

WORSHIP GUIDE | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

**** ASH WEDNESDAY TONIGHT @ 7PM ****

// Review of last Sunday- March 3

Sermon Text: [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

Questions to Prepare: Why do Christians need to be strong in the Lord? What's the significance of each piece of armor described?

Songs: [Spotify playlist](#)

Sermon Video: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/strong-in-the-lord/>

Readings:

// Prayer of Preparation //

Prepare our hearts this morning, Lord. Prepare us to hear from you. Prepare us to be encouraged, convicted, and comforted by your word. We pray for those involved in leading us today, may they be filled with joy and be assured that you have gifted them to serve your church today. Thank you for this time together. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

-Hebrews 1:10-13

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Gracious God, we are a people formed by your Word in Christ; but we have wandered away from your truth,

All: we have broken your commandments, we have distorted your teachings to serve our own ends, we have failed to trust your promises, we have refused your mercy.

Leader: Ground us again, O Holy One, in the written wisdom of Scripture and in the living Word which is Christ Jesus. Nourish us on the bread of his teachings until we can taste your goodness. Renew us at the fountain of his wisdom, so we may find joy in obedience

and freedom in giving ourselves to you.

All: Amen

// Assurance of Pardon //

Hear the promises of God to those who repent of their sins and trust in Christ. God is slow to anger and full of compassion. He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Exodus 34:6-7; Romans 8:1)

// Passing of the Peace //

As those who know that peace only truly comes through Christ our Savior, take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

// Communion //

Leader: God meets us in the sacraments, holy acts in which his deeds elicit our response. In the supper our Lord offers the bread and cup to believers to guarantee our share in his death and resurrection, and to unite us to him and to each other.

All: We take this food gladly, announcing as we eat that Jesus is our life and that he shall come again to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.

// Benediction //

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Go in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may God's peace be with you.

All: And also with you

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Prayer of Preparation* (on screen before service begins) we prayed that we would be prepared to hear from God. How can we say such an audacious thing- that we will hear from the God of the universe when we get together on Sunday?
- What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? What stuck with you that you want to continue thinking on?
- How do you think it would change your everyday fight with sin if you opened yourself up to the idea that the devil and his lackeys are attacking you?
- Of the **temptation schemes** of the devil that Pastor Ryan mentioned from Thomas Brooks's book *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, which do you most find in your life?
 - Presenting the bait and hiding the hook
 - Rationalize sin as a virtue
 - Excusing the "small sins"
 - Showing the sins of Christian leaders
 - Overstressing the mercy of God
 - Make you focus on (become bitter over) suffering or sacrifice
 - Showing Christians how "bad" people have great lives
 - Getting to compare one part of your life to another
- Of the **accusation schemes** which ones did you most identify with?
 - Causing you to look more at your sin than your savior
 - Causing Christians to obsess over past sins that caused damage which can't be undone
 - Making Christians believe the troubles they are going through must be punishments
 - Making people think Christians couldn't possibly have these thoughts, desires, and inner struggles
- How does the gospel speak a word of good news to you in the midst of those temptations and accusations?

Resources:

[*Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*](#) by Thomas Brooks (downloadable ebook)
[Slaying Monsters in Church: Why Baptism Should Be Rated R For Violence](#) by Chad Bird

FAMILY BIBLE TIME!

READ Together: Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

ASK:

- How do we know the strength of Jesus is really strong enough to help us?
- How do we have the strength of Jesus with us? (A: Because we have the Holy Spirit within us!)
- What do you need the strength of Jesus for?
- How do you know Jesus will always help you?

REVIEW:

[NEW CITY CATECHISM](#)

Question 37

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

A: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

PRAY:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the strength of Jesus through your Holy Spirit within us. Help me to be strong in the Lord and love mom and dad and obey them. Help me to be strong in Jesus and love everyone at my school. Remind me that you love me and will always be with me no matter what! Thank you for my friends, family, and church. I love you Jesus! Amen

// Prepare for this Sunday- March 10th

Sermon Text: [Ephesians 6:13-23](#)

Questions to Prepare: Where else in the Bible is there a description of battle armor?

Songs: [Spotify playlist](#)

Readings:

// Prayer of Preparation //

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection. We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

All: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

—based on Isaiah 43:19-21

// Prayer of Confession //

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

—based on Isaiah 55:6-7

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. In Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

—based on Joel 2:13; 2 Corinthians 9:15

// Passing of the Peace //

If Christ is your Savior, His peace is yours! Enjoy the peace he gave us by passing it to others.

Take a moment to greet those around you.

// Benediction //

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

- 1 Timothy 1:15

Leader: Go as ambassadors of this message.

Grace and Peace be with you.

All: And also with you