

WELCOME!



Worship
10:30 am

Morning Worship

February 28, 2021

Reflections

"If the Prince himself once went through The Valley of Humiliation, why should we murmur at following in his footsteps? God had one Son without sin but never a son without affliction. Let us not ask to be first but be content to share the portion of those whose inheritance is to be ours forever in the paradise of our God."

~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The only way to overcome Satan is by keeping to the word of God in its entirety.

~ John Calvin

"Cherishing is the beating heart of love. It means that during the day your eyes are on others.... To be lovers of people, we need to look at them. Like Jesus we must see them. Like him we must stop, look, and listen...Jesus lowers himself in order to care, while the disciples elevate themselves in order to judge...Compassion affects us. Maybe that's why we judge so quickly -it keeps us from being infected by other people's problems...To be of service to others, we have to die to them -die to evaluating and judging them, which thus frees us to be compassionate."

~ Paul Miller, Loved Walked Among Us

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Isaiah 62:1-5 (responsive in bold)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

**²The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.**

(Continued on page 4)

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴ **You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.**

⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you

Prayer of Adoration

Songs of Praise — Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise

1. Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all you peo- ples, new be your
2. Tell of his won-drous works, tell of his glo-ry, till through the
3. Vain are the hea- then gods, i- dols and help-less; God made the
4. Give un- to God Most High glo- ry and hon- or, come with your

The first system of musical notation is in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols G, C, G, and D are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

song as new hon- ors you pay; sing of his maj- es- ty,
na- tions his name is re- vered; praise and ex- alt him, for
heav'ns, and his glo- ry they tell; hon- or and maj- es- ty
of- f'rings and hum- bly draw near; in ho- ly beau- ty now

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. Chord symbols A7, D, Em, D/A, A, D, and G are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

D⁷ G G/D D G G D⁷ Em C G/D D⁷ G

bless him for - ev - er, show his sal - va - tion from day to day.
 he is al - might- y; God o - ver all let the Lord be feared.
 shine out be - fore him, beau - ty and strength in his tem - ple dwell.
 wor - ship Je - ho - vah, trem - ble be - fore him with god - ly fear.

5. Make all the nations know God reigns forever;
 earth is established as he did decree;
 righteous and just is the King of the nations,
 judging the people with equity.

6. Let heav'n and earth be glad; waves of the ocean,
 forest and field, exultation express;
 for God is coming, the Judge of the nations,
 coming to judge in his righteousness.

Greater Than We Can Imagine

Every day we'll bless You and praise Your name
 And on Your glorious splendor we will dwell
 On Your wondrous works, Lord, we'll meditate
 And of Your awesome power we will tell
 We'll speak of Your salvation
 and Your abundant goodness

CHORUS

*Because You are greater than we can imagine
 You are too beautiful for us to fathom
 Oh, You are great, and greatly to be praised*

Every generation shall sing Your worth
 And magnify Your mercy and Your grace
 We'll sing about the Savior who came to earth
 To bear the sins of those He came to save
 You fill our hearts with wonder
 We'll worship You forever

Confession of Sin — 2 Corinthians 12:19-21

¹⁹Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. ²⁰For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. ²¹I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon — Isaiah 1:18, 53:4-6

¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Response in Song — Cling to Christ

Father, I can come to You
And boast of deeds I've done
In my pride I strive to earn
The favor Christ has won
He alone pleads my acceptance
All my works aside
So I come with empty hands
And I cling to Christ

Father, I can go astray
And battle needless fears
Voices tell me I'm condemned
And that I can't draw near
But Your Spirit calls me homeward
With Your words of life
Jesus bore my every sin
So, I cling to Christ

BRIDGE

*It's more than I can do
To keep my hold on You
But all my hope and peace
Is that You cling to me*

Father, all my earthly aims
In time will turn to dust
Let me learn that loss is gain
For those who know Your love
All the treasures of this world
Will never satisfy
You alone are endless joy
So, I cling to Christ

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 4:11-12

¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Sermon — Don't Speak Against...

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Prayer of Application

Benediction

Postlude

Don't Speak Against...

James 4:11-12

1. Speaking Against Family (vs 11)

2. Usurping the Throne (vs 11-12)

3. Loving the Judge (vs 12)

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Pray for Pastor that he will guard his words, speak truth in love, and enjoy some refreshment.
- Give thanks that John Wise passed his in-committee exams last week. Pray that when he stands before presbytery March 19-20 for his ordination exams that he will do well.
- Pray for Tim & Julie Wesolek's granddaughter, Eleanor, who is in the NICU at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Pray that she will continue to strengthen and grow and be able to come home soon.
- Pray that we will be a people who love the Lord with all our heart and soul and mind and love those around us as ourselves.
- Pray for the session as they lead the congregation. Pray that the Lord will continue to give them strength to carry out their calling, to have the ability to love, care for, and protect the flock, and be diligent in prayer and study of the scripture.
- Give thanks for the marriage of Joe & Katie Howard that happened yesterday! Pray for the Lord's blessing upon their marriage and life together.
- Pray for the other couples from New Hope who are preparing to marry: Emily Howard/Leo Zavala and Caleb Mason/Joanna Wichern.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: Jen William's brother, Mike, 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 Frederick Rescue Mission as it seeks to provide food and physical needs for those who are in need particularly during these cold winter months.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our missionary of the month — Kristen who serves the Lord in Europe. Pray particularly that, as she ministers to the community she lives in, that she will be able to share the gospel well as well as help to meet their physical needs. Pray that they will be able to help this economically hard hit community with food and supplies.
- Pray for the work of the OPC disaster response teams as they work to help the OPC churches and people in Texas who are struggling due to the recent weather conditions across the state and the resultant burst pipelines and home disasters. Pray that they will be able to help and bless the people who are suffering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members/Inquirer's Class — On **Saturday March 13th** we plan to host an inquirer's/new member's class. We will start at 8am (doughnuts and coffee will be there) and run until 1pm. We will socially distance in the sanctuary at New Hope. This class is for anyone interested in knowing more about New Hope, or joining New Hope. Lunch will be provided from noon to 1pm. Please don't skip this part!

Francis & Laura usually host a dinner Friday night so everyone can get to know each other, hear a bit about each other. Because of Covid, we're going to make that an outdoor lunch thing, and have it all on Saturday. Hopefully it's sunny and warm. Otherwise we'll set up tables inside at appropriate spaces.

Coming soon: Two Services — As we all continue to groan under the effects of Covid, the session wants to enable as many of us to gather in person for worship as possible. To that end, we plan to begin two services in the near future.

Our first service will continue to be at 10:30am, and we encourage those who feel strongly about full mask and social distancing compliance to attend this service. We request that everyone at this service be especially conscientious of wearing masks, and also to refrain from loitering inside the building or around the exits.

We will also have an indoor service at 12:00 noon. During this service we encourage masks and appropriate distancing as able, but this will not be a firm expectation. This service will be held outdoors whenever weather permits.

This is an opportunity to love those who may differ from you by freeing one another to come to the service best suited to them, and by honoring the tenor of that service. We will bear with each other in love whether wearing a mask or not, recognizing that conscience and medical necessity may dictate those choices.

As we have done all along, we will continue to livestream the 10:30 am service for anyone who cannot come in person.

Regardless of which service you attend, or whether you join us in fellowship from home via livestream, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Upcoming Dates to Know:

- **Session Meeting**, Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:00 pm
- **New Members Class**, Saturday, March 13

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text: James 3:17— ¹⁷ **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.** ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Westminster Larger Catechism 144 What are the duties required in the ninth commandment? ...*A charitable esteem of our neighbors; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for, and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocence; a ready receiving of a good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requires; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practicing of: whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.*

Monday: James 4:11 says “Do not speak against one another.” How does “cancel culture” speak against others? How have you seen speakers, shows, TV speak against others? What have you observed online? How often do we use ad hominem attacks instead of engaging issues! Seek to be a light, and pray for charity, civility, and graciousness.

Tuesday: James 4:11. What does “speaking against” include (Ps 50:20; 2 Cor 12:20, 1 Pet 2:1, Col 3:8)? Consider how we “speak against another” to ourselves, to the person, then to others. What sorts of justifications do we give for doing this? How can what you say be true, but it still be “speaking against”? Does James mean we can’t ever speak truth to/about someone (Eph 4:15, Mt 7:1-2)?

Wednesday: James 4:11-12. How many times does James write “brother” in these verses? How must this blood-bought fact shape how we speak of/to one another? Pray for the Spirit’s power to change and grow in speaking truth in love. Perhaps pray through the WLC 144 above.

Thursday: James 4:11-12. In what did the 10 Commandments guide Israel (Lev 19:16-18)? How does speaking against another speak evil about that law and condemn it (11)? What position does that put you (11)? How does criticizing, judging, slandering another in effect elbow God from his throne? How is “speaking against” a symptom of pride? How does Phil 2:3-11 correct this?

Friday: James 4:12. If God is the only wise, perfect Lawgiver, what does that imply about our own laws for self (guided by feelings, hurts, etc) and others (rules, criticisms)? If God is the only Judge, what does that imply about our beyond-God’s-word judgments? How does the fact that God could judge all of us put you on equal ground with those you tend to speak against? How does his mercy to save you motivate you to love your neighbor with words?

Saturday: Read James 5:1-6. What is its main point?