

WELCOME!



Worship

10:30 am

12:00 noon → (moving to
9:00 am next week!)

Morning Worship

May 30, 2021

Reflections

Proverbs 11:30 — The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

1 Tim 6:18-19 — ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may **take hold of that which is truly life.**

“It is an absolutely unique teaching in the world so now we may certainly think: ‘Although I still sin, I don’t despair, because Christ lives, who is both my righteousness and my eternal life.’ In that righteousness I have no sin, no fear, no guilty conscience, no fear of death. I am indeed a sinner in this life of mine and in my own righteousness, but I have another life, another righteousness above this life, which is in Christ, the Son of God, who knows no sin or death, but is eternal righteousness and eternal life.”

—Martin Luther

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Revelation 22:1-4, 17 (responsive)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Prayer of Adoration

Songs of Praise

Living Waters

Are you thirsty,
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken,
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Christ is calling,
Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down,
All the old gone
Rise up in these living waters

Chorus:
*There's a river that flows,
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure,
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters*

Spirit moving,
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children,
To the shore line
Life is in these living waters (CHORUS)

Are you thirsty,
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love, forgiveness,
Vast and boundless
Christ, He is our living waters (CHORUS)

We are God's People

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
 to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
 on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Pardon—

Psalm 1 & Ephesians 2:4-5

- ¹Blessed is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
²but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law he meditates day and night.
³He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
⁴The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...

Prayer of Supplication (from the Valley of Vision in unison)

Holy Spirit,

Come, work repentance in my soul;

Help me to hate my sin

Melt my heart by the majesty and mercy of God;

Teach me to behold my Creator,

Make me willing to be saved in his way,

perceiving nothing in myself, but all in Jesus.

May I be saved by grace through faith,

live by faith,

feel the joy of faith,

do the work of faith as a tree planted by streams of water.

Perceiving nothing in myself, may I find in Christ

wisdom, righteousness, sanctification,

redemption and delight in the law of the Lord.

Response in 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

CHORUS

*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 (chorus)

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 (chorus)

Offering* 1 Chronicles 16:34 — ³⁴ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

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

Congregational Prayer

Sermon Text — Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 3:22-24

⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ²²Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Sermon — The Tree of Life

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Closing Hymn — Doxology

Benediction

Postlude

The Tree of Life

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:22-24

1. The Life Tree (Gen 2:8-9)
2. The Lost Tree (Gen 3:22-24)
3. The Judgment Tree (Rev 2:7)
4. The Full-Life Tree (Rev 22:1-5)

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Praise God for the birth of Yael Devrah Beaty who was born on April 29th to Kendra and Jesse Beaty. Both mom and baby are doing well. Pray that Lord would bless this little girl and that she will follow and serve him early in her life.
- Pray for our session as they love and serve the flock. Pray for wisdom, grace, and unity as they serve.
- Pray for Muriel Hadidian as she recovers from a fall and subsequent fractures in her back. Pray for a complete recovery as she cares for her husband, John.
- Pray for John Hardison who is currently in a rehabilitation center at Citizens.
- Pray that Scott Innes will use the help he gets to beat his addiction to alcohol. Pray that his time in a recovery center will bring about healing, restoration, and dedication to sobriety.
- Pray for Monica Laird's mother who is recovering from surgery for a repair of her femur after a fall. Pray for patience and grace for Monica as she cares for her mom.
- Pray for the couples from New Hope who are preparing to marry: Emily Howard/Leo Zavala, Caleb Mason/Joanna Wichern, Ellen Socash/Garrett Kennedy.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: Ron Synder, Jen Bridenbaugh, Charles Ruch, Jen William's brother, Mike, Christopher Burden, the Vidal family, 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 churches in the Frederick area that they would be committed to preaching the truth of the scriptures alone and that Christ would be pre-eminent.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our mission of the month — Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ. Pray particularly for Joel Chism and Alexis Wise as they prepare to go and work there for part of the summer. Pray that the Lord will minister to both Joel and Alexis during this time, that they will be encouraged in their walk with Christ, and that they will use gifts for God's glory.
- Continue to pray for Benny & Liesl Boyed as they serve in Nepal.
- Pray for the persecuted church and for the pastors of those churches. Pray for strength to endure the tribulation, that God would change the hearts of the persecutors, and that the church would continue to grow and thrive despite the wiles of the evil one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

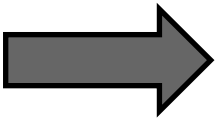
Important Dates to Know:

- Ladies' Bible Study, every Wednesday at 10:00 am in the lower building in Sunday school classroom #3
- June 1, Session meeting, at the church, 7:00 pm
- June 2, Wednesday night dinner and Bible study, 6:00 pm for pizza & prayer from 6:30-7:30 pm. See announcement below for details.

Wednesday Night Bible Study update, As the Wednesday Night Bible study wraps up the study in Revelation in May, there will be a new focus of the bible study beginning in June. On June 2nd, the Wednesday Night Dinner & Bible study will begin meeting in person again and, for several weeks, have the time together be focused on prayer. Beginning at 6:00 pm for pizza, there will be a focused prayer time beginning at 6:30 pm followed by a time for fellowship and concluding at 7:30 pm. As often as possible, the study will be done outside. Children are welcome to attend and either play on the playground or be with the adults.

Bible Clubs, The Edification committee will be hosting an outdoor Bible Club at New Hope this summer for elementary-aged kids. We're looking forward to going on a "Faith Expedition" together through evenings of singing, Bible lessons, and games. Mark your calendars for July 12-14 so you can join us! If you are interested in teaching or helping with the Bible Club, please contact Amy Wright (amy.r.dewit@gmail.com)

Growth Group training, for current leaders and any who might be interested in leading. Saturday, June 12 from 9:00 to 11:00 at the church. Questions--contact Dave Myers.



IMPORTANT!!, Beginning **NEXT SUNDAY**, June 6th, the outdoor worship service will begin at **9:00 am!**

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:17 — ¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Westminster Larger Catechism 20: What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created? *The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth; putting the creatures under his dominion, and ordaining marriage for his help; affording him communion with himself; instituting the sabbath; entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience, of which the tree of life was a pledge; and forbidding to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.*

Monday: Genesis 2:8-9. What was to sustain Adam’s physical needs (v 9a)? What kind of life then did the tree of life proffer (Gen 3:22, Rev 2:7)? What would Adam need to do to have access to this eternal life (see Gen 2:15, 17, WLC above)? Why might some people argue that Jesus is the Tree of Life? Is eternal life and fellowship with God attractive to you?

Tuesday: Gen 3:22-24. When Adam chose the death tree instead of the life tree, what did God do (23, 24)? Why (22)? How was this a kindness to Adam, as well as a curse? How do people yearn for eternal life and its benefits now, but apart from Christ? How is your sin a short cut, or longing for full life? Spend some time confessing this to God.

Wednesday: Gen 3:24. Where else to cherubim (Ex 25:18-22), trees (1 Ki 6:29), and a tree of life (Ex 25:31ff, 35:14) show up in the Bible? How can one get through the cherubim with flaming swords, to experience full life and favor with God again (Gen 15:17, Ex 27:1ff, Mt 27:50, 51)? Do you know Jesus the Giver of Life? Have you trusted his sacrificing himself in your place? Worship him.

Thursday: Based on your answers to Wednesday, how can Jesus grant Rev 2:7? 1 Tim 6:19 teaches us to “take hold of that which is **truly life**.” What is the opposite of that? How do you “eat” from the death-tree? Fight it! How can you “take hold of that which is truly life” more in your daily walk? Pray for it, plan it, fight to practice holiness, and continue looking to Christ who, by his Spirit, gives us the strength.

Friday: Rev 22:1-5. How does v 2 contrast with the tree of life of Gen 2:9? What does this communicate about the fullness of life granted in Christ? This is our corporate identity -our human destiny in community. Your life is part of this grand story, together with the other saints at New Hope, shaped by, living toward and pilgriming til that ultimate life is experienced in full. How does seeing yourself as part of this body hearten you, increase your purpose, and your commitment to your church family?

Saturday: Pray for God’s power to work through the preached word to transform us.