

HOPE CHURCH



Allegory of Faith, Johannes Vermeer 1670–1672

October 26, 2025

Reflections

"If God really exists, why in Heaven's name does God not prove that he exists instead of leaving us here in our terrible uncertainty? Why does he not show his face so that at last a despairing world can have hope? At one time or another, everyone asks such a question . . . We all want to be certain, we all want proof, but the kind of proof we tend to want — scientifically or philosophically demonstrable proof that would silence all doubts once and for all — would not in the long run, I think, answer the fearful depths of our need at all. For what we need to know, of course, is not just that God exists, not just that beyond the steely brightness of the stars there is a cosmic intelligence of some kind that keeps the whole show going, but that there is a God right here in the thick of our day-by-day lives who may not be writing messages about himself in the stars but who in one way or another is trying to get messages through our blindness as we move around down here knee-deep in the fragrant muck and misery and marvel of the world. It is not objective proof of God's existence that we want but, whether we use religious language for it or not, the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle that we are really after. And that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get."

"In contrast to the Synoptics and Paul, John's Gospel never uses the noun ('faith, belief'), but *only the verb* ("to believe; to trust"). Believing is an *action* that one *does*, not an object or thing that one possesses; thus, the translation '*believing*' is better than 'having faith.' Since believing involves *relationship*, an even better translation in English would be '*trusting*' or '*entrusting oneself to* [God or Jesus].'"

Felix Just

"You wanna be held? You gotta hold still."

Taylor Leonhardt

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art;
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel vision, no op'ning skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling:
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The presence of Thy descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

**The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
**when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

Psalm 95:1-9

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
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see
And to eternity love and adore.

PRAISE SONG

What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign

Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you do not change.
You have revealed yourself to us in your Word.
You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth.
But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be.
Forgive us for bargaining with you when we should be seeking guidance.
Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want.
Engrave your word on our hard hearts again, O God.
Let it sink in and become a part of us, so we might truly live as if you are our God and we are your people.
Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God our Savior... desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

RENEWAL SONG

Thy Mercy My God

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here
Sin would reduce me to utter despair
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine

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

“Belief: Holding onto the Hands of God Holding You”

David Speakman

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

John 10:22-30

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

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device nor creed.
I trust the ever-living One;
His wounds for me shall plead.

I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

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

Trinity Song

Holy Father Son and Spirit

Holy Communion Three in One

Holy Father Son and Spirit

Holy Communion Three in One

Come with Your peace with Your invitation

Bind us together in holy love

Come with Your peace with Your invitation

Bind us together in holy love

SENDING

SENDING SONG

We Sing As One

Father in Heaven

We are Your children

You gave us life, O Lord, life eternal

You hold nothing back from those You love

You are Father in Heaven

We are Your children

We sing as one, Lord

We are Your children

Pour out Your Spirit

Upon the broken

O loving Father

Come and draw near us

We see Your glory
And know that You hear us

First and the Last, O Lord
You know us deeply
You search our hearts, we trust You completely
You lay out our paths and keep us close
You are First and the Last, O Lord
You know us deeply

All ears shall hear
And all eyes will witness
Redeeming power and grace
Of Your Son, Jesus
For He alone can save and heal the lost
O, all ears shall hear
And all eyes will witness

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

Crayon Drive for Speas Elementary during the month of October! Bins by office.

Backpack Packing Party - Nov. 2 3:15pm: Join us in the pavilion!

CHURCH LIFE

Gathering Hour - Oct. 27 8-9pm: All women welcome to fellowship at Lot63.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Nov. 4 5:30-7pm: Dinner + Fellowship.

2026 Mission Trips Interest Meeting - Nov. 9 12:30pm (Lunch Included).

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Cry Room now open in Rm 107: Worship service is livestreamed here.

Communicants' Class - Nov 7 6:30-8pm & Nov 8 9-10:30am: 4th-5th grade; Register.

Progressive Friendsgiving - Nov. 23 5-7pm: Registration open to all youth.

Edge MS Conference - June 20-24: Save the date!

RYM HS Conference - Jul. 26-30: Save the date!

Kids Connection - *October Verse* - But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 21ST, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 10/31	Difference	
Income	\$1,028,254	\$1,081,685	-\$53,431	-4.94%
Expense	\$1,103,498	\$1,243,166	-\$139,668	-11.23%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$75,243	-\$161,481	\$86,237	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,224,302	\$2,833,248