

HOPE CHURCH



Geheimnis: The Glory of the City of God, Kelly Kruse.

March 22, 2026

Reflections

“The splendor of a human heart that trusts it is loved unconditionally gives God more pleasure than Westminster Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel, Beethoven’s ‘Ninth Symphony,’ Van Gogh’s ‘Sunflowers,’ the sight of 10,000 butterflies in flight, or the scent of a million orchids in bloom.”

Brennan Manning, *Ruthless Trust*

“What is the deepest truth about the world? Is the deepest truth a struggle for mastery and domination? Or is the deepest truth collaboration, cooperation and ultimately love?... To suggest that the ultimate truth of the world is love sounds laughably and dangerously naive. Suggesting that the world is a pitched battle for dominance, on the other hand, sounds admirably grown up, sophisticated and, above all, realistic.”

Andy Crouch, *Playing God*

“[Christian love] is a love that overcomes division and reconciles contraries, bringing into communion those who have nothing in common except the fact that Christ gave himself for them.”

George Hendry, *The Westminster Confession for Today*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish,
Her dear Lord to defend
To guide, sustain and cherish,
Is with her to the end
Though there be those that hate her,
And false sons in her pale
Against a foe or traitor,
She ever shall prevail

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
'Til, with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

from Deuteronomy 6, 2 Corinthians 4

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

All creation join the chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

PRAISE 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

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

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

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

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, You call us to live as Your people, growing in faith, unity, and truth. Yet we confess that we often fall short of that calling. We trust in our own strength instead of Your Spirit. We cling to old patterns when You invite us into new life. We hold tightly to what we know instead of leaning into the transforming work of Christ. Forgive us and renew our minds, Lord. Restore what is broken and strengthen what is weak. Help us grow into the likeness of Christ — patient, forgiving, and steadfast in love — so that our lives may strengthen one another and reveal Your grace in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 103:8-13

RENEWAL SONG

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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

“So that the World May Know”

Ethan Smith

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:20-26

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,
 6 Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, on us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit living Breath of God
 Breathe new life into my willing soul
 Let the presence of the risen Lord
 Come renew my heart and make me whole
 Cause Your word to come alive in me
 Give me faith for what I cannot see
 Give me passion for Your purity
 Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within
 May Your joy be seen in all I do
 Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
 In each thought and deed and attitude
 Kindness to the greatest and the least
 Gentleness that sows the path of peace
 Turn my strivings into works of grace
 Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit from creation's birth
 Giving life to all that God has made
 Show Your power once again on earth
 Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways
 Let the fragrance of our prayers arise
 Lead us on the road of sacrifice

That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see

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

Let Us Be Known By Our Love

Let us be known by our love

In every word in every deed honor the Son

Let our light shine in every eye

Let us be known by our love

For the glory of the Father

For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our love

Let us be known by our joy
In every home in every heart sing to the Lord
Let our life show goodness and hope
Let us be known by our joy

For the glory of the Father
For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our joy

Let us be known by our peace
In every town in every tribe Jesus is king
Let us go forth heal and restore
Let us be known by our peace

For the glory of the Father
For the glory of the Son
For the glory of the Spirit
Let us be known by our peace

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!

CHURCH LIFE

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 25th: Register now.

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

Maundy Thursday - Apr. 2 7-8pm at Hope: Communion service of song and liturgy.

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

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 17TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 3/31	Difference	
Income	\$247,714	\$355,242	-\$107,528	-30.27%
Expense	\$285,629	\$398,699	-\$113,070	-28.36%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$37,914	-\$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	\$734,117	\$4,400,179