

HOPE CHURCH



Detail from Expulsion from the Garden, Thomas Cole, 1828.

April 26, 2026

Reflections

“It has taken me all these years to make the simplest discovery: that I am surrounded by two classes of maniacs. The first are the believers, who think they know the reason why we find ourselves in this ludicrous predicament yet act for all the world as if they don’t. The second are the unbelievers, who don’t know the reason and don’t care if they don’t.”

Walker Percy, *The Second Coming*

“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].’ *Synonyms* for ‘believing’ in John’s Gospel include ‘knowing, seeing, receiving, coming to, accepting, abiding, remaining, etc.’ *Opposites* of ‘believing’ include ‘not believing, not receiving, rejecting, denying, going away, not abiding, etc.’”

Dr. Felix Just

“He said (in the Bible) that we were ‘gods’ and He is going to make good on His words. If we let Him - for we can prevent Him, if we choose - He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness. The process will be long and in parts very painful, but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said.”

C.S. Lewis

Order of Worship

GATHERING

By Gracious Powers

By gracious powers
So wonderfully sheltered
And confidently waiting, come what may
We know that God is
With us night and morning
And never fails to meet us each new day

Yet our hearts by their old foe tormented
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear
O give our frightened souls
The sure salvation
For which, O Lord,
You taught us to prepare

Within the tempest
I know that You're there
Within the heartache
I know that You care
Within the tempest
I know that You're there
Within the heartache
I know that You care

And when the cup You give
Is filled to brimming
With bitter suffering, hard to understand
We take it thankfully
Trusting and trembling
Out of so good and so beloved a hand

If once again in this same world
You give us
The joy we had
The brightness of Your sun
We shall recall what
We have learned through sorrow

And dedicate our lives to You alone

“As long as I am in the tent of this body I will make a joyful noise!”
Hallelujah Lord, Hallelu

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and may have it to the full.”

In him we live and move and have our being

You make known to me the path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy;

at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

from John 10, Acts 17, Psalm 16

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

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.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross

Colossians 2:13-14 (MSG)

RENEWAL SONG

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone;
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong!
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess:
Christ, our hope in life and death!

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good; God is good!
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him!
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore!

COVENANT OF BAPTISM (8:30am)
COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP (11:00am)

Bennett William Parker

Jesus Loves You

Jesus loves you, this we know
For the Bible tells us so
Little ones to Him belong

They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
Yes, Jesus loves you,
The Bible tells us so.

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

“What Do We Do with Jesus?”

David Speakman

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ 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 20:30-31

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Until These Tears Are Gone

Flood this heart with assurance of Your mercy
Fill this mind with knowledge of Your love
Hold me fast through the deep and steady current
How long how long till these tears are gone

Every hour awake me to Your presence
Shine Your light brighter than the dawn
Send Your joy illuminate the darkness
How long how long till these tears are gone
How long how long till these tears are gone

I'll fix my eyes on eternity above
Where every lie is uncovered by Your love
I'll fix my eyes on eternity above
Where every lie every shadow
Is uncovered by Your love

Lord You hear the pleading of the faithful
I search for You hide not Your face
Here I drift a shell among the ruins
How long how long till these tears are gone
How long how long till these tears are gone

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

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose

Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
It shall be Thy royal throne

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

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

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

Barrel of Blessings: Thank you for helping us collect 247lb of food for Sunnyside!

CHURCH LIFE

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

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

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 21ST, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budget through 4/30	Difference	
Income	\$411,136	\$440,233	-\$29,097	-6.61%
Expense	\$498,012	\$528,965	-\$30,952	-5.85%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$86,876	-\$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	\$736,195	\$4,565,272