



CLAYTON COMMUNITY CHURCH



SUNDAY BULLETIN

August 23, 2026

From Before Time to Beyond Time
The Story of God and His Kingdom

GET CONNECTED

CONTACT US

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OUR LOCATION

2501 Rockford Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63144

ONLINE

ClaytonCommunityChurch.com
FB: ClaytonCommunityChurch

ORDER OF SERVICE

- Call to Worship –
- Holy, Holy Holy & How Great Thou Art
- Nicene Creed - Stephen Carson
- In the Garden
- Scripture Readings Psalm 124:1-8, Matt. 16:13-20 - Walter
- Amazing Grace
- Message - Pastor Matthew
- Just a Closer Walk with Thee
- Closing Prayer & Benediction - Pastor Ed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check our website for calendar of events, weekly bulletin, Zoom connection, and information to get “plugged in” to one of our ministries: **claytoncommunitychurch.com**.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online

claytoncommunitychurch.com/give

In Person

Cash or check via giving envelopes.
The Giving Box is to the right of the worship center as you exit.

Mail

Mail checks to:
Clayton Community Church
2501 Rockford Ave, St. Louis, MO 63144



UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Tuesday 6 pm: Prayer meeting via Zoom

Every Tuesday 7 pm: Bible Study via Zoom

August 27 6:30 pm: Small Group Bible Study – Nagles'

August 30 Potluck and Game Day

September 4 6:30 pm: Small Group Bible Study – Selay's

September 11 Lord's Supper

September 11 Lady's Luncheon

CLAYTON KIDS CHURCH

Nursery and Kids Church is available babies to 10 years old. Kids are dismissed right before the sermon.

SERMON NOTES

See Handout

From Before Time to Beyond Time Part 1

The Story of God and His Kingdom | Foundation Text: Ephesians 1:9–10

BIG IDEA: From eternity past to eternity future, God is carrying out one sovereign purpose: to bring all things under the reign of Jesus Christ, defeat every enemy, redeem a people for Himself, and restore creation so that God may be all in all.

INTRODUCTION — ONE GREAT STORY

- The Bible is one Story: one Author, one purpose, one conflict, one promised King, one great victory, one glorious end.
- God's plan for the fullness of time is to unite all things in Christ.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:9–10; Philippians 2:10–11

I. BEFORE TIME — ETERNITY PAST

- The Eternal Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed eternally in perfect holiness, love, fellowship, joy, and glory.
- God's Eternal Purpose — Redemption was not an emergency plan; God's purpose was established before the ages and centered in Christ.
- The Mystery of Iniquity — Pride and rebellion arose in the spiritual realm; Satan opposed God's rightful rule and other angels joined the rebellion.
- Principalities and Powers — Behind visible conflict is a deeper spiritual conflict, yet God remains sovereign.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:7; John 17:5; Ephesians 1:9–10; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–17; Luke 10:18; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7–9; Ephesians 6:12

- Refrain: Before there was a world, there was a God. Before there was a rebellion, there was a purpose. Before there was a battle, God already knew the victory.

II. BEGINNING OF TIME — CREATION AND FALL

- Creation — The Father purposed creation, the Son brought it into being, and the Spirit gave and sustains life.
- Humanity — Created in God's image to live under His rule, in His presence, reflecting His character and exercising dominion.
- Kingdom order: God's people in God's place under God's rule.
- The Fall — Humanity distrusted God, rejected His authority, and enthroned self. Sin brought shame, alienation, curse, suffering, and death.
- First Promise of Grace — The offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head. The question begins: Who is the promised Seed who will defeat the serpent and reverse the curse?

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–2, 26–28; Genesis 2:16–17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; John 1:1–3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30; Genesis 3:1–5, 15; Isaiah 14:14; Romans 5:12; Romans 8

NOAH, THE FLOOD, AND BABEL

- Human wickedness increased, but Noah found favor with God. Through the ark God preserved Noah and his family and established the Noahic covenant.
- At Babel humanity sought its own name and resisted God's command to fill the earth. God confused their language and scattered them.
- Babel and Pentecost contrast: scattering through confused languages versus the nations hearing God's mighty works in their own languages.

Scripture: Genesis 6:5–8; Genesis 8–9; Genesis 11:1–9; Acts 2

- Human rebellion changes humanity's condition, but it does not change God's purpose.

III. UNFOLDING OF TIME — GOD'S PLAN REVEALED THROUGH ISRAEL

- Promise — God called Abraham and promised land, a great nation, blessing, and that all families of the earth would be blessed through him.
- The promise narrows: Abraham → Isaac → Jacob/Israel → Judah. Who is the coming Seed?

Scripture: Galatians 3:8; Genesis 12:1–3

- Exodus and Sinai — God delivered Israel through Passover and the Red Sea, then formed them as His covenant people: a treasured possession, kingdom of priests, and holy nation.
- Israel's mission — To be a light to the nations so God's salvation would reach the ends of the earth.

Scripture: Exodus 19:5–6; Isaiah 49:6

- Promised Land — Joshua led Israel into the land God had sworn to give their fathers. Yet even in the land, sinful hearts remained the deeper problem.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1; Hebrews 11:10; Joshua 21:43

ISRAEL'S COVENANT PATTERN

- Obedience → blessing → life in the land.
- Persistent disobedience → discipline → defeat → exile.
- Repentance → restoration → return to the land.

Scripture: Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; Deuteronomy 30



THE CITY, TEMPLE, AND THRONE

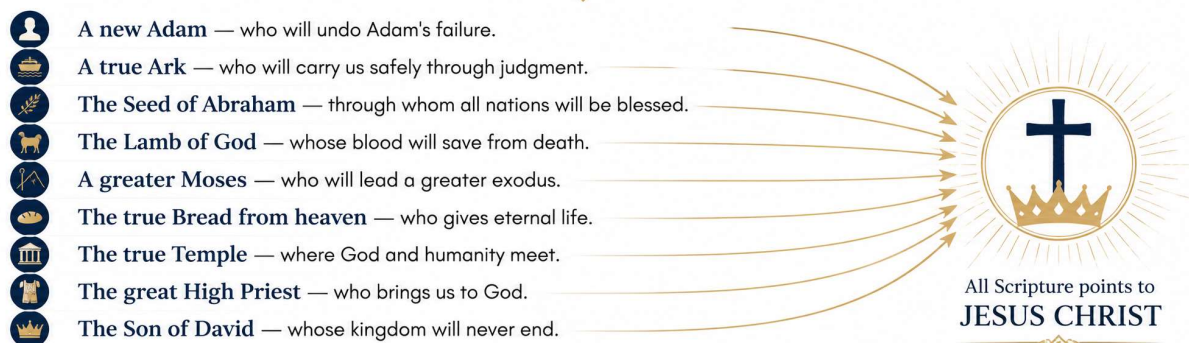
- God's covenant with David made the promise clearer: the promised Seed would be a King whose throne would endure forever.
- Prophet — God promised a prophet like Moses.
- Priest — God promised a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
- King — God promised David an everlasting throne.
- Israel's worship and political life point beyond themselves: a greater Prophet, Priest, and King are coming. *Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:12–16; Deuteronomy 18:18; Psalm 110:4*

EXILE AND REMNANT

- Israel repeatedly rejected God's covenant through idolatry, injustice, and rebellion. Jerusalem fell, the temple was destroyed, and the people were carried into exile.
- But God's purpose did not fail. The prophets promised a remnant, a new covenant, a new heart, the Spirit, and a coming Son of David.
- Ezra and Nehemiah record the remnant returning to the land.

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 36:15–17; Isaiah 11:1

TRANSITION — THE OLD TESTAMENT LEAVES US SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE



**The Old Testament gives us the silhouettes.
The New Testament gives us the face: JESUS CHRIST.**