

WELCOME!



Worship
10:30 am & 12:00 pm

Morning Worship

December 13, 2020

Reflection

The Word and the Life and the Light are coming into the world. But they are not going to conquer this darkness the way a bolt of lightening brightens the night. They are going to conquer it by lighting millions of cold, dead human torches with the oxygen of the gospel and the mysteriously spontaneous combustion of the new birth. And that gospel will come through human witnesses.

~ John Piper

²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

~ John 3:28-30

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Psalm 106:1-3 (responsive)

¹Praise the Lord!

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

**²Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord,
or declare all his praise?**

**³Blessed are they who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times!**

Hymn of Praise — Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Praise — Our Song from Age to Age

Oh God of power, living Word
The One who made the stars
Who with Your glory filled the earth
From dust made beating hearts
You loved us when we fell away
Poured mercy on our souls
And promised grace would come to save
To loose death's iron hold

*You are our song from age to age
Our voices unite to recount Your praise
Again and again
You are our song from age to age
We will proclaim Your pow'r to save
Again and again*

Oh God of promises fulfilled
The God who took on flesh
Who did all that the Father willed
Was humbled unto death
You bore our cross of sin and shame
Endured our agony
With gladness we now bear Your name
And worship at Your feet

Oh God, who surely guides our steps
Through tempests and through trials
Our Shepherd King, Your way is best
Though tears now veil our eyes
Your steadfast love, our perfect hope
Our eyes are fixed on grace
We have no doubt You'll lead us home
To finally see Your face

Oh God of all of history
Enthroned in realms of light
What eyes of faith have strained to see
Will one day fill our sight
With all the saints we'll lay our crowns
Before the Savior's feet
And sing as all the heav'ns resound
For all eternity

Scripture Reading — Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.
⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.
⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."
⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Response in Song — Prepare Him Room

O behold, the mystery now unfolds
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky, Hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!

CHORUS

*Prepare Him room, Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in*

God with us, the promise has come to be
This, the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light, to the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near for those with ears to hear (chorus)

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem
Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
See the love of God displayed. Now He's risen and He reigns.
Praise the Name above all names!

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 — John 1:6-8

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

Sermon — Bear Witness to the Light

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Benediction

Postlude

Bear Witness to the Light

John 1:6-8

1. The Prophetic Pointing

2. The Prophetic Preaching

3. The Prophetic Posture

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention New Hope kids aged 4-10, The Edification committee would like to invite you to participate in contest just for you! Build a diorama of your favorite Bible story and send us a picture. Please see the attachment in the Friday News for details. There will be prizes!

Financial Update, Here's a quick update on giving to New Hope this year through November 30, 2020:

- Actual General Fund: \$472,553
- Budgeted General Fund: \$456,545
- Difference: \$16,008 (surplus)
- Facility Fund Donations: \$19,103

2020 Donation Deadline - Please note the following deadlines for donations to New Hope to be counted toward the 2020 tax year:

- Cash must be received in the offering basket on any Sunday through 12/27/2020 and must be in an envelope with your name and contact information marked in order to be recorded on your donor contribution statement. Mailing cash is not advised.
- Checks must be properly dated (no later than 12/31/2020). They can be put in the offering basket on any Sunday through 12/27/2020 or mailed to the church with a postmark of no later than 12/31/2020 *and* received by 1/7/2021. Mailed checks received after 1/7/2021 will be recorded for tax year 2021, regardless of check date, unless there is a clear postmark of 12/31/2020 or earlier.
- PayPal Donations must be processed no later than 11:59pm ET on 12/31/2020.

Contribution statements for 2020 will be provided no later than 1/31/2021. These statements will be emailed to everyone this year unless requested otherwise. If you have any questions, please contact Eleese Layman at treasurer@newhopeopc.org.

Building Fund, don't forget...we still have a building fund! As we look toward the future and to a larger facility, please consider giving to the building fund. Just write "building fund" in the memo line.

Help Needed!, if you attend either the outdoor or indoor worship services, we could use some help! Please see the needs below and contact the appropriate person if you are able to serve:

- Musicians — Ron Socash, ronsocash66@gmail.com
- Ushers — Brian Burden, bricumbur@gmail.com
- Sound technicians — Dan Poppert dan.poppert@gmail.com, Ed Wright wright.ed@gmail.com

Information on Worship Services, as we move into the winter months we want to keep you apprised of what plans are for worship on Sunday mornings.

- If the temperature outside is 50 degrees or higher, it is fair, and there is no precipitation, we will hold an outdoor service at 12:00 noon.
- We will continue to have the 10:30 am service indoors that is livestreamed.
- If the numbers of attendees requires it, we will have a 2nd indoor service at noon if the outside weather doesn't fall into the outdoor service parameters.

We will keep you as informed as we possibly can, making announcements via the website, email, Facebook, and through notifications via the app.

Upcoming Events & Dates to Know:

- Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, Dec.24th, 7:00 pm

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Pray for our church during this time of dealing with COVID-19 and the weariness and frustrations that have come with it. Pray for faithfulness, love for one another, and zealously for the Lord. Pray, too, for patience and graciousness through it all.
- Pray for those who are lonely or struggle during the holiday season that God would meet them in their need, would bring joy in the midst of sorrow, and would bring comfort through His word and the church.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and, in particular, the reformed chaplains who minister to the troops. Pray for safety, for strength of faith, and for wisdom as they serve.
- Pray for Lisa Rodatus' parents as they recover from the effects of covid-19. Pray for complete healing and strength.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: Christopher Burden, the Vidal family, Scott Innes, Kim Hanlin's father, John & Muriel Hadidian's daughter-in-law, 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 missions that we support financially: CareNet Pregnancy Center, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray that God will continue to provide for all their needs.
- Pray for the children that were attending the Good News Clubs before schools were closed. Pray that the Lord would continue to water the gospel seeds that were planted and would bring people into their lives to minister to them.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our mission of the month, the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray for this ministry to seek to serve those in the community who are physically and spiritually needy. Pray that the Lord would bless their work and would provide for all of their needs particularly during this difficult time.
- Continue to pray for Claire Hall as she serves the Lord in a scheme in Merkinch, Scotland. Pray for her and her team as the minister to people during the Christmas season. Pray particularly for Anderson Court, a part of the scheme she is ministering in that is ripe with violence, anger, and hopelessness. Pray for God to break through this place with the good news that bring true life and hope.
- Pray for Brad & Lucy Myers as they continue to work with RUF at UNC in Wilmington. Pray for the Lord to give them clear direction of where to go after their time at UNC is done in June.
- Pray for Benny & Liesl Boyed as they prepare to leave for Nepal in January to work with a missionary there.

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text— John 1:4,5 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Westminster Confession 1.5 We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scripture. And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it does abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God: yet notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

Monday: John 1:6. Compare and contrast John and Jesus using John 1:6-8 and 1:1-5. What main task of John's does 1:6-8 emphasize? Consider your obedience in witnessing to others about Christ. Did everyone know John was God's witness to the truth (Mk 11:30-32, Mt 11:9-12)? How would that "force" them to believe what he witnessed about? Do you believe his testimony about Jesus?

Tuesday: John 1:6. Why do you think John the Baptist as witness "interrupts" the coming of the Word in John 1? Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and Mal 3:1, 4:4-5. Why would the OT prophesy about the herald, or witness, of Christ? The Jews knew the OT, they knew John was a prophet, they saw him give prophetic warning and witness -how did and does all this build a case that we must believe in Jesus as God's Son?

Wednesday: How does John 1:7 follow from vv 4-5? How is Jesus "the light"? How is Jesus functioning as light in your life? How do you see John testify to Jesus as light in 1:29-34? What is the final purpose clause in 1:7 (see Jn 20:20)? Is this a one-time thing?

Thursday: Jn 1:7. To whom does "through him" refer to in Jn 1:7? What implications does this have for pastors, evangelists, and missionaries (2 Tim 4:2, Col 1:28, 1 Jn 1:5)? Pray about this. Spend some time praying for specific people who need to believe. Pray that unbelievers would come hear the Word and believe.

Friday: Jn 1:8. John was a light, but not the light. Think about how/where you feel pressure to be "the light," to fight for recognition, reputation, accomplishment. How do you see him live out "I am not the light, he is" in Jn 3:26-30. Meditate on this to make it your own.

Saturday: What is the main contrast in Jn 1:9-13. Pray for "receiving" tomorrow.

