



17th Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Carter

Worship Song

Rattle!

Brown, Furtick, Lake

Verse 1

Saturday was silent
Surely it was through
But since when has impossible
Ever stopped You

Verse 2

Friday's disappointment
Is Sunday's empty tomb
Since when has impossible
Ever stopped You

Chorus 1

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

Verse 3

Pentecostal fire
Stirring something new
You're not gonna run out of miracles
Anytime soon

Verse 4

Resurrection power
Runs in my veins too
I believe there's another miracle
Here in this room

Bridge

My God is able to save and deliver and heal
And restore anything that He wants to
Just ask the man who was thrown

On the bones of Elisha
If there's anything that He can't do
Just ask the stone that was rolled
At the tomb in the garden
What happens when God says to move
I feel him moving it now
I feel him doing it now
I feel him doing it now
Do it now do it now

Chorus 2

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

Interlude 1

I hear the sound (I hear the sound)

Interlude 2

Live (Live) live (live)
Dry bones hear the word of the Lord
(REPEAT)
Live (Live) live (live)
Live live live live

Ending

But God said

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 Battle of Jericho
Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite number?

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

THE WORD

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you

standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matt Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Giver of Every Perfect Gift

K. Lee Scott

Giver of every perfect gift, You shape my life from womb to grave. Reveal your good and gracious will That plants me in this time and place. Display the gifts assigned to me. Make them a witness to your name.

You planned and know the gifts I have; Creator God, from you they come, Unique and special, from your heart, Intended for a chosen role. Thrill me to find and recognize the talents only you can give.

Revealing Word, sent Son of God, Proclaimer of the Kingdom's dawn. It is for you, because of you, That every talent is bestowed. You have a part for me to fill, A purpose for this life of mine.

Enabling Spirit, Gift of gifts, Empower me, stir up my faith, make me an instrument of grace, Of mercy, blessing, peace and joy. Let me not miss another day in seeing what your gifts can do. Giver of every perfect gift.

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!

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



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

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.

Sending Song

I Thank God

Verse 1

Wandering into the night wanting a place to hide
This weary soul this bag of bones
I try with all of my might
But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting a vagabond

Pre-Chorus 1

And just when I ran out of road
I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone

Chorus

You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

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!

Moses, Butler, Bowe, Cline, Holmes, George

Verse 2

I cannot deny what I've seen
Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving
Nah you ain't welcome here

Pre-Chorus 2

From now till I walk streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home

SUNDAY *Announcements*

ROOTED SUNDAY TODAY!

Kids and youth of all ages will dig into faith through Bible stories, hands-on activities, real conversations, and more. One Sunday a month. One shared faith journey. Different ages. One ROOTED family.
AND YES—LUNCH IS INCLUDED!



Foundations: What Is Church?/ What is Confirmation?

This Sunday, children will discover that the Church is more than a building—it's a community where they hear God's Word, receive God's grace, and grow in faith together. They'll explore what it means to follow Jesus and, through confirmation, have a chance to ask questions, deepen their faith, and live out their baptismal promises.

G.E.T. READY! GUEST EXPERIENCE TEAM TRAINING TODAY!

Training is TODAY! Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, join us for a light lunch and training for our new Guest Experience Team (G.E.T.).

Pastor Matt will lead the approximately one-hour training and help us learn how we can make every person who walks through our doors feel welcomed, valued, and at home. Jeff Bratschie and Jill Jurgensen will coordinate the G.E.T. We're putting together four teams of two people for the 8:15 a.m. service and four teams of four people for the 10:15 a.m. service, with teams serving on a rotating basis.

Didn't register? No worries—stay for the training anyway!
We'd love to have you be part of the G.E.T.!

Men, it's time to settle the score!



**SCAN TO
RSVP**



The annual Crossman Championship is happening Friday, October 2, at Lucky Strike in Matthews.

We'll meet at 7:00 PM and hit the lanes for at least two rounds of bowling—with the possibility of more depending on the turnout. Come ready to bowl, compete, and have a good time with the guys! Everyone pays for themselves at Lucky Strike, but we don't want cost to keep anyone from joining us. A limited number of scholarships are available for those who need one.

No payment is needed up front. Just sign up so we can get an accurate headcount and determine how many scholarships are needed.

Bring your game. Bring your competitive spirit. Let's see who takes home the Crossman Championship!

Warm Hearts, Warm Hands

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!

Donations are due by Sunday, October 11th.



MEAT UP! CROSSMAN MEN'S GROUP SEPT. 27- 4PM

Men, meat, and meaningful conversation! MEAT Up is a casual gathering for the men of Cross & Crown to come together, get to know one another, share stories, talk about life and faith, and enjoy some good food straight from the grill. No agenda, no pressure—just good fellowship, great conversation, and plenty of meat!

THINGS TO KNOW:

- BRING SOMETHING TO GRILL
- BRING A SIDE IF YOU'D LIKE
- BYOB

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!





Order Your C&C Apparel **TODAY!**

Show your Cross & Crown spirit while supporting our youth! Beginning next week, new Cross & Crown apparel will be available through an online store set up directly with our vendor.

There will be lots of options to choose from, including hoodies, long-sleeve T-shirts, hats, and a pullover option. With a variety of styles and sizes available, there's something for everyone!

Best of all, your purchase helps support our youth as they raise funds to attend the National Youth Gathering next year! It's a great way to add some new Cross & Crown gear to your wardrobe while helping our young people have an incredible faith-filled experience.

Watch for the online store link next week and start shopping! All orders will be placed directly through the online store and fulfilled by our vendor.

Wear your Cross & Crown pride and support our youth!



Scan the QR Code to Order!



Week at a Glance

Tuesday, September 21

10 am Book Club
7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 22

12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Congregational Care Team Meeting
2 pm- Community Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

1 pm- Gift Share

Saturday, September 26

YOUTH QUAKE! Greensboro, NC

Sunday, September 27

8:15 am- Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
10:15 am- Worship

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Joe Simpkins
Acolyte:	Nevaeh McClinton
Communion Assistants:	Gina Simpkins, Jill Jurgensen
Usher:	Garry Rudolph, Roger Black
Communion Set-up:	Jennifer LaMere
Greeters:	Cathy Kozlinks
Nursery Assistant:	Amanda Hayes
C&C Kids:	Jared Blackburn, Brandon Prickett
Contribution Counter:	Ann Whitener, Ruth Greene

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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