



CHRIST — PRES —

Proclaiming a **Hope**

Building a **Home**

Launching a **Healing**

The Lord's Day, August 31, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

A Service of Word and Prayer

August 31, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

***Approach, My Soul**

Music: Jordan Kauflin & Laura Story

Lyrics: John Newton, 1779, Jordan Kauflin & Laura Story



1. Ap - proach, my soul, the mer - cy seat where
2. Bowed down be - neath a load of sin, by
3. Oh won - drous love; to bleed and die, to



Je - sus an - swers prayer. There hum - bly fall be -
Sat - tan sore - ly pressed, by wars with - out and
bear the cross and shame that guil - ty sin - ners



fore His feet, for none can per - ish there.
fears with - in, I come to Thee for rest.
such as I might plead Thy gra - cious name!



Thy pro - mise is my on - ly plea;
Be Thou my shield and hi - ding place,
The temp - ted soul he tells, "Be still;



with this I ven - ture nigh. Thou calls our bur -
that shel - tered near Thy side, I may my fierce
My pro - mised grace re - ceive." 'Tis Je - sus speaks;



dened souls to Thee, and such, O Lord, am I. 1-2x to Chorus
ac - cu - ser face and tell him Thou hast died.
I must, I will, I can, I do be - lieve. 'Tis



Chorus: Oh won - drous love! Oh bound - less grace!



Re - joice my soul for - e - ver; Christ has made a way!

Welcome & Announcements

Clint Wilcke & Pamela Grafton

***Call to Worship¹**

Psalm 135:1-6, 134:1-3

Elder: Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

People: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.

Elder: For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps... Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

All: Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD! May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

***How Firm a Foundation, verses 1-3, 6**

Hymn No. 94

Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American melody, arr. Joe Deegan

Lyrics: Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Affirmation of Faith**

Adapted from 1 Peter 1:3-7

Elder: Church, what is our hope as God's people?

All: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this we rejoice, though now we have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of our faith may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

***It Is Well with My Soul**

Hymn No. 691

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1876; Lyrics: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

Call to Confession

Ezekiel 18:29-32

²⁹...the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

¹We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His invitation and command to us to gather in His name.

Confession of Sin

All: Heavenly Father, far too often we've failed to recognize that as Your children, we have a life-changing message in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are perhaps too timid, too shy, too afraid, too willing to give way to fear of man, too conscious about what people will think about us. We've allowed the world's view of Christianity, with all its sarcasm and cynicism, to drive us into hiding, or at least not be as bold. Or perhaps we're just too selfish, too consumed with our own schedules, pursuits, and pleasures to prioritize being a light in our neighborhood and sharing the gospel with our neighbors next door. Help us remember that the only reason we are comfortable in the love of God is because Jesus became uncomfortable and made the ultimate sacrifice to share that love with us. May we never forget that the gospel is the only story that provides hope, that Jesus offers that hope of love—a love that we don't have to earn and that cannot be taken away. This is such good news! May we not keep this message of hope and love to ourselves. Amen.

Silent Confession

*Assurance of Forgiveness Isaiah 55:8, 12

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD... ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Music: Christopher Miner; Lyrics: George Matheson, 1882



1. O Love that will not let me go,
2. O Light that foll - ow'st all my way,
3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain,
4. O Cross that lift - est up my head,



I rest my wear - y soul in Thee;
I yield my flick' - ring torch to Thee;
I can - not close my heart to Thee;
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;



I give Thee back the life I owe,
my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray,
I trace the rain - bow through the rain,
I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead,



that in Thine o - cean depths its flow
that in Thy sun - shine's blaze its day
and feel Thy pro - mise is not vain,
and from the ground there blos - soms red



may rich - er, full - er be.
may bright - er, fair - er be.
that morn - shall tear - less be.
life that shall end - less be.

*Please stand, if able.

Offertory

"Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"

Music: Robert Lowry, 1876, arr. T. Bryant

Visitors, please fill out a visitor card located in the chair backs in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.

***Children's Church Dismissal: During both the 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. service four- & five-year-olds may be dropped off & picked up at the sanctuary door to the left of the piano to attend Children's Church.*

Pastoral Prayer

Elder James Harper

Members of the Week:

Robert & Ashley Clark: Conley, Robert and Ava Gates
Jackson Clinton

Missionaries of the Week:

International Guest House: Oxford, MS
Bok & Heidi Chew: InterVarsity - Cleveland, OH

Teachers of the Week:

5th & 6th Grade: Susanna & Mark Levy, Fowler & Billy Staines

Christ Pres Leadership & Staff:

Doug & Terri Sanford

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11

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Elder: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Les Newsom

Ephesians: The Keys to Unlocking the Mystery of the Church

Children's Church pickup by the sanctuary door to the left of the piano after sermon.

*He Will Hold Me Fast

Music & Lyrics: Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker

1. When I fear my faith will fail,
 2. Those He saves are His de-light,
 3. For my life He bled and died,
 Christ will hold me fast;
 Christ will hold me fast;
 Christ will hold me fast;
 when the tempt-er would pre-vail,
 pre-cious in His ho-ly sight,
 jus-tice has been sat-is-fied.
 He will hold me fast.
 He will hold me fast.
 He will hold me fast.
 I could nev-er keep my hold
 He'll not let my soul be lost;
 Raised with Him to end-less life, His
 through life's fear-ful path;
 prom-is-es shall last;
 He will hold me fast.
 for my love is oft-en cold;
 bought by Him at such a cost,
 'Till our faith is turned to sight
 He must hold me fast.
 He will hold me fast.
 when He comes me at last!
 Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
 for my Sa-vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

*Benediction²

¹Please stand, if able.

²Just as God has the first word in worship, He also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

1. The Doctrine

2. The Objections

3. The Blessings

Musicians & AVL Team

Denease Bishop, vocals; Gabbie Bowden, violin; Randall Bryant, guitar & vocals;
Noel Childress, mandolin; Jessica Ellington, keyboard & vocals;
Amanda Fliflet, sound engineer; Slade Lewis, bass; Andy Paney, piano;
Matthew Parks, cello; Whitney Reese, lights & projections; Daniel Spears, percussion

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Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE PATH FROM CHAOS TO KINGSHIP

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY | FALL 2025



Our Women's Bible Study returns on **September 10th!** This fall we will be studying Judges: The Path from Chaos to Kingship. Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings with coffee at 9:15am and the study at 9:30am and Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm. There is a large group lecture and small group discussion. Nursery is provided for the morning study and nursery through youth group is provided for the evening study. Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera to register and purchase your book.

we need you

we are looking for M&M volunteers

We are still looking for a few more men & women to help with our Pre-K through 4th graders during M&M (which begins on Sept. 10th). We need a few more class leaders to help each class follow the one hour schedule each Wednesday. Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to the right to see what classes still needs volunteers. Questions? Contact Emily Lipscomb 901.292.2514.



YOUTH EVENTS



- SR. HIGH GIRLS OASIS RETREAT: SEPT 14-21ST
- SR. HGH BOYS OASIS RETREAT: OCT 17-19TH
- COVENANT PRESBYTERY YOUTH CONFERENCE (JR. HIGH ONLY): NOV 14-16TH
- JR. HIGH RYM: JUNE 22-26, 2026
- SR. HIGH RYM: JULY 7-12, 2026

Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera to register for these events.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS GROUPS

31

9:45 AM

31

12:00 PM

3

5:30 PM

4

12:00 PM



Above are the dates and times of this week's Focus Groups for Phase 2. Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera to register for one of these dates or any future date. All meetings are held at the church. We encourage at least one person from every household to come and hear the vision for Phase 2 and view preliminary images of a possible new building. All meetings are the same and you are welcome to come to more than one. *If both adults in a household would like to attend, childcare can be reimbursed by contact Susanna Levy at susanna@cpcoxford.org. Onsite childcare is available for the following meetings: Aug 31st at 9:45am, Sept 7th at 9:45am & 5:30pm and Sept 14th at 9:45am, 4pm & 5:30pm.*

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

662.234.3399 | office@cpcoxford.org



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