

“Here is the
Lamb of God
who takes away
the sin of the world!”

John 1:29



January 18, 2026
10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

arr. Carter

Worship Song

O Come to the Altar

Furtick, Brown, Joye, Brock

Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Verse 3

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Confession

P: Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community,

C: but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the grace of Christ, and forgives your sin in ⁺ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Jesus Messiah Name above all names

Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel

The Rescue for sinners

The Ransom from heaven

Jesus Messiah Lord of all

(Refrain)

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of all.

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us.

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy.

God of our all, we thank You for the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose life showed us the power of faithful courage, coalition, and love in the face of injustice. As we grieve the ongoing harm caused by racism, hatred, and broken systems, remind us that You still call ordinary and extraordinary people alike to labor for justice, even when the work feels slow and heavy. Give us courage, humility, and unity to confront oppression together, trusting You to guide us in both action and stillness as we seek a world shaped by Your love.

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in the Matthews and Charlotte community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another.

Hear us as we sing...

(Refrain)

God, our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. You give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones.

Holy Healer, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick, especially those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time.... We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. We give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior, and we sing our amen...

(Refrain)

(Children may head out for C&C Kids)

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.



This Week's Story: Jesus is Baptized
Icebreaker Question: What do you want
to be when you grow up?

Welcome Home and Announcements (See back page for additional announcements.)

THE WORD

John 1:29-42

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Mike Meath

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

We Shall Overcome

Tindley, arr. Smith



1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come,
2 We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
3 We shall all have peace, we shall all have peace,



we shall o - ver - come some - day. Oh, deep in our
we'll walk hand in hand some - day. Oh, deep in our
we shall all have peace some - day. Oh, deep in our



hearts we do be - lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day.
hearts we do be - lieve we'll walk hand in hand some - day.
hearts we do be - lieve we shall all have peace some - day.

Offertory Response

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, Stanza 1

Linstead



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Statement of Belief

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

COMMUNION

Come to the Table—Everyone’s Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ’s love, shared through His body and blood. If you’re hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We’re so glad you’re here—let’s share this joyful moment together!

Words of Institution

P: When we gathered for the celebration of Communion last Sunday, Pastor Melody said these words. With thanksgiving, we remembered that “in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” We were given assurance of our Lord’s presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

OR

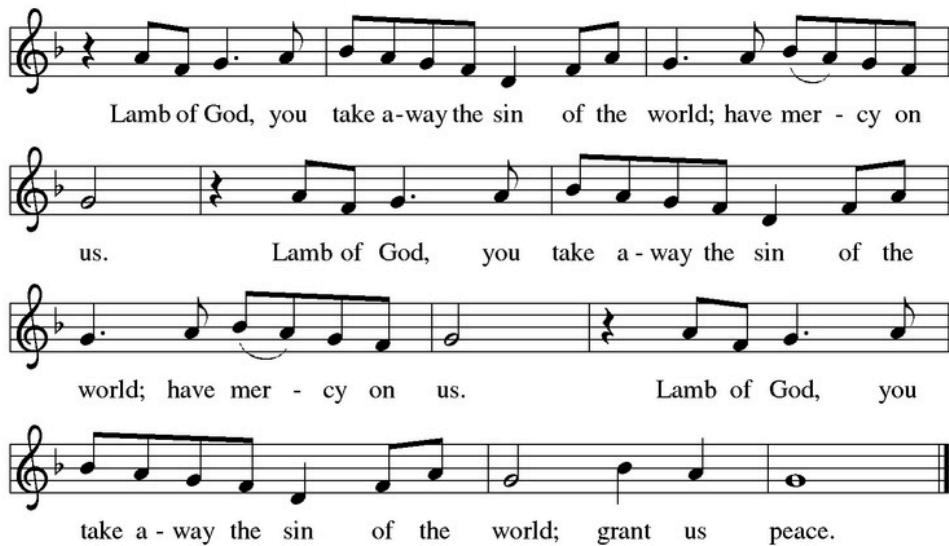
Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever, Amen.

Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Unshakeable Grace

Simpkins

Verse 1

I thought I could stand alone until I hit the ground
Never knew I's lost until I was found
You rescued me (x2),
you took away my shame
Lost as I am, you gave me my name

Verse 2

I left you for you dead and tried to steal your pride
But you waited and hoped after me
I laid in my tomb till you called me to life
And came running, came running for me
You came running, came running for me

Chorus

So I'm laying down, All of my arms
You're singing my name, in a symphony of grace
You carry my home, you set me a place
When I was hungry, you gave me a taste
Of your restless, unshakable grace
Of your restless, unshakable grace

Verse 3

I was covered in chains that I put on myself
My darkness stole my Victory
But on that third day when you came back to life
You took my chains, now forever I'm free
took my chains, now forever I'm free

Bridge

When I was in prison
When I was in doubt
You threw away my sin
And carried me out
So I'm laying down, All of my arms
You're singing my name, in a symphony of grace
You carry my home, you set me a place
When I was hungry, you gave me a taste
Of your restless, unshakable grace
Of your restless, unshakable grace

The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

River of Mercy

Verse 1

Are you tired
Are you weary
Are you running out of places you can hide
Are you lost
Feeling hopeless
With a burden you can't bear another night

Pre-Chorus 1

Can you hear it the rushing of waters
Healing streams that flow from his side

Chorus

There is a river a river of mercy
It flows to the broken the lost and the hurting
Come to the river the river of mercy
And be clean

Simpkins

Verse 2

Come on out
From your darkness
And the whispers of a thousand different lies
There's a voice
That is calling
With a power that will bring you back to life

Bridge

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath its flood
Lose all their guilty stains

Pre-Chorus 2

Can you hear it the rushing of waters
Healing streams that flow from his side
Can you hear it

The Doxology (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**