

HOPE CHURCH



Death in the Sickroom by Edvard Munch, 1893

June 21, 2026

Reflections

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such a violent reaction against it?... Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too – for the argument depended on saying the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies. Thus, in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist - in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless – I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality – namely my idea of justice – was full of sense. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never have known it was dark. Dark would be without meaning."

C.S. Lewis

"Wisdom teaches us that tears, at their best, pay tribute to something lost that was once cherished, and it was wise to cherish it. We lament the loss of a genuine good."

Zack Eswine

"Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationships, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world. It is time, in the power of the Spirit, to take up our proper role, our fully human role, as agents, heralds, and stewards of the new day that is dawning. That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian: to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us."

N.T Wright

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Psalm 130 (From the Depths of Woe)

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee?(Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee?(Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy(Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy(Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience(Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience(Wait for it with patience)

What though I wait the live-long night,
And 'til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait 'til God appeareth(Wait 'til God appeareth)
And wait 'til God appeareth(Wait 'til God appeareth)

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow(All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow(All their sin and sorrow)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

**For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

To you, O Lord, I cry,
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:
**“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?**

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”

**You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,
that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

from Psalm 30

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

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!

PRAISE SONG

Abide With Me

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death where grave thy victory
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heav'n's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and righteous God, we confess before your holiness that we are a people of unclean lips, unclean hands and unclean hearts. We have broken your law times without number, and are guilty of pride, unbelief, self-centeredness and idolatry. We are ashamed to lift up our faces before you, for our iniquities have gone over our heads. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? How shall we answer you? We lay our hands on our mouths. We have no answer to your righteous wrath and just judgment. Affect our hearts with the severity of our sin and the glory of your righteousness as we now acknowledge our sins in your holy presence.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!
My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

**“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”**

Lamentations 3:19-24

RENEWAL SONG

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so: it is well with my soul!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Mourning a World That Doesn’t Work the Way It Should”

David Speakman

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:1-4

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

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Lord Our God Is Good

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful and just The Lord our God is good The'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, D, G, D, A on the first staff; and G, D, F#7, Bm, G, A, D on the second staff.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Drive Out the Darkness

Come O come be our light

Drive out the darkness
Come Jesus come

Ev'ry year under the thorn
Ev'ry wrong that we have known
Ev'ry valley will be raised
The ancient ruins will be remade

In the emptiness of grief
Through the night of suffering
Ev'ry loss and in the tears
God our comfort O be near

Come O come be our light
Drive out the darkness
Come O come be our light
Drive out the darkness

Come and end all the violence
Come and do not be silent
Come we cling to Your promise
Come You'll break all injustice
Come Jesus come

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

Sweet Comfort

Whatever my God ordains is right
His holy will abides
I will be still whatever he does
And follow where he guides

Sweet comfort, sweet comfort
Yet shall fill my heart
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort
Sorrow shall depart

Whatever my God ordains is right
He makes my feet to stand
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine
He holds me in his hand

This bitter cup, I take it
My fainting heart restored
So here I stand, unshaken
I trust upon the Lord

He is my God though dark my road
He holds me, I shall not fall
Whatever my God ordains as right
To him I leave it all.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
Is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

For I am with you I am with you
I am with you I am with you
For I have called you

Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
And the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
And all that is broken be healed

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

FAMILY UPDATES

Meal plan for Kathy Pickett during her treatment in Looking Up.

HOPE FOR THE CITY

June Sunnyside Men's Clothing Drive: Gently used clothing + shoes: Rack by office.

YoungLives Ministry Needs: See Looking Up for details.

CHURCH LIFE

Women's Summer Book Study - Wednesdays 7:30-9pm | June 10: Register now.

Men's Book Study - Wednesdays 12pm or Thursdays 5:30am | June 10: Rm 209.

Have a working vehicle you're not using? Please reach out to the Deacons.

Lawn Party - July 19: Save the date! Details to follow.

Wishlist for Books to take to Quito on missions trip in Looking Up or see Ethan.

Life Group registration for the fall is now open in Church Center.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Summer Youth Group - June 28 4:30-6pm: Rising 6th + current youth.

CFA Lunches - Wednesdays 11:30-12:30: Rising 6th + Current youth; self-pay.

Middle School Boys Bible Study - Wednesdays 10:45-11:30: Rising 6th-8th: CFA.

High School Boys Book Study: Rising 9th+ invited: See Youth email for details.

Kids Connection - *June Verse* - Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.
Matthew 5:8

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JUNE 16, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$627,105	\$630,983	-\$3,878	-0.61%
Expense	\$697,535	\$731,257	-\$33,722	-4.61%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$70,430	-\$100,274		

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	\$746,343	\$4,795,880