

WELCOME!



Worship
10:30 am & 12:00 noon

Morning Worship

November 29, 2020

Reflection

“Repentance is the grace of God at work inwardly where the sinner is not only made humble but visibly changed.”

~ Thomas Watson

I asked the Lord that I might grow in faith and love in every grace. That I might know more of his salvation, and seek more earnestly his face. Instead of this he made me feel the hidden evils of my heart, and let the angry powers of hell assault my soul in every part. “Lord, why is this?” I trembling cried, “will you pursue me to death?” “‘Tis in this way,” the Lord replied, “I answer prayers for grace and faith. These inward trials I employ, to set you free from pride and self and break your schemes of earthly joy that you may find yours all in me.”

~ John Newton

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Psalm 90:1-2, 102:25-28 (responsive)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

**² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**²⁵ Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

**²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.**

You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,
²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

**²⁸ The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.**

Hymn of Praise — Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

REFRAIN

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

vid - ed — Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Prayer of Adoration

Response in Song — Our Great God

Eternal God, unchanging Mysterious, and unknown
Your boundless love, unfailing
In grace and mercy shown
Bright seraphim in endless flight
Around Your glorious throne
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail Helpless in the storm
Surround us with Your angels Hold us in Your arms
Our cold and ruthless enemy
His pleasure is our harm
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee
Before our sovereign God (chorus)

Let every creature in the sea And every flying bird
Let every mountain, every field
And valley of the earth
Let all the moons and all the stars In all the universe
Sing praises to the living God
Who rules them by His Word
(chorus 2x)

Confession of Sin — Titus 3:1-3

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon — Titus 3:4-8

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Response in Song — Forever Grateful

You did not wait for me to draw near to you,
But you clothed yourself with frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to you,
But you let me hear your voice calling me.

And I'm forever grateful to you
I'm forever grateful for the cross
I'm forever grateful to you
That you came to seek and save the lost.

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 — James 1:16-18

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Sermon — Our Unchanging God in Changing Times

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Closing Song — Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him, all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Benediction

Postlude

Our Unchanging God in Changing Times

James 1:16-18

1. God's Good Giving (vs. 16-17)
2. God's Steadying Stability (vs 17)
3. God's Sure Birthing (vs. 18)

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Give thanks for the many blessings the Lord has given us as a congregation — His sustaining grace, His provision for all of our needs, and His care for us through difficult times.
- Praise God for His immutability and that we can unswervingly rely on Him and His promises to us.
- Humbly give thanks that the Lord has bestowed on us the favor of being the firstfruits of His creation. Pray that we will live a life striving to be worthy of this favor, running well the race set before us.
- Pray for renewed disciplines, courage, boldness, and strength for Pastor Francis.
- Pray that the Lord would give continued endurance to John Wise as he finishes seminary.
- Pray for those who are alone during the holidays. Pray for contentment, joy, and peace and a turning to their Father in times of loneliness.
- Pray for wisdom and strength for our session as they carry out the calling that God has given them.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and in the police forces. Pray for their safety as strength in their service.
- 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, 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 here in Frederick as they care for the local community. Pray that they will be committed to teaching the Truth that can only be found through the Word of God.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our mission of the month, Worldwide Outreach of the OPC that oversees Christian Education, Foreign Missions, and Home Missions within the denomination. Pray particularly for the upcoming Thank Offering and that many would be generous in their giving to it.
- Continue to pray for Claire Hall as she begins her ministry with 20 Schemes in Scotland. Pray for her, particularly, as she is away from her family during the holidays.
- Pray for Brad & Lucy Myers as they finish up the fall semester at UNC in Wilmington with RUF. Pray for the students that they have been ministering to over the past few months.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Communion Service for our Seniors, Immuno-compromised, or others, next Sunday, December 6th, at 9:30 am, we will be having a special communion service in the sanctuary for those who are not comfortable coming to regular worship services. It will last about 15 minutes.

Christmas Trees!, Would you like to have our youth pick out, cut down, and deliver a live Christmas tree to you on Saturday, December 5th??? We are planning a trip to Gaver Farm for the youth on this date. If you would like to have a Christmas tree delivered to you, please e-mail or text or call Farrah Wise at farrah.wise@comcast.net, or 240-286-4408.

Thank offering, A collection for the Thank Offering will be taken November 29th — TODAY. There will be envelopes available for you to use if you'd like one. You can give to it via the website...just make sure to put a memo that it is for the Thank Offering.

Help Bless the Vidal Family, The Vidal family has several birthdays plus Christmas coming up in December, and Hannah would welcome support for helping cover the cost of gifts for the kids. She would appreciate gift cards to several places, a list of which can be found at <http://bit.ly/vidalgiftcards>. This link also has additional information about getting the gift cards to her. Contact Elease Layman with questions (elease.layman@gmail.com). Thank you to our church family for your continued support of this sister and her kids!

Annual Report, If you are a chairperson of any of the main committees, please contact your subcommittee folks for their submissions for the annual report. These reports should include information about what when on in the committee in 2020, what future plans might be, and information that would help give justification for the budget for that committee. **These reports will be due Friday, December 4th.**

Upcoming Events & Dates to Know:

- Joint Trustee/Session Meeting, December 1st
- Annual Reports due to the office, December 4th
- Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, Dec.24th, 7:00 pm

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text — James 1:17 — ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Westminster Confession of Faith 5.4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in His providence, that it extends itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, but such as has joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering, and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to His own holy ends; yet so, as the sinfulness thereof proceeds only from the creature, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.

Monday: How does James 1:16 make a fitting conclusion to vv 12-15? What kinds of things might trials and temptations deceive you about? How does it make a fitting introduction to vv 17-18? Can you trace a sin or temptation of yours to a false view of God? How did Adam and Eve get tempted by believing something false about God (Gen 3:4-6)?

Tuesday: James 1:17. What aspects of God does “Father of lights” remind you of (Is 40:26, 2 Cor 4:6, Rom 8:15)? Of what does the text say he is the source? Why does James want us to think about “every” gift as coming from *this* God? How does that help you when facing trials and temptations (e.g. 1:5)? Reflect on WCF 5.4 above on this same question. Reflect in prayer on God’s goodness to you even in specific trials.

Wednesday: James 1:17 Consider eclipses, the solstice, the moon’s waxing and waning. How is God different than that in James 1:17 (Mal 3:6, Heb 1:11-12)? Consider why it is especially significant that God’s purposes and character don’t change when we are challenged with trial, temptation, and sin (e.g. Is 46:10, Rom 8:38-39, 11:29)?

Thursday: Contrast the births in James 1:15 and 1:18 (who births, whose will is involved, what’s the fruit)? If God’s will gives you new birth (John 3:3-8, Eph 1:4), how steady and certain is full growth (Phil 1:6)? What process does God often use to bring about that maturity (1:2-4, 12)? Have you been “birthed” into God’s family (Tit 3:3-5)? What are some comforts and privileges of that (Rom 8:13-17, Heb 12:6)?

Friday: James 1:18. What are firstfruits, and what was Israel to do with them (Ex 34:27)? Read James 1:18 about firstfruits in light of Rom 8:22-26. What is God producing in believers, in the church (Eph 5:26-27)? The church an in-breaking of God’s future, perfected community. How is that a call to us? How does that shape our view of trials and our pilgrim way?

Saturday: Read John 1:1-5. What do you learn in John 1:1-5 about the character of Jesus? How does that add wonder to his incarnation/birth?

Thank Offering

THE CHURCH RESILIENT

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION • HOME MISSIONS • FOREIGN MISSIONS

OPC THANK OFFERING 2020

Collected TODAY