

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

May 21st, 2023

"No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same. I have found that the doubts that afflict me from many sources—from science, from comparative religion, from an innate defect of skepticism, from aversion to the church—take on a new light when I bring those doubts to the man named Jesus."

Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

"Celebration belongs to God's Kingdom. God not only offers forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing, but wants to lift up these gifts as a source of joy for all who witness them. ... God rejoices and invites others to rejoice with him."

Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

"Welcome to the fallout
Welcome to resistance
The tension is here, the tension is here
Between who you are and who you could be
Between how it is and how it should be ...
Maybe redemption has stories to tell
Maybe forgiveness is right where you fell
Where can you run to escape from yourself?
Where you gonna go? Where you gonna go?
Salvation is here"

Switchfoot, "Dare You to Move"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

People: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*"

Leader: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

People: *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*"

Leader: No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

People: *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

Leader: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come."

People: *And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

From: Deuteronomy 6 and Revelation 21-22

God With Us

The Solid Rock

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, who is rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; through the merit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of God's Pardoning Grace

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us.

Ephesians 1:7-8a

His Mercy is More

Celebration of the Winston-Salem Fellows

Emi Holman and Wyatt Hill

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

** Children ages 3 - Kindergarten are dismissed for Worship Class. (8:30am)*

Welcome and Prayers of the People

Offering & Doxology

Romans 11 (Doxology)

Life Together

Ethan Smith

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“How He Loves Us So”

Ethan Smith

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

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.

Jesus I Come

BENEDICTION

“May the Lord strengthen you with power in your inner being through his Spirit, according to the riches of his glory, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And may you be rooted and firmly established in love, able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God’s love, and to know Christ’s love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

based on Ephesians 3:16-19

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.

Prayer Requests: Fill out the online prayer card at <https://bit.ly/3BkKMis>.

LIFE TOGETHER

Church Picnic: This evening, we will have a church picnic in the pavilion from 5:00-7:00pm. We will use this time to celebrate a successful year in Sunday School and Worship Class. Dinner, dessert, music and fellowship will be provided. Anna Otto will need a few volunteers to help for short time slots before, during and after the event. [>>Sign Up Here](#)

Summer Schedule: On May 28th we will begin our Summer Sunday Schedule that will run through Labor Day.

- 9:00am - Worship
- 10:15-10:45am - Hope Cafe
- 10:45am - Worship

Hope Kids Camp:

- Come join us for Biblical teaching, games, crafts, and dinner at Hope Kids Camp; July 16-19th, 5:30-7:30pm. Children's registration is now open! [>>Register Here](#)
- We need volunteers for Hope Kids Camp the week of July 16th. There are opportunities for single days, the whole week, or any combination that works for you. Contact [Lisa Applegate](#) or [Katie Denton](#) for more information. [>>Sign Up Here](#)

Kids Connection:

- The last day of Sunday School will be May 21st. We will begin our Summer schedule on May 28th.
- Memory Verse for May: Exodus 6:7 "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God."

Meals for the Whittens: Please help us welcome our new Director of Worship and his wife, Wilson and Laura Whitten, and their sons Murry (2), Clyde (1) and Shepherd (4 weeks) to Winston-Salem! The Whittens moved from California at the beginning of May to start a new chapter here at Hope, and we are very fortunate to have them. Here is a meal schedule where you can sign up to provide dinner. They have no restrictions or specifications, other than two toddler palates. [>>Sign Up Here](#)

Help for the Foster Family: Mary Evans, Margaret, and Coleman will hopefully be coming home over the next few weeks. Please pray that they continue to grow and develop and progress so that they can come home when they are ready. In the meantime, we can support the Fosters by bringing meals, laundering baby clothes, and running errands! [>>Sign Up Here](#)

Nursery & Children's Ministry Summer Outings: Let's get together where the kids can play! We would love for you, friends, and neighbors to join us for our summer outings on Tuesday mornings at 10am beginning June 6th. Check the calendar (coming soon!) for each week's location. We will post on social media for potential weather cancellations. Instagram: @hopechurchws

First Wednesday Fellowship: Join us for dinner and fellowship on June 7th, 5:30-7:00pm. See you there!

Women's Retreat: Save the date for the 2023 Women's Retreat; November 3-5 in Hickory, NC. More details and the registration will be available in August.

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Hello from sunny Ireland!

This Irish version of spring means two very big things for us as a family. The first is that I (Scott) am now free to try to do most things with my shoulder. Key emphasis on try. I can attempt to swing a golf club with a full range of motion and speed. The success of said swing is not really in my physiotherapist's purview. More importantly, I have been able to return to helping with any and all things relating to kids (putting them in car seats, lifting them out of cribs, wrestling them apart, etc...) and generally just giving Becca some relief around the house. I can cook again, and lift pots of water onto the stove, and get things out of the top oven. Getting the go-ahead from the doctors has been a huge relief, even if I still need to continue the PT regimen to get all of my strength and range back.

The second big thing that the spring announces is the countdown to our summer internship, Encounter. This year, Becca and I are coordinators, meaning we're attempting (with a lot of help from our team!) to hold all of the details together for the summer experience. We have 7 American and 5 Irish interns joining us, and we are thrilled with the group we have. The Lord has provided a great group of young men and women, and further provided by fully funding them with over a month left to go.

But the spring is also a time for us to look back on the previous year, and specifically the previous 6 months. Our team leaders have returned from their 6 month home assignment (and we are so glad!), during which we were acting as interim team leaders for the Apprenticeship program. As our 6 months ends, we were looking back at what we had hoped and dreamed that time would look like, and then at the reality of what it was.

If you had told us then what would transpire on a work, relational, and physical level over the next half a year, I would have told you with a high degree of certainty that we would be burnt out, exhausted, jaded, and probably in need of marriage counseling.

But God (my favorite two word combination) decided to lavish grace on us through his sustaining power. This isn't because we somehow figured out how to rest "right", or did some sort of self-care routine to help sustain ourselves. It's not even because we were really asking Him to sustain us. I prayed for relief, and healing, and for a change in circumstances, but not often if ever for the Lord to sustain us, although others probably did on our behalf. In His kindness, He has chosen to sustain us in this season, and I can't for the life of me figure out why. I've been burnt out in the past after far, far less. But God (there it is again) has reminded us over and over again who He is, and that He will do what He will do and be what He will be. And for us, certainly far above our ability to earn or deserve it, in this season God has chosen that what He will do is sustain us by His hand, with supernatural energy and joy and laughter and peace that only comes from Him.

One of the ways the Lord has continued to sustain us in our entire time here has been through the generosity of you all, month after month, year after year. We are so thankful for that generous spirit, and for so many of you who have increased your giving when you found out our monthly needs had increased.

A Big Ask: While our monthly support levels are nearly to where they need to be going forward (we only need \$1,000 a month), there is a more pressing need at the moment that comes from our months of the cost of living rising above what our current giving level was. As a result of increased rent prices, doubled utility costs, last year's Encounter program (which is a significant cost to our account for housing and food for the summer) and other ministry expenses, our account has built up a significant deficit. While our monthly giving is near a sustainable level for the future, it will take much longer to climb back out of our deficit hole, and in the mean time our ability to do ministry (and pay for this year's Encounter) is limited because of the deficit. So, we are trusting God in letting you all know our current need. We are prayerfully seeking to raise \$20,000 in one-time giving to cover the deficit (\$15,000) and pay for this year's Encounter program (\$5,000) for our family so that we are not right back into deficit after this summer's internship. We are so very aware of how generous so many of you have been and continue to be; please receive our intense gratitude and love. Please pray with us for a small miracle of provision by the end of this month.

Prayer Requests/Praises: We are so thankful for your sustaining prayers. Here's how you can pray for us in the coming season:

- Please pray for our interns as they get ready to embark on this adventure of a summer.
- Please pray for Steve and Christy (Becca's parents) as they prepare to join us for 6 weeks this summer to help care for Lewis and Aela while we run the summer internship.
- Please pray for eyes to see more readily how the Lord is sustaining us.
- Please pray for the churches in Donabate and Babriggan and their leaders and elders.
- Please pray for Becca and I as we lead together this summer, that we would be full of grace and patience towards each other as much as we are towards our team around us.

We are so thankful for all of you!
Scott, Becca, Lewis, and Aela

Contact: bbrand@serge.org

FINANCIAL STANDING AS OF MAY 15th, 2023				
	Actual	Budget	Difference	
Tithes & Offerings	\$399,941	\$323,197	\$ 76,744	23.75%
Expenses	\$375,166	\$384,258	\$ (9,092)	-2.37%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 24,775	\$ (61,061)	\$ 85,836	
Annual Ministry Budget: \$1,069,040				