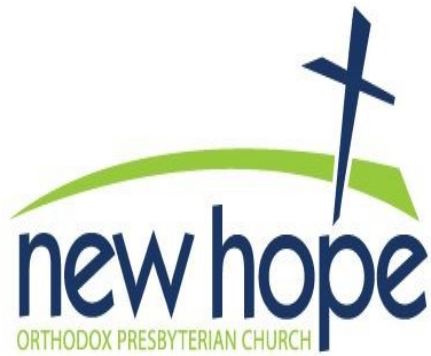


WELCOME!



Worship
9:00 am & 10:30 am

Morning Worship

September 13, 2020

Reflections

To understand “a lamp to my feet,” we need to comprehend two things; the utter darkness of the darkness surrounding us and within us, and the sheer brilliance of the light God's word sheds upon it.

~ Faye Hake

The school of the cross is the school of light; it discovers the world's vanity, baseness, and wickedness, and lets us see more of God's mind. Out of dark affliction comes a spiritual light.

~ John Bunyan

God is light in two ways: in revelation and in holiness. The light is transcendent glory; thus its antithesis, darkness, is sin and impurity. Light symbolizes the absolute perfection of God, as well as the revealed truth of God. Darkness, therefore, is the absence of revelation.

~ Chris Donato

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — 1 John 1:5, Isaiah 60:19

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

¹⁹The sun shall be no more
your light by day,

nor for brightness shall the moon
give you light;

**but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.**

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — May the People's Praise You

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ
May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life

Chorus:

*May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes that we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known
May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word

CHORUS

This our holy privilege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue,
Your church proclaims

CHORUS

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy, worthy
is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise
Your glorious Name (CHORUS)

Confession of Sin — Ephesians 5:3-5

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Response in Song — We Have not Known Thee

We have not known Thee as we ought,
Nor learned Thy wisdom, grace and power;
The things of earth have filled our thought,
And trifles of the passing hour.
Lord, give us light Thy truth to see,
And make us wise in knowing Thee.

We have not feared Thee as we ought,
Nor bowed beneath Thine awesome eye,
Nor guarded deed and word and thought,
Remembering that God was nigh.
Lord, give us faith to know Thee near,
And grant the grace of holy fear.

We have not loved Thee as we ought,
Nor cared that we are loved by Thee;
Thy presence we have coldly sought,
And feebly longed Thy face to see.
Lord, give a pure and loving heart
To feel and know the love Thou art.

We have not served Thee as we ought,
Alas, the duties left undone,
The work with little fervor wrought,
The battles lost or scarcely won!
Lord, give the zeal, and give the might,
For Thee to toil, for Thee to fight.

When shall we know Thee as we ought,
And fear and love and serve aright?
When shall we, out of trial brought,
Be perfect in the land of light?
Lord, may we day by day prepare
To see Thy face and serve Thee there.

Assurance of Pardon — Matthew 4:16, John 8:12, Colossians 1:13-14

¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Response in Song — How Deep

You were broken that I might be healed.
You were cast off that I might draw near.
You were thirsty that I might come drink,
Cried out in anguish that I might sing.

*How deep is Your love,
How high and how wide is your mercy.
How deep is your grace,
Our hearts overflow with praise to You.*

You knew darkness that I might know light,
Wept great tears that mine might be dried,
Stripped of glory that I might be clothed,
Crushed by Your Father to call me Your own.

Consecration — Ephesians 5:8-11

⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Congregational Prayer

Offering*

**You can give on-line at the New Hope website: www.newhopeopc.org and click on the green “give” button in the corner.*

Sermon Text — 2 Samuel 21:1-14

¹⁵ There was war again between the Philistines and Israel, and David went down together with his servants, and they fought against the Philistines. And David grew weary. ¹⁶ And Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giants, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was armed with a new sword, thought to kill David. ¹⁷ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, “You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.”

¹⁸ After this there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giants. ¹⁹ And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰ And there was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was descended from the giants. ²¹ And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, struck him down. ²² These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

Sermon — Don't Quench the Light

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Doxology (page 8)

Benediction

Postlude

(Continued on page 8)

Doxology

Chords for the first system: G, G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G.

Chords for the second system: D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, G, D, G, C, D, G.

Chords for the third system: G, D, G, Em, D, Am, G, D, G, G, C, G.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Pray for the upcoming presbytery meeting on Saturday as they consider the complaint and appeal from Jason Rundell. Pray that the Lord gives wisdom and understanding to all that are part of this process.
- Pray for Brian Burden's nephew, Chris, as he recovers from surgery on his brain to remove a tumor. Pray for a full recovery and for Chris to rest securely in the hope that can only be found in salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Pray for John and Farrah Wise as John's internship with New Hope soon comes to an end and as they seek to discern where the Lord would want them to serve Him and His church.
- Pray for Jackie Plowman as she mourns the loss of her good friend Marion.
- Pray for our session that they will eagerly shepherd the flock, being good examples to them, as they lead and oversee them.
- Pray for those who are expecting: Katie Poortenga (who is having twins), Lauren Mendez, and Colleen Forsee. Pray for the health and well-being of both moms and babies. Pray that these little ones will grow to love and serve the Lord all their days.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: the Vidal family, Scott Innes, Kim Hanlin's father, John & Muriel Hadidian's daughter-in-law, Karyn Lynerd's father, the Wright family, Bill Wright, Ron Oakes, Ed Rodatus and those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones. Pray for strength to bear their difficult trials.

Frederick Area

- Pray for the local ministries we support financially — CareNet Pregnancy Center, the Frederick Rescue Mission, and Child Evangelism Fellowship. Pray that the Lord will continue to sustain, provide for, and bless these ministries.
- Pray for the churches in Frederick that they will preach the truth that is only found in God's word. Pray that the Lord would thwart those who try to twist and change the Word to suit their purposes.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our missionary of the month, Claire Hall, who will be heading to Scotland with 20Schemes soon. Pray that she and the others serving would have boldness and courage, that the Lord would protect the 20schemes churches and workers from evil, and that they would never underestimate the power of the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for Kristen Lalley as she prepares to head to England soon. Pray particularly for her visa process and favor with all immigration offices involved. Pray, too, that she will find a good housing situation!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Picnic, Come and join us for an outdoor church picnic on Sunday, September 20th directly following the 10:30a.m. service! We will enjoy fellowship with each other in the lower parking lot. We are asking everyone to bring their own lunch and drinks. Feel free to also bring your own chairs and tents. The church will be setting up some tables and chairs as well.

Dear Congregation,

Session wants to let you know that Presbytery will be taking up Jason's complaint against the Session on September 19th. Details are below. We ask that you pray for wisdom for Presbytery as they consider these matters, and receptivity and humility to receive whatever they say for Jason and the rest of Session. Some time after Presbytery meets, Session will send out another correspondence including an update on Presbytery, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions.

For the Session,

Pastor Francis

Where are we in the process of the complaint, and presbytery's involvement?

- On May 9th, 2020, Session asked Presbytery for a committee to review and weigh in on a list of concerns that Jason has with Session. The moderator of Presbytery appointed such a committee and we gave them all the documents they asked for.
- On May 27th, 2020, Jason appealed Session's response to his complaint to Presbytery (i.e. alleging our response was inadequate), and that committee was halted by Presbytery. Their reasoning is that "Presbytery should not be sending advisors to New Hope when an appeal is headed our way. An appeal puts the Presbytery in a position as a neutral reviewing court – not New Hope's personal advisor." In other words, they cannot be informally advising us on one hand, and impartially judging our actions on the other.

On September 19th, Presbytery will review the complaint, Session's response to the complaint, and Jason's reasons for appealing it. They have already appointed a committee to investigate all these matters, and that committee will bring a recommendation to Presbytery on the best way to respond. This Presbytery meeting will be held at 8:00am - 5:00pm at Bethel Reformed OPC, in Fredericksburg, VA. It is open to visitors, should you like to be there, and the scheduled time to take up the complaint is 1:00pm.

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text — **2 Samuel 22:7:** ⁷“In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

Heidelberg Catechism 127: What is the sixth petition (in the Lord’s Prayer)? *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”*; that is, since we are so weak in ourselves, that we cannot stand a moment; and besides this, since our mortal enemies, the devil, the world, and our own flesh, cease not to assault us, do thou therefore preserve and strengthen us by the power of thy Holy Spirit, that we may not be overcome in this spiritual warfare, but constantly and strenuously may resist our foes, till at last we obtain a complete victory.

Monday: 2 Sam 21:15-22. What does God do with darkness in Gen 1:2, 3? How does the Prince of Darkness introduce a sinister darkness to the world (Gen 2:1-5)? Gen 3:15 sets forth a battle between the children of light and the forces of darkness. How do you see this antithesis in 2 Sam 21:15-22? How do you see it in your own life? The world?

Tuesday: 2 Sam 21:15-17. Gen 3:15 can be seen as a promise that Christ, the true light, will overcome the darkness (Jn 1:1-4, 9). How is this line threatened in 2 Sam 21:15-17? Why is David called “the lamp of Israel” (v 17, 22:29, Ps 132:17)? How does David as anointed King function as a lamp in terms of his picturing Christ, and contributing to the Bible? How is Christ and the Word the light of your life?

Wednesday: Consider the theme of Christ as our light by reading the following verses: Ps 132:17, Mt 4:15-17, 2 Pet 1:19, 1 Pet 2:9-10, Col 1:13-14, Rev 21:23, 22:5. Do you see the brilliance of Christ? What has he brought us out of? How can you be a child of light today?

Thursday: 2 Sam 21:18-22. What other story does the word “taunted” remind you of (1 Sam 17:26 & 45)? What does this reveal about who the Philistines are really opposing? Read the Catechism above and consider how we as individuals and as the church are to stand against and fight the enemies of God (Eph 6:12-20, esp. v 12)

Friday: What happens to every single giant in 2 Sam 21:15-22? What is the final end of all who oppose God and his church? Why is that important to remember? Why are David’s servants memorialized for this? How do stories of Christians faithfully overcoming darkness affect you (see Heb 11)?

Saturday: Pray through 2 Sam 22:1-6 and pray for tomorrow’s worship service.

