



Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship



Following Jesus. Loving & Serving All.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship! Cross & Crown is an inclusive, vibrant Christ-centered church committed to caring for and serving our communities and each other. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome and will worship with us again!

PARENTS

We love the sound of kids in our service! Here are some ideas to keep them engaged.

Relax! It's ok to let kids be kids!

Sit close: Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see and hear.

Explain: Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

Participate: Sing hymns loudly, pray, respond, etc. Children learn by following your lead.

Activities: If you would like a bag of quiet activities for your little ones, ask an usher and they will provide one for you.

Wander: It's ok to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids move a bit.

Need to Leave? No problem, but please come back! Sometimes kids just need a break. There are speakers in the narthex & Common Room so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the Common Room is nice if you need privacy.

Ask: Questions or just need help? Just ask one of our ushers.

Childcare: The nursery is down the hall in the Multipurpose Space for infants to age 4 & is available during both worship services. If you need assistance, an usher can help you. C&C Kids is offered to kids pre-K through 3rd grade. Kids depart the sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sunday school classes are offered for adults located in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class, Books of Faith, meets in room 206.

Communion is offered each week. Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table!

Cross & Crown has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. Come join us for a home-cooked meal on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. See the back of the bulletin for more details and how to RSVP.



Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know your story by scanning the QR code to fill out our First Time Guest Connection Form- share as much or as little as you'd like. It takes less than a minute!



SCAN HERE

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O Filii et Filiae

Worship 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 me 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 me 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

Prayers of the Church

Refrain

What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is

The Name of Jesus Christ my King, What a beautiful Name it is

Nothing compares to this, What a beautiful Name it is

The Name of Jesus

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation, kneeling, sitting, or standing as you are able.

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. We pray for military personnel and chaplains serving near and far.

Giver of joy, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love and we sing...

(Refrain)

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, especially those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time...

(We now invite you to speak aloud the names of those for whom you are praying.)

Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and we sing our Amen.

(Refrain)

Welcome of New Members

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: We renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: We renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: We renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

Affirmation of Baptism

P: Sisters and brothers who are affirming baptism today: You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Baptism

P: Decklin and Logan Orton, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Decklin and Logan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

Welcome

- P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized and rejoice with those making public affirmation of baptism.
- C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

(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: The Road to Emmaus
Icebreaker Question: What do you like most about Saturdays?

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

Welcome New Members:

David & Paula Angevine, Lola Belle & Charlie Scott, Jonathan Scott, James, Duncan, Decklin, Logan Orton, Carrie Boan, Jordan & Kat Finzel, Ryan & Katie Kaysen (Olivia & Daphne), Ted & Michelle Matthews, Brett & Alyssa Anderson, Nancy Simpkins, Reed Esarove, Allen, Amanda Cockrell (Zach & Luke), Joe & Shay Frank, Garrett & Christy Todd

THE WORD

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

A Gaelic Easter Celebration

Praetorius/Drennan

That Easter day with sun was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad apostles saw their Lord.

His risen flesh with radiance glowed; His wounded hands and feet He showed. The scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.

O Jesus, strong in gentleness, come now Yourself, our hearts possess, that we may give You all our days the tribute of our grateful praise.

From every weapon death can wield Your own redeemed forever shield. O Lord, of all, with us abide in this, our joyful Eastertide. Alleluia, Allelu, Alleluia.

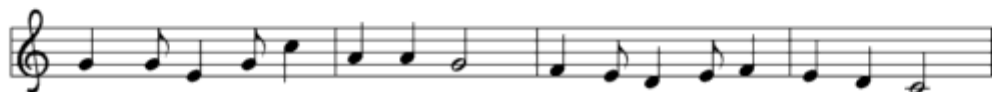
Offertory Hymn

674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.



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

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: 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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Graves Into Gardens

Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough
Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws
Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend

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: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Yes and Amen

Verse 1

Father of kindness You have poured out grace
You brought me out of darkness
You have filled me with peace
Giver of mercy You're my help in time of need
Lord I can't help but sing

Chorus 1

Faithful You are
Faithful forever You will be
Faithful You are
All Your promises are Yes and Amen
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Verse 2

Beautiful Savior You have brought me near
You pulled me from the ashes
You have broken ev'ry curse

Lake, Brown, Furtick, Hammer

'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
There's not a place
Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Bridge 1

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

Bridge 2

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

McClarney, Moore, Brown

Blessed Redeemer You have set this captive free
Lord I can't help but sing

Chorus 2

Faithful You are
Faithful forever You will be
Faithful You are yes You are
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Bridge

I will rest in Your promises
My confidence is Your faithfulness
(REPEAT)

Ending

All Your promises are Yes and Amen
All Your promises are Yes and Amen

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: Please read the sending with me.

L: Go in peace and share Cross and Crown's mission with the world.

C: **Following Jesus, loving and serving all!**

Announcements



Journey to Freedom will take place on April 25 from 9:00–11:00am at East City Church (6850 Monroe Rd, Charlotte).

Join us for a meaningful morning of movement, learning, and inspiration as we come together to support the life-changing work of Changed Choices.

You're invited to be part of a meaningful and hope-filled experience. Together, we'll explore interactive booths that share the realities of incarceration and the journey of re-entry, take part in a community walk, and gather for a powerful panel conversation.

Women whose lives have been transformed through Changed Choices—along with the love and support of Cross & Crown through volunteering, giving, and prayer—will share their stories in their own words. You'll hear about the challenges they've faced, the strength it took to keep going, and the hope they are living into each day.

Use the QR Code to sign up to walk with Cross & Crown's team or donate to Changed Choices. Contact Cathy Kozlinski for more info!



Mark your calendars for the Miriam Circle Yard Sale—August 1st! Please hold off bringing your donations at this time. We will let you know soon the details of when and where to drop your donations off.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

All women are welcome!
Join us at Portofino's @
the Arboretum
12:30 pm

Text/Call Kathy Shepler
to RSVP: 330-603-4115



ROOTED SUNDAY

NEXT WEEK!

Join us for "Rooted Sundays"! Each month, one of our amazing members will jump in to share their talents with the kids! Get ready for hands-on fun, creative activities, and plenty of laughter as our children explore the building blocks of the Bible in exciting, unforgettable ways.

YOUTH NIGHT OUT!

APRIL 17
6 PM

Join us for an exciting night of food, fun, and fellowship! Meet at the church at 6:00 pm, then we'll head out together for dinner, enjoying breakfast for dinner at a local restaurant. Afterward, we'll return to the church for an awesome game night full of laughs and friendly competition.

Wednesday Night Happenings

SCAN TO RSVP



April 15

Chicken & Rice Casserole

Tender chicken and fluffy rice baked together in a creamy, comforting sauce for a hearty, homestyle dish.

Sides: Broccoli, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls & Dessert



Week at a Glance

Monday, April 13

12:30 pm- Lunch Bunch-
Portofino's @ the Arboretum
7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 14

9:30 am- Squares of Love Quilting
12 pm- Staff Meeting
6:30 pm- Table Talk

Wednesday, April 15

6 pm- WNH Dinner
6:30 pm- Executive Committee Meeting
6:45- Handbells
7:30 pm- Choir

Friday, April 17

4:25 pm- Walking Club
6 pm- Youth Fun Night!

Sunday, April 19

8:15 am- Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School
10:15 am- Worship
11:30 am- Rooted Sunday

Serving in Worship Today

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assisting Minister: | Hugh Kluttz |
| Acolyte: | Allison Goode |
| Communion Assistants: | Terry McClure, Jill Jurgensen |
| Usher: | Keith Whitener, David Cox |
| Communion Set-up: | Jennifer LaMere |
| Greeters: | Cathy Kozlinksi |
| Nursery Assistant: | Kati Goode |
| C&C Kids: | Dawn & Jason Watts |
| Contribution Counter: | Vivian Farland, Ayke Blackburn |

You can give to C&C by scanning
the QR code below.

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Melody Simpkins | Co-Pastor | pastormelody@crossandcrown.org |
| Matt Simpkins | Co-Pastor | pastormatt@crossandcrown.org |
| Larry Stratemeyer | Dir. of Music Ministries | music@crossandcrown.org |
| LeAnne Bates | Church Administrator | office@crossandcrown.org |
| Laura Van Landingham | Ministry Program Coordinator | ministries@crossandcrown.org |
| Dan Goldstein | Technical Director | tech@crossandcrown.org |
| Terry McClure | Hospitality Coordinator | |
| Jessica Carter | Custodian | |

Copyright:

Unshakeable Grace, words and music, Matt Simpkins Ó 2018 Matt Simpkins What a Beautiful Name, words and music, Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood Ó 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia CCLI Song # 7068424 A Gaelic Easter Celebration, Praetorius, Drennan Ó 2014 Lorenz Publishing Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, text, Fred Kaan, music, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter Ó 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Graves Into Gardens, words and music, Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Tiffany Hammer Ó 2019 Brandon Lake Music, Maverick City Publishing Worldwide, Music by Elevation Worship Publishing, Bethel Music Publishing CCLI Song # 7138219 Yes and Amen, words and music, Chris McClamey, Nate Moore, Tony Brown Ó 2016 Bethel Worship Publishing, Mouth Of The River Music, Songs Of Simply Hymns Music, Tony Brown Music Designee, Thankyou Music. CCLI Song # 704885 Holy Communion, Setting Eight © 1970, 1990, 1995, 2006 Jay Beech, Robin Cain Augsburg Fortress.
OneLicense A-730-808