

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Standing On the Promises* Russell Kelso Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Always there is a choice:

**the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
or the things for which this world will sell its soul.**

We cannot have it both ways.

As the prophet Elijah declared long ago:

“How long does it take you to make up your mind?
If the Lord is God, then follow God.
If idols are your gods, then get real: admit you serve them.”

**The Lord is our God and greatly to be praised!
We will declare God’s glory among the nations.
We will celebrate God’s love among all races of the earth!**

* HYMN 81 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of the exodus, you have delivered your people from
trouble time and time again.**

**Yet, while part of us remembers your faithfulness,
another part of us looks for other sources to trust.**

**We are a vacillating, wavering people,
loving you with some of our heart,
but not with all of it.**

Forgive us, O God, for our lukewarm faith.

**By your Spirit, set our hearts on fire again,
that we might love you wholly.**

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 59 (refrain three times) “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God’s mercies never come to an end.**

**They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Kings 18:17-21, p. 283 (OT)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Kings 18:22-40, p. 283-284 (OT)

SERMON “No Contest”
Elijah and Elisha: Called and Sustained in Troubled Times

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN 688 “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Shorter Westminster Catechism* (Q. 1)

Q. What is the main purpose of humankind?

A. **Humankind’s main purpose is to glorify God and to
enjoy God forever.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Jesus Loves the Little Children George F. Root

* *Doxology* (Hymnal, back page)

* *Prayer of Dedication*

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your
kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the
time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* HYMN 63 “The Lord Is God”

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *He’s Got the Whole World In His Hands* arr. P. Keveren

END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



We light two candles in worship. The white candle reminds us of the presence of Christ’s spirit in worship. The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, and it reminds us of our covenant with them.

Today’s liturgist: Margot Coleman

Today’s greeters: Herschel and Linda Lewis

Today’s ushers: Laura Brown and Kim Presley

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Ray and Annette Sheffield in memory of their parents, Clifford and Annette Gaither and Jim and Thelma Sheffield.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Everyone is welcome to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for lunch after church today! We will be going to Post 25. See Judy Urich for more information about today’s lunch outing.

Sunday Morning Refreshments

“The cheerful heart has a continual feast” (Proverbs 15:15). Thanks to all who have taken a turn or two hosting the coffee and snack time after worship. Sadly, we currently only have two Sundays covered for the rest of the year. If you enjoy this weekly time of fellowship, or if you just want others to be able to enjoy it, please sign up to cover a few dates. If you need training or have any questions, email Bill Carpenter at billcarpenter53@gmail.com, and he will be happy to help you.

“Love Carved in Stone” Begins August 29

On Thursday, August 29, the Spirituality Circle (formerly a Presbyterian Women Circle) will begin a new study year. This year, we will be using the PW/Horizons Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, by Eugenia Anne Gamble. We meet at 2:00 PM on the last Thursday of the month at the church. All women are welcome. Questions? Please contact Susan Maveety at susan.maveety@gmail.com.

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

* You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

Adult Class Starting in September: The Beatitudes

Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes. In his day, the Beatitudes were profound teachings, showing the people how to live in peace. Do these words have the same effect and meaning in today's contemporary society? Join Russ Moxley on Sunday mornings in September and October as he facilitates this exploration of the Beatitudes through the perspectives of four different authors. Prepare to be challenged, stimulated, and surprised! We will meet at 9:30 AM in the downstairs classroom.

Coming Up in October: Thursday Series on *Being Mortal*

How do we approach the end of our lives? In his book *Being Mortal*, author Atul Gawande shares his experience of accompanying his father as he approached his death. Arguing for a change in the way that patients are treated at the end of their lives, Gawande asserts that, rather than focusing only on survival, healthcare practitioners should focus on improving the quality of life and well-being of their patients. On Thursdays, October 3 & 10, join Pastor Kim in the Narthex for a two-part discussion of the book *Being Mortal*. Then on Thursday, October 17, come and engage with a panel of healthcare professionals in medicine, gerontology, and palliative care. The panel will also include the caregiver of a terminally ill patient. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about Advanced Care Planning. Questions? Contact Peg Lewis at (828) 702-0161.

Looking Ahead to November: Faith and Science in Harmony

Can science and biblical faith co-exist in harmony with one another? Is it possible to reconcile things like the Big Bang theory and the Bible's creation narratives? On Sundays, November 3 and 10, join Doug Baird and Kim Wells at 9:30 AM in the downstairs classroom for an exploration of life's origins as they bring biblical faith and science into dialogue with one another. We will look at the various ways that others have (or have not) embraced both biblical faith and scientific discovery.

Later in November: "You Meant it for Evil, God Meant it for Good"

Though Joseph was betrayed by his jealous brothers and sold into slavery, their evil actions set in motion a series of events that would eventually lead to Joseph being able to save the Israelites from starvation when famine struck decades later. On Sundays, November 17 and 24, join author Jim Chatham as he leads us through one of the Bible's most moving stories of forgiveness and reconciliation and explores how God's providence works its way through our lives. We will meet at 9:30 AM in the downstairs classroom.

Special Fall Offering: *The Soul of Aging*

Adults of all ages and stages experience the aging process, which can stir questions of meaning and purpose that invite our attention. This fall, we will be offering a Tuesday morning series that will help you live soul-fully as you are *growing* older, with an emphasis on *growing*. *The Soul of Aging*, based on the work of Parker Palmer, is a nation-wide program structured to invite you into a deeper level of engagement with your life. During each session, you will gather in the large group, in small groups, and in solitary settings to reflect on the stories of your journey, with the *option* to share these stories in the context of a compassionate community. Interested in learning more? We invite you to a special Introductory Session on Tuesday, October 22, from 9:30 AM-12:00 PM, here at the church. Simply come and learn more about the course—no further commitment is required. The remaining sessions will take place on six Tuesday mornings in November and December, and the course will conclude with a Saturday retreat in January. Stay tuned for more information! Already have questions? Contact Peg Lewis at (828)702-0161 or lewpeg3@gmail.com.

Men's Brunch Bunch meets at 10:30 AM this Saturday, August 31, at J.K.'s on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to eat and enjoy fellowship. Please join us! Contact John Riley at (828) 575-2894.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, September 1 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, August 28.

Calendar

Sun	25	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:45 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (See Judy Urich)
Thurs	29	2:00 PM	Spirituality Circle
		2:00 PM	Nominating Committee
Sat	31	10:30 AM	Men's Brunch Bunch
Sun	25	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:45 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Mary Jo)

New Hope Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming, inclusive faith community, seeking to respond to Christ's call to love and serve, through ministries of compassion and social justice.

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Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator
Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist
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New Hope Presbyterian Church

"Including, Renewing, Serving"

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2019
11 o'clock



"No Contest"

Fourth in the Series:



"How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow God; but if Baal, then follow him."
1 Kings 18:21