

HOPE CHURCH



The Prodigal Son, Jean-Louis Forain 1909

May 10, 2026

Reflections

“If we are to know God, as he truly is, know him in the intimacy of personal communion, know him with the intimacy with which Jesus knew the Father, then “the sin of the world” has somehow to be taken away.”

Lesslie Newbigin

“The way to God is wide open. There is nothing standing between the sinner and his God. He has immediate and unimpeded access to the Savior. There is nothing to hinder. No sin can hold him back because God offers justification to the ungodly. Nothing can keep him from Christ but his delusion that he has good works of his own that can satisfy God. All he needs is need. All he needs is nothing. But, alas, sinners cannot part with their ‘virtues’.”

Dr. John Gerstner

“Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto Christ with full purpose of and endeavor after new obedience.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism

“I am growing in the awareness that God wants my whole life, not just part of it. It is not enough to give just so much time and attention to God and keep the rest for myself. It is not enough to pray often and deeply and then move from there to my own projects. As I try to understand why I am still so restless, anxious, and tense, it occurs to me that I have not yet given everything to God. I notice this especially in my greediness for time. I am very concerned to develop my ideas, finish my projects, fulfill my desires. Thus, my life is in fact divided into two parts, a part for God and a part for myself. Thus divided, my life cannot be peaceful . . . I realize that God’s love is a jealous love. God wants not just a part of me, but all of me. Only when I surrender myself completely to God’s parental love can I expect to be free from endless distractions, ready to hear the voice of love, and able to recognize my own unique call.”

Henri Nouwen, *The Road to Daybreak*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

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.**

from Psalm 103

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

O Come To The Altar

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us.
We run away, and you seek us.
We make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way.
We hurt you and others, and instead of hurting us back, you embrace us.
Forgive us, O God; help us reveal your glory and goodness in our living,
That we will bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10a

RENEWAL 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.

COVENANT OF BAPTISM (8:30am)

Flora Grace Cappellari

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.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION (11:00am)

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

“Renewing the Embrace”

David Speakman

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his

property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:1-3, 11-24

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Exsultet



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION (8:30am)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (11:00am)

OFFERTORY

The Lord Our God Is Good

The Lord our God is good
The Lord our God is good
Full of kindness and compassion
Merciful and just
The Lord our God is good

Who else knows our deepest pain
Bears it as His own
Finds us in our naked shame
Clothes and brings us home

Who takes his inheritance
And gives it all away
Welcomes guests to feast with Him
Who never can repay

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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy

Come ye sinners poor and needy
Weak and wounded sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity, love, and power

He is able He is able
He is willing doubt no more

Come ye weary heavy laden
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you're better
You will never come at all
Not the righteous not the righteous
Sinners Jesus came to call

Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him
This He gives you this He gives you
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam

Lo The Incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood
Venture on Him venture wholly
Let no other trust intrude
None but Jesus none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good

I will arise and go to Jesus,
He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

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

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

CityLights Snack Bag Wishlist in Looking Up for Hope Kids' Outreach May Project.

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

Hope for the City Mission Week - June 1-4: Registration for each day now open.

CHURCH LIFE

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

Groundbreaking Celebration - May 17 11:15am: Join us outside with the whole family!

Summer Schedule begins May 17: Single 10am service and no Sunday School.

Women's Summer Book Study - Wednesdays 7:30-9pm: Register now.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

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

Kids Connection - *May Verse* - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF MAY 5TH, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$461,567	\$460,441	\$1,126	0.24%
Expense	\$536,605	\$550,818	-\$14,213	-2.58%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$75,038	-\$90,377		

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	\$737,417	\$4,589,379