

HOPE CHURCH



Prayer of Moses after the Israelites go through the Red Sea, Ivan Kramskoy 1861

March 15, 2026

Reflections

"When you come to the end of yourself, that's when something else can begin."

Kara Tippetts, *The Hardest Peace*

"True knowledge of God means we are enabled in every situation, in face of every disaster, and in the hour of death itself to look up and say, 'Father.'"

Leslie Newbigin, *The Light Has Come*

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry, "The Peace of Wild Things"

Order of Worship

GATHERING

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.

**Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.**

Then I said, "Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."**

For through Christ we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**So then we are no longer strangers and aliens, but fellow citizens with the saints
and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles
and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,**

in Him the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the
Lord.

**In him we also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the
Spirit.**

from Psalm 40, Ephesians 2

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

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,

thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAISE SONG

Lord I Need You

Lord I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty Lord, You are the King of the world, the Creator of all things, and the Giver of life. You have made us in Your image and invited us to be Your children—the heirs of Your kingdom. We confess that we have sinned and fallen short of what You would have us be.

We have sought our worth in earthly things like work, money, family, reputation, our homes, our friends, our country. We have worshiped them more than You. Father, have mercy on us.

Give us strength to believe that you are holding onto us, and no one will snatch us out of your hand. Empower us, by your Spirit, to hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering. Through the name of your faithful son, Jesus. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah 31:33-34

RENEWAL SONG

Jesus I Am Resting Resting

Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee
And Thy beauty fills my soul
For by Thy transforming power
Thou hast made me whole

Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness

Of Thy loving heart

Oh how great Thy loving kindness
Vaster broader than the sea
Oh how marvelous Thy goodness
Lavished all on me
Yes I rest in Thee Beloved
Know what wealth of grace is Thine
Know Thy certainty of promise
And have made it mine

Simply trusting Thee Lord Jesus
I behold Thee as Thou art
And Thy love so pure so changeless
Satisfies my heart
Satisfies its deepest longings
Meets supplies its ev'ry need
Compasseth me 'round with blessings
Thine is love indeed

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee
Resting 'neath Thy smile Lord Jesus
Earth's dark shadows flee
Brightness of my Father's glory
Sunshine of my Father's face
Keep me ever trusting resting
Fill me with Thy grace

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED (Both Services)

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“When God Prays for You”

Ethan Smith

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:1-19

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Trisagion

Ho - ly God.
 Ho - ly and might - y.
 Ho - ly im - mor - tal One,
 Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, on us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

The Breastplate of St. Patrick

When my work takes me places I don't want to go
 Christ before me
 And my heart aches with sorrow as I hit the road
 Christ be with me

When the care of my family takes all that I have
 Christ within me
 When I'm worn and exhausted, ashamed that I'm mad
 Christ defend me

I rise up today in a strength that is not my own
 I'm held by the promise of God that I'm never alone

When I'm tossed to the side and I want to give up
 Christ beside me
 When I'm breaking my back but it's never enough
 Christ beside me

When I work hard but someone else gets the reward
 God's eyes see me
 I ask for promotion and they shut the door
 God's ears hear me

When I climb the first steps toward a long-held dream

Christ above me
And I leap out in faith and I hope to find wings
Christ beneath me

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

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong and perfect plea:
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands;
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands,
No tongue can bid me thence depart;
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me;

To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood:
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God;
With Christ, my Savior and my God!

SENDING

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

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

Bagging Up Blessings - Feb. 15-Apr. 5: Fill barrels by entries with nonperishables.

Manna Bag Supplies Needed - by Mar. 31 8:30am: Shopping list in Looking Up.

Backpack Packing Party - Mar. 22 3:15-4:15pm: All ages, join us in the pavilion!

Hope Kids Worship volunteer needed for 11am service Jun. 14 and Aug. 19.

CHURCH LIFE

Poverty Awareness Simulation - Mar. 21 10am-12:30pm at Redeemer: Register now.

Quarterly Missions Prayer Lunch - Mar. 22 12:30pm: All welcome upstairs.

Praying Church Seminar - Mar. 27-28: Registration link in Looking Up.

Memorial + Celebration Easter Lilies Orders due March 29th: Register now.

Gathering Hour - Mar. 30 8pm: Women invited for fellowship at Lot63.

Maundy Thursday - Apr. 2 7pm: A short service of songs and readings at Hope.

Good Friday Service - Apr. 3 7pm: Register for childcare.

A Thriving Marriage Workshop - Apr. 11 9am-3pm: Register now.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

HS Carowinds Trip - Apr. 11 8am-8pm: Register now.

Summer Conference Registration Now Open for the Edge and RYM.

Kids Connection - *March Verse* - I am the vine you are the branches, if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. John 15:5

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MARCH 10TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 3/31	Difference	
Income	\$226,419	\$355,242	-\$128,823	-36.26%
Expense	\$268,825	\$398,699	-\$129,874	-32.57%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$42,406	-\$43,457		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$8.6 million	\$5,243,302	\$733,995	\$4,395,813