

Welcome

August 24, 2025

*“Identity and Purpose”
Matthew 5:13-16*

“Whenever tension ceases to exist between the church and the world, one of two things has happened: Either the world has been completely converted to Christ and his Way, or the church has watered down and compromised its original heritage. In the latter position, the church, due to weakness, loses its influence and is discarded.” --Clarence Jordan, *The Sermon on the Mount*

We Gather for Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayers For wellness in our community. For Howard Helton, Dianne Cole, Wendy Hall, Cheryl Spaldi, Tom Post, Paulette Booker, Karoline Berg, Lois Wolfe, and Mary Shelton. For those recovering from natural disasters, Gaza, Ukraine, all refugees, all elected officials, peacekeepers, change agents, the ICCC, and our fellowship community.

Women’s Fellowship Meeting Women’s Fellowship will hold a business meeting today following service.

Bible Study Bible Study will begin a new study on the Parable of Jesus on Wednesday, August 27th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Zoom info will be sent out the day of Bible Study.

Theology on Tap Theology on Tap will begin meeting again on Friday, August 29th at 4pm at the Clinch River Brewery. All are invited to join.

The Bond If you have items for the September Bond, please email them to the Church office at norrisrf@comcast.net.

Church Directory We are updating the Church Directory. We need everyone to please fill out an information card located on the table in the narthex.

The Lighting of the Peace Candle

Call to Worship:

One: Holy and hidden God,

Many: We long to know more of you,

One: Of your goodness and mercy,

Many: Of your large purposes and dreams.

One: In your truthfulness, let us know more of you

Many: For in knowing you, we know more of ourselves as well.

All: Amen.

--Adapted from "We would know more of you"

by Walter Brueggemann

***Hymn: "O Worship the King"** (Red Hymnal, p. 2)

1 O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
has 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

6 O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

We Offer Our Prayer and Praise

Morning Psalm: 71:1-6

Hymn: “Amazing Grace” (Red Hymnal, p. vv.1-4, 6)

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Pastoral Prayer

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

We Attend to the Word

Sermon: "Identity and Purpose" Dr. Bill Ireland
 Matthew 5:13-16

***Hymn: "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"**
(Red Hymnal, p. 180)

1 I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.

Refrain:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

2 I was lost: but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way. [Refrain]

3 Faint was I, and fears possessed me,
bruised was I from many a fall;
hope was gone, and shame distressed me:
but his love has pardoned all. [Refrain]

4 Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led. [Refrain]

5 He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet. [Refrain]

***Benediction**

***The Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind blow at your back.
May the sun shine warmly on your face,
May the rain fall softly on your field.
And until we meet again, Til' we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Postlude