

HOPE CHURCH



detail from *Loaves and Fishes*, John August Swanson, 2003 .

May 25, 2025

Reflections

“It is particularly striking that all of Jesus’ miracles (with the one exception of the cursing of the fig tree) are miracles of *restoration* – restoration to health, restoration to life, restoration to freedom from demonic possession. Jesus’ miracles provide us with a sample of the meaning of redemption: a freeing of creation from the shackles of sin and evil and a reinstatement of creaturely living as intended by God.”

Al Wolters

“Jesus’ career witnessed to the kingdom of God and... Jesus’ resurrection vindicated his dominion. In Jesus Christ, God’s kingly reign showed through much more clearly for a time. Jesus’ exorcisms demonstrated God’s authority over demons that stir in us. Jesus’ healings showed God’s power over diseases that sicken us. Jesus’ nature miracles – walking on water, making lots of wine for wedding celebration – previewed the wonders of the age to come . . . In his earthly career, Jesus changed the world but he didn’t perfect it. He healed many sick people, but not everybody. He cast out some demons, but not all. So far as we know, he turned water into wine only at Cana. He invited just one disciple to walk on water, with mixed results. So in his first advent, Jesus did much but he also left much to do.”

Neil Plantinga

“The New Testament without miracles would be far easier to believe. But the trouble is, it would not be worth believing. Without the miracles the New Testament would contain an account of a holy man... But of what benefit would such a man and the death which marked his failure, be thus?... Without the miracles we should have a teacher; with the miracles we have a Savior.”

Gresham Machen

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Rejoice in All Your Works

Every mouth that cries for food
Every lung that yearns for breath
Every eye that searches through the dark for light
All creation looks to You
For its breath and for its food
From the goodness of Your hand we're satisfied

Oh rejoice in all Your works
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature You have made declares Your praise
We rejoice in all You've made
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing Your praise!

Every tree that thirsts for rain
Every bird that seeks its nest
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad
All creation looks to You
For its breath and for its food
From the goodness of Your hand we're satisfied

May the pond'rings of my heart
And the song upon my lips
With the chorus of creation join in praise
To the God who made all things
To the Spirit who sustains
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
**I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.**
Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is great like our God?

You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known your might among the peoples.

**You with your arm redeemed your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.**

Psalm 77:11-15

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy 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 thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG***Our Great God***

Eternal God unchanging mysterious and unknown
Your boundless love
Unfailing grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight
Around Your glorious throne
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone

Hallelujah glory be to our great God
Hallelujah glory be to our great God

Lord we are weak and frail
Helpless in the storm
Surround us with Your angels
Hold us in Your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy
His pleasure is our harm
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sov'reign God

Let ev'ry creature in the sea
And ev'ry flying bird
Let ev'ry mountain
Ev'ry field and valley of the earth
Let all the moons and all the stars
In all the universe

Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word

PRAISE SONG

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world
and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heav'n be one.

This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
and earth and heav'n be one.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives.

Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts.

We confess that our blindness to your glory, O triune God, has resulted in shallow confession, tepid conviction, and only mild repentance.

Have mercy upon us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

RENEWAL SONG

His Mercy Is More

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

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

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

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"The Sign and the One Signified"

David Speakman

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

John 6:1-15

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Do With It What You Will

You have given all to me
To you O Lord I return it
Everything I have is yours
Do with it what you will

You will gather all of me
Every gift, every burden
Every day and every hour
Do with it what you will

I lift it up; I lay it down at your table.
Multiply my sacrifice; for you are able.

I will take my daily cross
Every step of the journey
I will bear it for your sake
Do with it what you will

Take my laughter and my loss
Make them tools of your mercy

Anything my hands can make
Do with it what you will

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

SENDING

COMMISSIONING OF ROSALYN OTTO

SENDING SONG

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
It shall be Thy royal throne

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

CHURCH LIFE

Schedule Changes: Jun. 1 - Aug. 10:00am service with Hope Café at 11:15am.

Women's Pickleball - Mondays 7pm: Register for weekly update.

Men's Summer Kickoff - Jun. 7 7pm: Salem City FC Soccer Game: Register.

Women's Summer Book Study - Wed. 7:30-9pm Jun. 11 - Jul. 30: Register for info.

Men's Summer Study - Wed. 12pm and 7:30pm Jun. 18 - Aug. 6.

Women's Retreat: Save the date for Oct. 24-26.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Summer Youth Group - May 25, Jun. 8 & 29, Jul. 6 4:30-6pm.

Youth CFA Lunches - Thur. 12:30pm Jun. & July @ Peace Haven CFA.

Kids Connection - *May Verse* - Yours is the kingdom, yours is the power, yours is the glory forever. Amen. The Lord's Prayer Pt. 5

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MAY 19, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 5/31	Difference	
Income	\$467,108	\$538,300	-\$71,192	-13.23%
Expense	\$444,758	\$619,864	-\$175,106	-28.25%
Surplus (Deficit)	\$22,350	-\$81,564	\$103,914	

Annual Ministry Budget: \$1,482,783