

HOPE CHURCH



*Gustave Dore's image of the beatific vision,
from an 1892 illustrated edition of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy.*

July 19, 2026

Reflections

"The heart is the main thing in religion."

JC Ryle

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

Matthew 23: 25-28

"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you."

Job 42:5

"Christians who are no longer sure that God loves and accepts them, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons, much less secure than non-Christians, because of the constant bulletins they receive from their Christian environment about the holiness of God and the righteousness they are supposed to have . . . True spirituality is not a superhuman religiosity; it is simply true humanity released from bondage to sin and renewed by the Holy Spirit . . . Redemption is participatory, not imitative. It is grounded on grace appropriated through faith, not merely on obedience. Spiritual life flows out of union with Christ, not merely imitation of Christ."

Richard F. Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

God Be Merciful to Me

God be merciful to me
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou
Blot out my transgressions now
Wash me make me pure within
Cleanse O cleanse me from my sin

My transgressions I confess
Grief and guilt my soul oppress
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face
I confess Thy judgment just
Speechless I Thy mercy trust

I am evil born in sin
Thou desirest truth within
Thou alone my Savior art
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart
Make me pure Thy grace be-stow
Wash me whiter than the snow

Broken humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice
From my sins O hide Thy face
Blot them out in boundless grace

Gracious God my heart renew
Make my spirit right and true
Cast me not away from Thee
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me
Thy salvation's joy im-part
Steadfast make my willing heart

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
**for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**
He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Psalm 24:1-6

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

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'nward, 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.

PRAISE 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 God, we confess before you and each other that our lives are not pure and holy apart from the cleansing we have from the work of Christ. And we confess that too often Christ in us is hidden by our actions that wound rather than heal, that tear down rather than build up.

Open our eyes, that we may see you in the ones we say we love.

Open our ears, that we may be quicker to listen than to speak.
Open our mouths to speak good rather than evil of our neighbors.
Open our hands in generosity and help us let go of clenched fists.
Open our hearts to a desire to follow Jesus in full obedience to your will and your way.

We pray trusting in your forgiveness and in the power of your Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in paths of justice and righteousness for your name's sake. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:25-28

RENEWAL SONG

Nothing but the Blood

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my cleansing this I see:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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

“Purity of Heart and the Vision It Empowers”

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.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:1-8

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

5

The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of
kind-ness and com-pas - sion Mer-ci-ful — and just The Lord our God is good The

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the melody, with lyrics 'The Lord our God is good The Lord our God is good Full of'. The second staff continues the melody from measure 5, 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; G, D, F#7, Bm, G, A, D on the second staff.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Take My Heart with Altar Fire

All seeing God you see my deeds
You see my faults by light of day
You see my sins concealed in darkness
Turn my deeds to holy ways
Turn my deeds to holy ways

Take away my love of sinning
Straighten every bent desire
Fix my soul upon your promise
Take my heart with altar fire
Take my heart with altar fire

All hearing God you hear my words
You hear each lie each hurtful phrase
You hear my pride in secret slander
Turn my tongue to truth and grace
Turn my tongue to truth and grace
Chorus

All knowing God you know my heart
You know my yearnings deep inside
You know my hidden motivations
Turn my heart to pure delight
Turn my heart to pure delight

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 SONGS

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art;
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling:
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The presence of Thy descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

SENDING

SENDING SONG

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land
where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
There, God the Son forever reigns
and scatters night away.

I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness and sorrow, pain and death
are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place
and be forever blest?
When shall I see my Father's face
and in His bosom rest?

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 Plans for the Cannons and the Albornozes in Looking Up.

HOPE FOR THE CITY

July Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries Toiletries Drive: Bin by the office.

Urgent Need at the Dwelling Shower Bus: Shopping list in Looking Up.

CHURCH LIFE

Lawn Party - July 19 5pm: Dinner, Bounce House, All play water balloon fight.

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

Summer Splash at the Quarry - Aug 29 10am-3pm: Picnic + swimming: Register.

Redeemer School has two new job openings: See Looking Up for details.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

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

High School Retreat - Aug 5th tentatively 8am-3pm: Registration soon!

6th Grade Kickoff - Aug 9 5:30-7pm: Details TBD.

All Youth and Family Kickoff - Aug 16 4:30-6pm: Save the date!

Kids Connection - *July Verse* - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God. Matthew 5:9

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JULY 14, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$735,379	\$734,320	\$1,059	0.14%
Expense	\$815,821	\$844,803	-\$28,982	-3.43%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$80,442	-\$110,483		

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	\$750,096	\$4,826,061