

HOPE CHURCH



The Four Evangelists, Peter Paul Rubens, 1614.

April 19, 2026

Reflections

“God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what he wants, but to enable us to know him so that we may love him. Therefore God sends his word to us in the character of both information and invitation. It comes to woo us as well as to instruct us; it not merely puts us in the picture of what God has done and is doing but also calls us into personal communion with the loving Lord himself.”

Jl Packer, *Knowing God*, 110.

“When a minister reads out of the Bible, I am sure that at least nine times out of ten the people who happen to be listening at all hear not what is really being read but only what they expect to be read. And I think that what most people expect to hear read from the Bible is an edifying story, an uplifting thought, a moral lesson—something elevating, obvious, and boring. So that is exactly what very often they do hear. Only that is too bad because if you really listen—and maybe you have to forget that it is the Bible being read and a minister who is reading it—there is no telling what you might hear.”

Frederick Buechner

“The most precious part of each day for me is the 30-40 minutes I spend each morning before breakfast with the Bible. All the rest of the day I am bombarded with the stories the world is telling about itself. As I take time to immerse myself in the story the Bible tells, my vision is cleared, and I see things in another way. I see the day that lies ahead in its place in God’s story.”

Lesslie Newbigin

On the art:

Christian tradition, from church fathers such as Jerome of Stridon, St. Augustine, Irenaeus, and many others, have drawn parallels between the testimonies of the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and the four living creatures described in Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. Just as these creatures surround the throne of God, pointing to him and declaring his glory day and night, the four gospel accounts point us to God’s revelation to us in Jesus Christ, and the sufficiency of the scriptures in our knowledge of who God is.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I deliver to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Christ did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them.

Forever, O Lord, your word

is firmly fixed in the heavens.

**I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.**

The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.

**Keep steady my steps according to your promise,
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.
Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.**

from 1 Corinthians 15, Matthew 5, Psalm 119

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

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.”

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

PRAISE SONG

Mighty to Save

Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The Hope of nations

Saviour
He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever
Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

Shine your light and
Let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves.
We think your truth too high, your will too hard,

your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not!
And without them, we are of all people most miserable.
Now heal our confused minds with your word,
heal our troubled consciences with your love,
heal our anxious hearts with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son,
who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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

“God’s Trustworthy Word”

David Speakman

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” ²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” ²³ So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

²⁴ This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John 21:20-25

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet



1. Re - joice, heav'n-ly pow'rs! Sing choirs of an - gels!



Je - sus Christ our King is ris - en!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Your Word (Isaiah 55)

Open our ears
Open our hearts
To hear your Word
To hear your Word

Open our mouths
Loosen our tongues
To speak your Word
To speak your Word

Your Word will do
What you sent it to do
Your Word has overcome
Your Word is true,
And it's taking root
Making all things new in us

Ready our feet
Steady our hands

To live your Word
To live your Word

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

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song

When years of time shall pass away
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall
When men who here refuse to pray
On rocks and hills and mountains call
God's love so sure shall still endure

All measureless and strong
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints and angels song

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

SENDING

SENDING SONG

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

My friends, may you grow in strength
And to the labors God brings before you.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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

YoungLives Greeting Card Fundraiser: Link in Looking Up; Orders close today.

Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry worship service - May 24: Contact Ethan Smith.

Hope for the City Mission Week - June 1-4: Details and registration soon.

CHURCH LIFE

Men's Mentoring Ministry: Reach out to Tom Nicholson or Ben Shaw.

Small Group Q&A Sessions: Register if you cannot make your Life Group gathering.

Women's Line Dancing - Apr. 25 2-4pm: All welcome; please register by Apr. 22!

Gathering Hour - Apr. 27 8pm: Women of all ages and stages can gather at Lot63!

Congregational Meeting - May 3 10am: Kids SS and Nursery provided; Member vote held on campaign financing.

Lawn Party - May 3 5-7pm: Games | Dinner | Teacher Appreciation in the Pavilion.

High School Seniors Celebration - May 10 10am: Celebrate our grads in the Pavilion.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Parents' Night Out Fundraiser - Apr. 24 5:30-8pm: Benefits Quito trip; Register now!

Hope Kids Camp - June 1-4: Register now for current K-5th!

Kids Connection - *April Verse* - I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live. John 11:25

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF APRIL 14TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 4/30	Difference	
Income	\$386,878	\$440,233	-\$53,355	-12.12%
Expense	\$409,714	\$528,965	-\$119,251	-22.54%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$22,836	-\$88,732		

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,558,309

MAKING ROOM FOR MORE UPDATE

Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received Beyond Commitments	Total Funds Received to Date
\$9.4 million	\$5,243,302	\$735,975	\$4,550,922