

HOPE CHURCH



The Flame of Contemplation, Laura Makabresku

August 3, 2025

Reflections

"Yes, but the world isn't split into good people and Death Eaters."

Sirius Black

"Spiritual formation, Christian discipleship, is not a self-improvement project. It is the miracle that happens when the living God comes to dwell in us."

Albert Shim

"When we despair of gaining inner transformation through human powers of will and determination, we are open to a wonderful new realization: inner righteousness is a gift from God to be graciously received. The needed change within us is God's work, not ours. The demand is for an inside job, and only God can work from the inside."

Richard Foster

"Sanctification is a thing which does not prevent a man having a great deal of inward spiritual conflict. By conflict I mean a struggle within the heart between the old nature and the new, the flesh and the spirit, which are to be found together in every believer (Galatians 5:17). A deep sense of that struggle, and a vast amount of mental discomfort from it, are no proof that a man is not sanctified. No, rather, I believe, they are symptoms of our healthy spiritual condition, and prove that we are not dead — but alive. A true Christian is one who has not only peace of conscience — but war within.... True Christianity is 'a fight!'"

J.C. Ryle

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Come Holy Ghost

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heav'nly aid,
To fill our hearts which thou has made,
To fill our hearts which thou has made.

O Comforter, to thee we cry,
Thou heav'nly gift of God most high;
Thou fount of life, and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above,
And sweet anointing from above.

Be not afraid,
where you go there I am with you.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone,
Know we the Father and the Son;
Be this our firm unchanging creed,
That thou dost from them both proceed,
That thou dost from them both proceed.

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit with them one;
And may the Son on us bestow
All gifts that from the Spirit flow,
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!
**And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord of hosts,
He is the King of glory!**

Psalm 24:7-10

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

Come Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King
Help us thy name to sing
Help us to praise
Father all glorious o'er all victorious
Come and reign over us ancient of days

Come thou incarnate Word
Gird on thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend
Come and thy people bless and give thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend

Come Holy Comforter
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart
And ne'er from us depart Spirit of pow'r

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see
And to eternity love and adore.

PRAISE SONG

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church,
to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world.
Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate,
more obstinate than obedient, more legalistic than loving.
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Remove the obstacles preventing us
from being your representatives to a broken world.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7, NLT

RENEWAL SONG

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song

When years of time shall pass away
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall
When men who here refuse to pray
On rocks and hills and mountains call
God's love so sure shall still endure
All measureless and strong
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints and angels song

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole

Though stretched from sky to sky

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 Agent of Change”

Ethan Smith

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me....”

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you....”

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

John 14:1, 15-17, 25-26

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh....

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16, 22-25

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Let a Song Go Out From My Heart

Let a song go, out from my heart
Out from my heart, to you Lord
Let a song go, out from my heart
A song of praise to you

Let every breath Lord, that I'm taking
Fill my lungs with heaven's tune
Let every breath Lord, that I'm taking
Fill my mouth with songs of you

No I will not, not be silent
Oh no rock will take my place
For I will not, not be silent
I'll forever shout your name

O Lord let it be, O Lord let it be
Let our praises rise to thee
O Lord let it be, O lord let it be
Let our praises rise to thee

When the day breaks, and I'm waking,
Lord my eyes will fix their gaze
When the twilight shadows grow long,
in your peace my head will lay

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

Behold

The empty filled, the wounded healed
The broken back together
The poor are blessed, the weary rest
We will dance forever

The blinded see, the chained are free
The doubtful now believer
The outcast known, the orphan home
You are my Redeemer

Behold, behold, behold what love can do
Behold, behold, He's making all things new

The lost return, the voiceless heard
The mourner now rejoicing
The mountains shake the world awake

Creation all composing

The sad untrue, the earth renewed
The song has found its singer
The darkness light, the dead alive
You are my Redeemer

We've been struck down we're not destroyed
We've sown in tears we'll reap in joy

My eyes are open

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me

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

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour 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

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future 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

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

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

August School Supplies Drive for Speas: Amazon link in Looking Up.

Volunteer Training Class: Aug. 10 9-10am Hope Kids Worship + Outreach Project.

CHURCH LIFE

Schedule Change - Aug. 17: Sunday School at 10am and Worship at 8:30 and 11am.

Barnabas Training Basic - Aug. 23 9am-4pm: Register (HOPE member discount).

Fantasy Football League: Details to register by Aug. 16 in Church Center.

Women's Bible Study in Revelation - Begins Sept. 2: Register now for Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am (childcare available) or Tuesdays 7-8:30pm.

Women's Retreat - Oct. 24-26: All women welcome! Registration now open.

Men's Cohorts in Revelation - Begins Sept. 1: Register now for various times/days.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Youth Guys Hangout - Aug. 3 5-7pm: Sports, games, and pizza. All welcome!

High School Retreat - Aug. 8 8am-4pm: Register.

6th Grade Kickoff - Aug. 10 4:30-6:30pm: Putt-putt + Dinner at Roar. Register now.

Youth & Families Kickoff - Aug. 17 5-6:30pm: Dinner provided in the pavilion!

Kids Connection - *Summer Verses* - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2) My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken. (Psalm 62:1-2)

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JULY 29, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 7/31	Difference	
Income	\$724,448	\$706,900	\$17,548	2.48%
Expense	\$764,103	\$856,243	-\$92,141	-10.76%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$39,655	-\$149,343	\$109,689	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,513,033