

HOPE CHURCH



O Oriens, Xiaosy Chen, 2021.

September 7, 2025

Reflections

“One sun enlightens the whole world, so does one Christ and there needs no more.”

Matthew Henry

GIRL IN THE CROWD: But Miss Glinda, *why* does Wickedness happen?

GLINDA: That's a good question. One that many people find confusing: are people born Wicked? Or do they have Wickedness thrust upon them?

Wicked

“The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.”

John Stott

“‘And you, Ring-bearer,’ she said, turning to Frodo. ‘I come to you last who are not last in my thoughts. For you I have prepared this.’ She held up a small crystal phial: it glittered as she moved it, and rays of white light sprang from her hand. ‘In this phial,’ she said, ‘is caught the light of Eärendil’s star, set amid the waters of my fountain. It will shine still brighter when night is about you. May it be a light to you in dark places, when all other lights go out.’”

Galadriel, in *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Arise, shine, for your light has come
And the glory of God is on you.
Arise, see when the earth grows dark
That the Lord will arise upon you,
That the Lord will arise upon you.

Nations will come to your light;
Lift up your eyes and see.
We'll gather together and come to you
And your love will be all that we know.
Yes, your love will be all that we know.

Arise, come to the open gates
For the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not for the Lord brings peace
And redemption to all who believe,
And redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine cause you'll
Be all the light we need,
And violence will end all the wars
That we wage will cease.
We will glorify your name,
We will glorify your name.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,

a light for the nations,
**to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

**I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.**

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them."

**Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!**

from Isaiah 42, Psalm 43

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

Rising Sun

Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Your Name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now

Oh praise Him all you children of God

PRAISE SONG

Great Are You Lord

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness

You give hope You restore
ev'ry heart that is broken
Great are You Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
You have called us out of darkness and into the light of Your love.
You have redeemed us and made us whole in order to set us free from death.
You call us to die to ourselves, surrender our wills, and serve sacrificially.
But we cling to our sinful humanity and to vain things of this earthly life.
Forgive us for being stubborn, selfish, and sinful. Set us free to embrace the values of
Your Kingdom, transform our hearts to long for You, and empower us to walk in the
light as Your children.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom
of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

RENEWAL SONG

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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: The Light of Life”

Ethan Smith

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” ¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” ²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” ²² So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” ²³ He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” ²⁵ So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” ²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

John 8:12-30

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

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning find a voice!
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him, O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SENDING

SENDING SONG

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I can-not close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

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

SERVE

Backpack Packing Party - Today 3:15pm: All invited to the pavilion.

September Drive for Sunnyside Ministry: Towels and sheet sets.

CHURCH LIFE

Life Groups & Young Adult Life Group: For info, register or talk to Ethan Smith.

Men's Cohorts in Revelation - Various dates/times: Begins Sept. 8. Register.

Discovering Hope - Sept. 12-13: Register now for our membership class!

Men's Meetup - Sept. 16 12pm: Yamas.

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

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Hope Kids Pizza & Playground - Sept. 12 5:30-7pm: Bring riding toys!

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

Hope Kids + Youth Fall Programming details in Church Center and on the website.

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 AUGUST 31, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 8/31	Difference	
Income	\$840,552	\$790,101	\$50,451	6.39%
Expense	\$876,344	\$976,612	-\$100,269	-10.27%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$35,792	-\$186,511	\$150,720	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,682,380