

HOPE CHURCH



Abraham contemplates the Stars, Ephraim Moshe Lilien, 1908.

September 21, 2025

Reflections

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

"When we rest we acknowledge that all our striving will, of itself, do nothing. Rest means letting the world pass us by for a time. Genuine rest requires acknowledging that God and our brothers and sisters can survive without us. It requires recognizing our own insufficiency and handing over responsibility. It is truly surrendering to the ways of God. It is a moment of celebration, when we acknowledge that blessing comes only from the hand of God. That is why rest requires faith. It is also why salvation can be pictured as rest. When we rest we accept God's grace: we do not seek to earn; we receive. We do not justify; we are justified."

Paul Marshall

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

Exodus 3:13-15

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Help My Unbelief

I know the Lord is nigh and would but cannot pray
For Satan meets me when I try, and frights my soul away;
And frights my soul away
I would but can't repent, though I endeavor oft:
This stony heart can ne'er relent till Jesus makes it soft;
Till Jesus makes it soft

Help my unbelief; help my unbelief
Help my unbelief; my help must come from Thee!

I would but cannot love, though wooed by love divine;
No arguments have power to move a soul as base as mine;
A soul so base as mine
I would but cannot rest in God's most holy will
I know what He appoints is best, and murmur at it still!
I murmur at it still

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
**For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.**

So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

**Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.**

Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!**

From Psalm 90

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

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus! Thou art all compassion: pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart!

Breathe! O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all from Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest!
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be!
End of Faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver: Let us all Thy life receive!
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation, true and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee!
Chang'd from glory into glory till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!

PRAISE 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

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,

confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

[God has] saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...

2 Timothy 1:9-10

RENEWAL SONG

Christ Is Risen

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign
Forever let Your church proclaim

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead He's alive He's alive

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

“That You May Believe: Who Do You Make Jesus Out to Be?” David Speakman

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

John 8:48-59

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!
Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build;
my shield and hiding-place;
My never-failing treasury, fill'd
with boundless stores of grace.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

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

God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our redemption
God with us
You are God with us

Oh You've come to be hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)

Oh God with us
You are God with us

SENDING

SENDING SONG

All Must Be Well

Through the love of God our Savior,
All will be well
Free and changeless is His favor,
All is well
Precious is the blood that healed us
Perfect is the grace that sealed us
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation,
All will be well
Ours is such a full salvation,
All is well
Happy still in God confiding
Fruitful if in Christ abiding
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow;
All will be well
Faith can sing through days of sorrow,
All is well
On our Father's love relying
Jesus every need supplying
Yes in living or in dying
All must be well

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

FAMILY UPDATES

Congratulations Amber and Jacob Watts on the birth of George: Meal train in LU.

SERVE

September Drive for Sunnyside Ministry: Towels and sheet sets.

Winston Salem Street School Lunch - Sept. 23: Sign-up in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

Gathering Hour - Sept. 29 8pm: All women welcome to join us at Lot 63.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Oct. 1 5:30-7pm: Dinner in the Sanctuary.

Kingdom Ministry Prayer Service - Oct. 1 7-8pm: Join us in Rm 205/207.

Quarterly Missions Prayer Lunch - Oct. 5 12:30pm: All welcome to join us.

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

Church Directory Form: Link in Looking Up.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Youth Service Project - Sept. 28 4:30-7pm: Clothing donation bags in sanctuary.

MS Day Retreat - Oct. 4 7:30am-8:30pm: Register now.

Kids Praise - Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: 3rd-5th grade. Begins Oct. 5.

Kids Connection - *September Verse* - To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 9/30	Difference	
Income	\$906,832	\$909,594	-\$2,762	-0.30%
Expense	\$912,925	\$1,106,656	-\$193,730	-17.51%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$6,094	-\$197,062	\$190,968	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,725,528