



**GOSPEL CITY**  
FELLOWSHIP



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*[gospelcityfellowship.org](http://gospelcityfellowship.org)*

*A Mission Church of the Presbyterian Church in America*

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**PORTSMOUTH, NH**

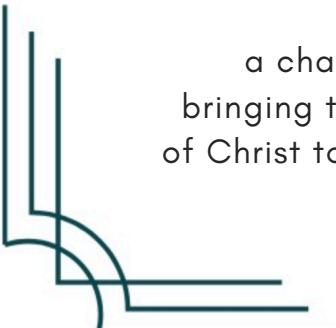


# Welcome!

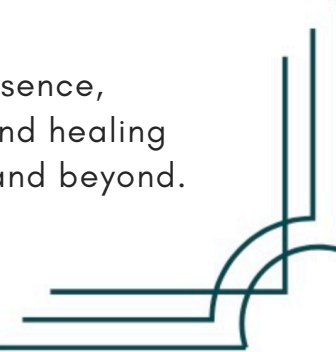


To the broken and in need,  
to the lonely and afraid,  
to the weary who are looking,  
for hope in the midst of pain,  
to the skeptic with many doubts,  
to the strong in faith and growing,  
to the stranger in our midst,  
and the one whose heart is hurting,  
here you find a church,  
of the forgiven and undeserving.

Our **mission** is to be  
a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus  
by joyfully serving the Lord, each other,  
our community, and the world.



Our **vision** is to be  
a channel of God's life-giving presence,  
bringing the redemptive love, hope, and healing  
of Christ to the people of Portsmouth and beyond.



# Thank you.





We are very grateful you chose to join us for worship today. Your time and presence with us is truly a gift. Whether you're new to the area, new to the church, or just passing through out of sheer curiosity, no matter where you are along the spectrum of belief—very skeptical, quite perplexed, or definitely convinced—we hope you experience a sense of belonging here. Our prayer, as we all wrestle with the questions of faith, is that you find our church to be a community of refreshing transparency, intellectual honesty, and relational hospitality.

This whole thing started in 2024 with a dream for God to build a new reformed church in the area that would be both a beacon of truth and a house of refuge and recovery for the de-churched, unchurched, and the church. We are a fellowship of very imperfect people who have been brought together by the gospel of Jesus for the flourishing of Portsmouth and beyond. We're here to serve, and so, if there is anything we can do to support you, please let us know.

With Much Thanks,

— Rev. Jeremy A. McKeen  
Planting Pastor



## SONG OF RESPONSE

### Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

*Written by CityAlight*

- 1.** What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give. He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His, Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine", Yet not I, but through Christ in me
- 2.** The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, For by my side, the Savior, He will stay, I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need, His power is displayed. To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me, Through the deepest valley, He will lead, Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome, Yet not I, but through Christ in me
- 3.** No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future's sure, the price, it has been paid, For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, And He was raised to overthrow the grave. To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus, now and ever is my plea, Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free", Yet not I, but through Christ in me
- 4.** With every breath, I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home, And day by day, I know He will renew me, Until I stand with joy before the throne. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him, When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, "Yet not I, but through Christ in me"

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*Based on Romans 15:13*

### **Sent out by God**

*We are sent out with the assurance of God's pardoning and empowering grace. Just as God calls us to worship at the beginning of the service, He graciously sends us into the world with the assurance that we are absolved from our sins (Absolution), with the clear instructions on how to fulfill our calling (Charge), and with His word of blessing to live out that calling (Benediction - 'good word'), all based on the redeeming work of Jesus.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW HERE?** — Whether you're new to our church, new to the area, or new to the Christian faith altogether, welcome! We are so glad you're here for our inaugural Sunday morning service. Please enjoy a special welcome gift available at the connect table (one per person). And we would love to meet you and answer any questions you may have. A connection card is available at the connect table. For more info, please email Pastor Jeremy at [jmckeen@gospelcityfellowship.org](mailto:jmckeen@gospelcityfellowship.org).

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**GIVING** — We believe giving is an important part of honoring God in our worship. At the same time, we want people to respond to the grace of the gospel and invest in our ministry with a cheerful heart and not under compulsion. We do not pass an offering plate. An offering box is located at our connect table, or you can give online. Thank you!

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**CHILDREN'S** — Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." We greatly value the littlest ones who are in our midst. Our Gospel Kids ministry currently offers dedicated and loving care and a fun Bible-based experience during the entirety of the service for infants to 4 yrs old. Check-in is downstairs. For more info, please email Lindsay McKeen at [proverbs31LM@yahoo.com](mailto:proverbs31LM@yahoo.com).

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**Q&R at UNH** — The IntersVarsity Student-Athletes group at UNH invites any and all students to join them for a live and open "Q&R" (Question and Response) with Pastor Jeremy regarding the Christian faith on Monday, March 31 at 7pm. This will take place on campus at the Lighthouse (10 Mill Rd, Durham, NH). For more info, please email Luke Fageron at [lukefageron@gmail.com](mailto:lukefageron@gmail.com).

# Order of Worship

March 23, 2025

**CALL TO WORSHIP**.....*Responsive, based on Hebrews 4*

**SONGS OF PRAISE**.....*Doxology*  
*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**CONFESSION & INVOCATION**.....*Recited Together*

**SONG OF RESPONSE**.....*His Mercy is More*

**WORD OF EXHORTATION**.....*“A Story of Faith”*  
*Luke 22:31-34*

**SONG OF RESPONSE**.....*Jesus, Strong and Kind*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**.....*Rev. Jeremy A. McKeen*  
*Concluding with The Lord's Prayer*

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**.....*Received Together*

**SONG OF RESPONSE**.....*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**.....*Romans 15:13*

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### Jesus, Strong and Kind

*Written by CityAlight, Colin Buchanan, and Keith & Kristyn Getty*

**1.** Jesus said that if I thirst  
I should come to Him  
No one else can satisfy  
I should come to Him

**3.** Jesus said that if I fear  
I should come to Him  
No one else can be my shield  
I should come to Him

**Refrain** - For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night  
We can always run to Jesus - Jesus, strong and kind

**2.** Jesus said, if I am weak  
I should come to Him  
No one else can be my strength  
I should come to Him

**4.** Jesus said, if I am lost  
He will come to me  
And He showed me on that cross  
He will come to me

## PASTORAL PRAYER

*Our needs are brought to God in prayer, ending with The Lord's Prayer.*

*“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.”*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Communion**  
*This sacrament (sacred act) celebrates the common union that believers share in Christ. The Lord's Supper is the ongoing sign and seal of God's grace to us in Christ.*

We welcome all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, desire to forsake their sin, and have been previously admitted to the table by any congregation that proclaims the gospel of Jesus, to receive Communion with us. We do not believe that the physical elements are transformed into the literal body and blood of Jesus, but rather, we are spiritually transformed as we partake of them by faith.

*Both wine and grape juice are provided and the bread is gluten free.*

## WORD OF EXHORTATION

### Sermon

In New Testament times, the preaching of God's Word in the context of public worship was called "a word of exhortation" (See Acts 13:15, Hebrews 13:22). A sermon seeks to explain the Scriptures along with giving instruction and grace-based encouragement in how to apply them.

### Sermon Text

Luke 22:31-34 (ESV)

**31** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, **32** but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." **33** Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." **34** Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

### "A Story of Faith"

Rev. Jeremy A. McKeen

### Notes

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## GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

*"If you venture out on to a frozen pond, it isn't your faith that keeps you from crashing into the water. True, it takes faith to step onto the pond, but it's the object of your faith, the twelve inches of ice, that keeps you safe. Believe in Christ with all your heart, but don't put your faith in your faith. Your experience of trusting Christ will ebb and flow. So be sure to rest in Jesus Christ and not your faith in him."*  
-Kevin DeYoung

*"He came not for the healthy, but the sick. He dined with the outcasts and touched the unclean. The messes we accumulate in our daily lives are the very things he came to clean up. It is brokenness that comes before completeness, sickness before healing, hunger before being filled, and death before life."*  
-Christina Fox

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Hebrews 4

### Worship

*We're all worshipers because we all ascribe ultimate worth to something ('worth-ship') and then live in light of that perceived worth. Here, we are being called to recognize and to celebrate the infinite worth of God in our service and in our lives together.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the LORD.**

Leader: Let us hold fast our confession of faith in Christ.

**People: For in Jesus we have a forever Friend who sympathizes with our every weakness.**

Leader: Let us then draw near to the throne of God's mercy and grace.

**Unison: For the LORD is merciful and gracious and abounding in steadfast love. Let us rejoice in God together!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

**Praise** - *It's natural to celebrate and to praise greatness when we see it. As Christians, one way we celebrate the greatness of God is in singing together. We approach the Lord with songs of joy by "entering His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."*

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### Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Amen.

### Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Written by Robert Robinson (1758)*

- 1.** Come Thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.
- 2.** Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- 3.** Oh, to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

## CONFESSION & INVOCATION

### Confession

*The church openly acknowledges their sins and shortcomings before God and others. We do this in the spirit of humility and transparency and with the expectancy of God's unfailing mercy for us in Jesus.*

**Unison:** Our Father, together we confess that although we have every reason to trust your word and to trust your ways, we often fail to believe in the goodness of your heart and plans for us. Instead of putting our confidence in you, we often put our ultimate confidence in ourselves or in others. Forgive us. We believe Lord, help our unbelief. Give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Fill our hearts once again with the joy of the gospel and with the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

*We conclude with a time of individual silent confession, and a prayer recounting God's promises of pardon and asking for ('invoking') God's blessing upon our service.*

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### His Mercy is More

*Written by Matt Boswell / Matt Papa*

**Refrain** - Praise the Lord, His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

- 1.** What love could remember no wrongs we have done, Omniscient, all knowing,  
He counts not their sum, Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.
- 2.** What patience would wait as we constantly roam, What Father, so tender, is  
calling us home, He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
- 3.** What riches of kindness He lavished on us, His blood was the payment,  
His life was the cost, We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford,  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more