



16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 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

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

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

Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation cries from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Refrain

We sing God is so good
God is so good, God is so good
He's so good to me

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us, kneeling, sitting, or standing.

God of Us All, you show us an immense amount of love. You are gracious, compassionate, and abounding in steadfast love. Help us to reflect your love in our homes, to our neighbors, and in our community. Fill our hearts and community with a spirit of deep understanding and care for others.

(refrain)

God of Us All, Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Fill us with compassion so we can care for one another through your eyes. Bring comfort to those who are hurting, strength to the weary, and hope to the forgotten. We lift to you 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.)

Thank You for placing us together in the body of Christ for fellowship, ministry, and worship. Make your church a shining light and a place of real comfort. Help us serve our neighbors and show Your relentless grace to everyone we meet.

Strengthen all peacemakers who serve in dangerous places and work tirelessly to heal a broken world. Disarm the hearts of those who wage war and turn the thirst for power into a hunger for justice.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name and we sing our AMEN.

(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 Ten Commandments
Icebreaker Question: Would you rather play board games or video games?

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

THE WORD

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his

fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matt Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Love Grows Here

Besig

Take a look around you, tell me what you see; People here to worship the Lord, just like you and me. Some have come in gladness, some have come with fear; But all have come because they know that love grows here! Yes, love grows here, and all of us can share the wonder and joy that it can bring. For God is near, teaching us to care, and showing our hearts how to sing.

Some of us are lonely, some have many friends; Some lives just beginning, some are near the end. Yet we come together knowing He is near, Once again reminding us that love grows here! Yes, love grows here, and all of us can share the wonder and joy that it can bring. For God is near, teaching us to care, and showing our hearts how to sing. Yes, love grows here! Yes, love grows here!

Offertory Hymn

182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



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: 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



Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song

Rest On Us

Verse 1

As the Spirit was moving over the water
Spirit come move over us
Come rest on us come rest on us

Chorus

Come down Spirit when You move
You make my heart pound
When You fill the room
You're here and I know You are moving
I'm here and I know You will fill me

Lake, Figueroa, Bashta, Jay, White, Brown

Verse 2

Fire and wind come and do it again
Open up the gates let Heaven on in
Come rest on us come rest on us

Bridge

Holy Spirit
Come rest on us
You're all we want You're all we want

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: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

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

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

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: Together we say our mission statement:

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

L: Now, go and live it out!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SUNDAY *Announcements*



TOWN HALL MEETING TODAY!

Ministry Fair is TODAY!

Our Annual Ministry Fair is happening TODAY in the Narthex! Come explore the many ministries that make Cross & Crown such a vibrant and welcoming church community. The Ministry Fair is a great opportunity to discover ways to get involved, learn more about what's happening at Cross & Crown, and find a place where your gifts, interests, and passions can make a difference.

This year's theme is "Why Do You Serve?" We want to hear from you! Maybe you serve because you love connecting with others. Perhaps you have a passion for helping children, caring for others, worship, outreach, or hospitality. Maybe serving has helped you grow in your faith or connected you with people who have become like family. Whatever your reason, your story matters.

Stop by the Narthex TODAY, explore the ministries, meet the people who make them happen, and discover where God might be calling you to serve. And if you're already serving, take a moment to share why—you never know who your story might inspire!

Welcome to Worship for Kids is TODAY!

Families with children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to Welcome to Worship on Sunday, September 13, immediately following the 10:15 am service.

This fun, 30-minute experience will help children and parents feel more comfortable and confident worshipping together at Cross & Crown. Parents will meet with Pastor Melody in the Common Room to talk about children in worship and how we can help them grow in faith.

Children will meet with our C&C Kids Leaders in the Fellowship Hall to learn about C&C Kids this fall. Then, we'll head into the sanctuary together to explore the different parts of worship and learn why we do what we do each Sunday.

We'll have snacks (allergy friendly snacks, too!)

Suds & Duds: We Need Your Quarters!



The Community Care Team is getting ready for our Suds & Duds event this October, and we need your help—one quarter at a time!

Did you know that an average load of laundry can cost \$4–\$5 to wash and another \$3–\$5 to dry at a laundromat? We want to help make laundry day a little easier for someone in our community by gifting a small bottle of laundry detergent and a roll of quarters at several local laundromats.

So, start saving those quarters! Drop your spare quarters into one of the collection jars each week and help us spread a little kindness, encouragement, and joy this October. Your quarters can make someone's laundry day—and their day—a whole lot brighter!

YouthQuake- Sept. 26

YouthQuake is a gathering for 3rd-5th grade from across the NC Synod for fellowship, learning, service, and worship.

This year, the theme is What is the Church? This year's YouthQuake, Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at First Lutheran, Greensboro. The cost of \$25/person includes lunch and a T-shirt!

Adults: All adults attending must have Safe Gathering Certification or provide proof of other background check and training approved by the church.



**Scan to
Register!**



Warm Hearts, Warm Hands



This September, we're collecting new winter scarves, hats, gloves, and socks for A Roof Above, helping provide warmth and comfort to our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Please place your donations in the collection basket in the Narthex throughout the month of September. Thank you for helping us share warmth, care, and compassion with our community!



**Scan to purchase
your book!**

Women's Zoom Bible Study Resumes September 14th!

The Women's Bible Study group meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. We will be starting our next study on Monday, September 14th with "Friends & Sisters; Belong & Relating to One Another in the Family of Faith". This study will run from September 14th – October 12th. If you'd like to join this study please contact Allison Muzevich @ acm0321@gmail.com.

Books can be purchased from Lifeway Women or by scanning the QR Code!



SEPTEMBER 20

Rooted Sunday is back for YEAR 2! After an amazing first year, our Rooted Sunday program grew quickly, and we're excited to continue creating a place where children and youth can grow deeper in faith together. Once a month, elementary students, middle schoolers, and high schoolers will explore a common theme through age-appropriate Bible stories, hands-on activities, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to ask questions and connect faith to everyday life. There's something for everyone, and we can't wait to see how God continues to grow our Rooted family!

LUNCH IS PROVIDED! 11:30-2:30

Foundations: What Is Church?/ What is Confirmation?

**Sept
20**

We'll explore that the Church is not just a building, but the community that gathers around Word and Sacrament. Children will discover that the Church is a place where we hear God's Word, receive God's grace, and grow together in faith. We'll also explore confirmation as a time to ask questions, deepen our understanding of faith, and claim the promises God made to us in baptism as we grow into our lives as followers of Jesus.

New Cross & Crown Apparel Is Coming!



Week at a Glance

Monday, September 14

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 15

12 pm- Staff Meeting

7 pm- Finance Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, September 16

1 pm- Mahjong

6 pm- WNH Dinner

6:30 pm- Executive Committee Meeting

6:45 pm- Handbells

7:30 pm- Choir

Thursday, September 17

1 pm- Gift Share

Sunday, September 20

8:15 am- Worship

9 am- Coffee Hour

9:15 am- Adult Sunday School

10:15 am- Worship

11:30 am- Guest Experience Team Meeting
Rooted Sunday!



Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte:

Communion Assistants:

Usher:

Communion Set-up:

Greeters:

Nursery Assistant:

C&C Kids:

Contribution Counter:

Vaughn Herlong

Rori White

Mike Meath, Hugh Kluttz

Garry Rudolph, David Cox

Rita Deppe

Brittany Wellborn

John Hejka

Kia Smith, Jared Blackburn

Vivian Farland, Cathy Kozlinski

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

SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

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***Free Notary Services:** Laura Van Landingham is a commissioned Notary Public. Free notary services are available to Cross & Crown members. Contact Laura to to schedule.

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