HOPE CHURCH

Brunswick Monogrammist, The Parable of the Great Banquet, around 1535

August 23, 2026

Reflections

“Belief is not simply a function of the brain. No, it's an investment of the heart that fundamentally changes the way that you live.”

Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*

“God’s guest list includes a disconcerting number of poor and broken people, those who appear to bring little to any gathering except their need. The distinctive quality of Christian hospitality is that it offers a generous welcome to the ‘least,’ without concern for advantage or benefit to the host. Such hospitality reflects God’s greater hospitality that welcomes the undeserving, provides the lonely with a home, and sets a banquet table for the hungry.”

Christine Pohl, *Making Room*

“I have a love/hate relationship with hospitality. That may seem a strange thing to say about a practice that’s necessary and good, highly valued throughout scripture, and deeply woven into the fullness of Christian life. But perhaps you know what I mean. Hospitality can be both beautiful and difficult.... Hospitality, simply put, is a lifestyle of sharing.”

Andi Ashworth, “Taking the Long View in a Life of Hospitality”

“My husband has three rules of engagement when we go to church: 1. An alone person in our gathering is an emergency. 2. Friends can wait. 3. Introduce a newcomer to someone else.”

Rebecca McLaughlin

Order of Worship

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure”—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
God settles the solitary in a home;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

from Revelation 19, Psalm 68

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
And Can It Be
And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

He left His Father's throne above
So free so infinite His grace
Humbled Himself, so great His love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off my heart was free

I rose went forth and followed Thee
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee

No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach th'eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

PRAISE SONG
My Worth Is Not In What I Own
My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure
Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the cross

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Father, Hope of the ages.
You persistently sought us out when we were lost and wandering, gathering us up and bringing us home, so we may be cleansed in the bottomless waters of your forgiveness.
You have called us to walk humbly before you
and to share in the struggle with the least of these,
yet we have failed to live up to this call.

We confess that we often hide behind
our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and comfort, and forget the cause of the poor and the suffering.
We confess we allow the powers of this world
to seduce us into selfishness
and silence our witness.
We come before you
asking your Spirit to empower us
to be agents of transformation for the world.
Make us a chalice from which all the oppressed
can find the living waters of God,
who calls us to live a life of service, of humility,
and of reconciliation with you, with creation,
and with the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:6-9

RENEWAL SONG

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore

Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” **Ethan Smith**

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a
banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich
neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a
feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed,
because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to
him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 16 But he said to
him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the
banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for
everything is now ready.’ 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to
him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ 19
And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please

have me excused.’ [20] And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot
come.’ [21] So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the
master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the
streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’
[22] And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is
room.’ [23] And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and
compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. [24] For I tell you, none of those
men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

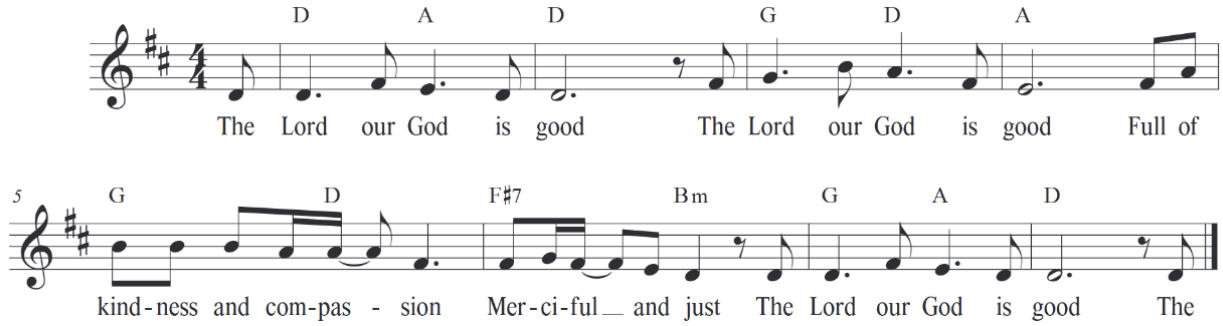
Luke 14:12-24

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



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY
All I Have Is Yours
Creator, giver of all things:
All I have is Yours
Accept my humble offering:
All I have is Yours
When I was chained to greed and pride
Tight-fisted, destined just to die
You paid my debt and bought my life --
All I have is Yours

All I have. All I have. All I have is yours

This offering is a means of grace
All I have is Yours
You show me this to grow my faith:
All I have is Yours
The more I give, the less I need
I learn that You'll provide for me
Was blind to this but now I see --
All I have is Yours

Your kingdom come, Your will be done
All I have is Yours
You'll finish all that You've begun
All I have is Yours
That You would use the gifts I bring
In service of the coming King
Is reason now to praise and sing:
All I have is Yours

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
He Is Among Us (The Least of These)
You'll find Me with the broken and the weak

In the spaces in between
You'll hear My voice cry out with those who weep
Only if you're listening

Whatever you do for the least of these
You do it unto Me

You'll find Me with the ones without a voice
The forgotten and ignored
My blessing is on those who love the poor
'Til you open up the door

Alleluia! He is among us, he is among us.

By this the world will know the Father’s love
We will know the Father's love

SENDING

SENDING SONG
We Will Feast in the House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

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

FAMILY UPDATES

Meal Plan for the Fyes extended: Link in Looking Up.

HOPE FOR THE CITY

Kids Outreach Project for Speas Teachers: Shopping list in Looking Up.
FJPM Worship Service - Aug 23: Pray for our team serving.

CHURCH LIFE

Life Group registration for the fall is now open in Church Center.
Sunday School - 10am for all ages, including nursery.
Summer Splash at the Quarry - Aug 29 10am-3pm: Register by Aug 25
Gathering Hour - Aug 31 8-9pm: All women welcome at Lot63!
Women's Bible Study & Men's Cohorts begin the week of Aug 31: Register now.
First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner - Sept 2 5:30-7pm: All welcome!
Kingdom-Ministry Prayer Service - Sept 2 7pm: Please join us in Rm 107.
Thursday Morning Prayer - 7-7:30am starting Sept 3 in Rm 107 with David.
Pickleball League - Starting Sept 5 9-11am: Details in Church Center.
Discovering Hope - Oct 2-3: Register now for our new member class!

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Youth Group - Sundays 4:30-6pm: Resumes Aug 23.
Kids Praise - 2nd & 4th Sundays 4:30-5:30pm: Resumes for 3rd-5th Grade Sept 13.
Kids Connection - *August Verse* - Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF AUG 18, 2026

	Actual to Date	Budgeted	Difference	
Income	$846,384	$865,573	-$19,189	-2.22%
Expense	$1,013,528	$984,624	$28,904	2.94%
Surplus (Deficit)	-$167,143	-$119,051		

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	$762,897	$4,874,433