

HOPE CHURCH



Peaceable Kingdom, John August Swanson, 1994

July 26, 2026

Reflections

"Heaven on Earth
We need it now
I'm sick of all of this
Hanging around
Sick of sorrow
Sick of the pain
Sick of hearing
Again and again
That there's gonna be
Peace on Earth"

U2, "Peace on Earth"

"The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets called *shalom*. We call it peace, but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means *universal flourishing, wholeness and delight*—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be."

Cornelius Plantinga, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*

"If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things *in yourself* first, not in another."

Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Psalm 46

God is our refuge, our strength, and our shield,
an ever present help

We will not fear though the earth gives way
and the mountains crash into the sea.

There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our most High King.
God is within her, and she will not fail,
He helps her at break of the day.

Nations in uproar, men's kingdoms, they fall,
He speaks and the earth melts away.
The worst we imagine the strongest of storms,
Our fortress, it will still remain.

There is a river whose streams will make glad
The city of our most High King.
God is within her and she will not fail,
Listen and hear the Lord say:
"Be still, and know that I am God."

Come let us see what the Lord has done
The spear and the bow he has crushed.
He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth
The Lord of the host is with us.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

**Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.**

Psalm 85:8-13

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,

All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

All creation join the chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

PRAISE SONG

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Arise, shine, for your light has come
And the glory of God is on you.
Arise, see when the earth grows dark
That the Lord will arise upon you,
That the Lord will arise upon you.

Nations will come to your light;
Lift up your eyes and see.
We'll gather together and come to you
And your love will be all that we know.
Yes, your love will be all that we know.

Arise, come to the open gates
For the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not for the Lord brings peace
And redemption to all who believe,
And redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine cause you'll
Be all the light we need,
And violence will end all the wars
That we wage will cease.
We will glorify your name,
We will glorify your name.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world.

The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.

Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:12-14

RENEWAL SONG

God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our redemption
God with us
You are God with us

Oh You've come to be hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

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

“The Way Things Ought to Be”

Ethan Smith

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.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of 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 song, and the second staff contains the second line, starting with a measure rest labeled '5'. Chord symbols (D, A, G, F#7, Bm) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Instrument of Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.
For in the giving, we shall receive,
and in the dying, we're given life.

Where there is sorrow, let me sow hope!
Where there is doubt let me sow faith!
Where there is injury your pardon give
Your consolation to those in pain

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

All Things New

Come Lord, and tarry not;
Bring the long-looked-for day;
O why these years of waiting here,
These ages of delay?

Come, for Thy saints still wait;
Daily ascends their sigh:
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come":
Dost Thou not hear the cry?

O come and make all things new,
Come and make all things new,
O come and make all things new.
Build up this ruined Earth,
Come and make all things new.

Come, for creation groans,
Impatient of Thy stay,
Worn out with these long years of ill,
These ages of decay.

Come for love waxes cold,
Its steps are faint and slow;
Faith now is lost in unbelief,
Hope's lamp burns dim and low.

Come, Lord, and wipe away,
The curse, the sin, the stain

And make this broken world of ours,
Thine own fair world again.

Come and begin thy reign,
Of everlasting peace,
Come, take the kingdom to Thyself,
Great King of Righteousness!

SENDING

SENDING SONG

Father, Let Your Kingdom Come

Hallelu, hallelujah,
Father, let Your kingdom come.
Hallelu, hallelujah,
Father, let Your kingdom come.

May the works of my hands bring You joy.
May the works of my hands bring You joy.
May the works of my hands bring You joy.
May the works of my hands bring You joy.

May the words from my mouth speak Your peace.
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace.
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace.
May the words from my mouth speak Your peace.

You make all things new
You make all things new
In places we don't choose
You make all things new

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

Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship Classes and Sunday Schools: See Lisa.

Fall Schedule resumes Aug 16: Worship at 8:30/11am; Hope Cafe between services.

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

Sunday School starts Aug 16 10am for all ages, including nursery.

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 8am-2:15pm: Registration soon!

6th Grade Kickoff - Aug 9 5:30-7pm: Cake Wars! Register.

All Youth and Parents Kickoff - Aug 16 4:30-6pm: Please register for childcare.

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF JULY 21, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	\$754,507	\$757,349	-\$2,842	-0.38%
Expense	\$887,901	\$872,350	\$15,551	1.78%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$133,394	-\$115,001		

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	\$750,196	\$4,837,542