shared meals more savory with great, easy recipes for all the share!  
Email Sandra at: [2014msmills@gmail.com](mailto:2014msmills@gmail.com).

Operation Christmas Child---We are launching today! 2/1 and add 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](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/VYRSTLL93TXO?ref_=wl_share)

Men's & Women's Bible Studies---First and Third Weeks Each Month. Women meet on Thursday nights at Delancy's house. Men will continue to meet on Friday mornings at Family Grounds from 7:00-8:30 am.

LIFE Groups---Second and Fourth Weeks Each Month. Dinner, short Bible study, and prayer.

- Bostrom/Auler Group meets at 6:00 on Tuesday every other week in various homes.
- Delancy/Thomas Group meets at 6:30 on Thursdays every other week at Randy & Lauren's house.
- Questions: See your Church Center App or call Melanie at 910-366-4452.

Anchor Student Ministry---Middle and High School students meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-8:30 PM at Thomas's house. Our time together will include fun games, Bible study, prayer, and snacks. For questions, call Kate Blackburn at 919-530-9270.

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](mailto:melanie.lasley@me.com) or 910-366-4452.

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

Last Week's Attendance: 51---Last Month's Giving: \$9,360.00, Year to Date: \$9360.00

## Children in Worship

*<sup>13</sup> Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, <sup>14</sup> 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 special events, Sunday School, and children's membership.

Feel free to utilize our nursery (k-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 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 for 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.