

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

October 31st, 2021

Indoor Worship Service

“Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbi Dei” (“the church is Reformed and always [in need of] being reformed according to the Word of God”)

Jodocus van Lodenstein

“The awareness of sin used to be our shadow. Christians hated sin, feared it, fled from it, grieved over it. Some of our grandparents agonized over their sins. A man who lost his temper might wonder whether he could go to Holy Communion. A woman who for years envied her more attractive and intelligent sister might worry that this sin threatened her very salvation. But the shadow has dimmed. Nowadays, the accusation *you have sinned* is often said with a grin, and with a tone that signals an inside joke. At one time, this accusation still had the power to jolt people. Catholics lined up to confess their sins; Protestant preachers rose up to confess *our* sins. And they did it regularly . . . The word *sin* now finds its home mostly on dessert menus. “Peanut Butter Binge” and “Chocolate Challenge” are sinful; lying is not. The new measure for sin is caloric.”

Cornelius Plantinga

“Answer me this question, and I will tell you — Has God the Spirit taught you that you are accursed? Has he made you feel the bitterness of sin? Has he made you cry, ‘Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner?’ Then, my dear friend, Christ was cursed for you; and you are not cursed. You are not cursed now. Christ was cursed for you. Be of good cheer; if Christ was cursed for you, you cannot be cursed again.”

Charles Spurgeon

CALL TO WORSHIP

“I will sing of your strength,
in the morning I will sing of your love;
for you are my fortress,
my refuge in times of trouble.

You are my strength, I sing praise to you;
you, God, are my fortress,
my God on whom I can rely.”

Psalm 59:16-17

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God / A bulwark never failing
Our helper He amid the flood / Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe / Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great / And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide / Our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side / The Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be / Christ Jesus it is He
Lord Sabaoth His name / From age to age the same

And He must win the battle

And tho' this world with devils filled / Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed / His truth to triumph thru us
The prince of darkness grim / We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure / For lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly pow'rs / No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours / Thru Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go / This mortal life also
The body they may kill / God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

by Frederick Hedge and Martin Luther © Public Domain

Jesus Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul, / Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, / While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, / 'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide; / Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, / I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone, / Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, / All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head / In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want, / Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, / Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, / I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; / Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, / Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; / Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, / Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; / For all eternity, For all eternity.

by Words: Charles Wesley, Music: Greg Thompson © 2000 Greg Thompson Music

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we confess before your divine majesty that we are poor sinners, prone to evil and ever falling short of goodness. We have transgressed your commandments, and are worthy of your anger. We repent, O Lord, and are sorry that we have so displeased you. Have mercy upon us, O most gracious God and Father. Forgive us all our sins through your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant us now the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Increase these in us each day, that we may bring forth the fruits of righteousness and a pure life that are pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression

for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.”

Micah 7:18-19

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found / He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground / Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace / When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All / Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh / Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness / Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died / The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid / Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay / Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day / Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory / Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine / Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death / This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath / Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man / Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home / Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Kelly Whitener

Offering & 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

Life Together

David Speakman

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Large and Startling Figures”

David Speakman

¹ But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.

² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.” ⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, ⁵ and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?”

¹⁰ The Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. ¹² Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. ¹³ Get up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, God of Israel, “There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.” ¹⁴ In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the Lord takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the Lord takes shall come near by households. And the household that the Lord takes shall come near man by man. ¹⁵ And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.”

¹⁶ So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ¹⁷ And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. ¹⁸ And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.” ²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: ²¹ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. ²³ And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the Lord. ²⁴ And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today.” And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Joshua 7:1-26

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: *Thanks be to God*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Lord's Supper Instructions

- We invite those seated furthest away from the pulpit to come to the table first. An usher will tell you when to come.
- Households may approach together. We ask that each household practice physical distancing when awaiting their turn.
- Communicants will cup their hands, ready to receive the bread.
- Another server will make a cup available for each communicant to pick up. Wine is the darker liquid and grape juice is the lighter liquid.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

Rock Of Ages

Rock of Ages cleft for me / Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood / From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure / Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r

Not the labors of my hands / Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know / Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone / Thou must save and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring / Simply to thy cross I cling
Naked come to thee for dress / Helpless look to thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly / Wash me Savior or I die

Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath / When mine eyelids close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown / See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me / Let me hide myself in thee

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BENEDICTION

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

LIFE TOGETHER

Prayer Requests: text **hopeprayers** to 94000 if you would like to send us your prayer requests.

Men's Downtown Lunch: Our next gathering is at Yamas on Thursday, November 4th, anytime between 11:45-1pm. All are welcome (including friends and coworkers) to come connect with other men of Hope.

Seminar on Gender & Sexuality - November 13th, 7:00pm: In collaboration with Hope, Redeemer, Salem, and Trinity churches, we invite you to an evening of dessert and conversation with Jim Pocta, a counselor and writer based in Dallas, TX. Jim is also a PCA elder who recently served with Tim Keller and others on the PCA's Committee on Human Sexuality. He will share his story and hold a conversation with us about how the church engages with issues of gender and sexuality. This is an all ages event. There will be no childcare available, but we are willing to reimburse for childcare costs for those who need it.

Childcare During the Indoor Worship Service: *Please reserve your spot* for the Indoor childcare for infants-36 months. This is available by *reservation*. As the weather changes, the desire for using the indoor nursery may increase and space is limited! Room 103 is available for single family use, if the nursery capacity is reached.

Mother's Nursing Room: The indoor nursing room is available for both the indoor and outdoor services. For the safety of everyone, but especially these precious new babies, please use wise judgment concerning social distancing.

Prayer Opportunities: Prayer is available during both worship services. During the indoor service, there will be two locations at the back of the worship center. During the outdoor service, Elders will be available just outside of the worship center to the left of the worship band and women will be available in Ethan and Davis' office.

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Ted and Carolyn Turnau are serving in the Czech Republic through Global Scholars. Carolyn is teaching Bible to 8th-10th grade kids from 18 different countries, about half from non-Christian homes. She's also the head of the Bible department for Christian International School of Prague, so she's designing the Bible curriculum as well as teaching 3 classes. Pray for her! Ted is settling into his new role as Chair of the Journalism and Media Studies department at Anglo-American University. He's also teaching 3 classes and doing some final rewrites for a book he's been working on about Christian imagination and creative cultural engagement in a post-Christian world. Pray that he'd be able to find a publisher willing to take on a longer book.

Prayer Requests: Pray for stamina, grace and contentment as they both continue juggling their work. Pray for good relationships with their students and faculty. Additionally, pray that Christ would be seen through them - they have students from 18 different countries, many of whom are not christians. Pray for Ted's book to find a publishing home where it would get good exposure and for the process to be guided wisely. They have started hosting movie nights for students - pray for a good turnout and the opportunity to share the gospel.

Contact Information: turnau@ilivein.edu

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Support Our Local Young Life!

Young Life has two fun opportunities to invest in Forsyth County students:

1. Attend the Young Life fundraiser dessert on November 8th and hear about God's work through our local Young Life chapter. Register Here: forsythcounty.younglife.org/events
2. Help send kids to Young Life summer camp by buying a Christmas wreath from the award-winning West End Wreaths. Orders are due by November 22nd. Register Here: nc22.younglife.events/2021-wreath-fundraiser