

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Prelude in D Minor* J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 318 “In Christ There is No East or West”

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 59 “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 139:7-12, p. 503 (OT)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 8:37-39, p. 919-920 (NT)

SERMON “The Boundless Love of God”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (11.3)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Oh, How I Love Jesus* Traditional

Doxology Hymn 582

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 366 “Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *New Orleans* William Gillock

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: Andy Morse

Today’s greeters: Bunk and Nancy Spann

Today’s ushers: Herschel and Linda Lewis

Today we welcome Russ Moxley to the pulpit! Russ is an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church and first served University Park United Methodist Church of Dallas, Texas, as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Families. His calling in ministry then turned to leadership development, and he was trained as a facilitator by an organization called the Center for Courage & Renewal, founded by Parker Palmer. He has led formation retreats with pre-K-12 teachers, educational

leaders, health care leaders, and clergy leaders. Until 2002, Russ was a senior fellow at the Center for Creative Leadership, and then he served as a part-time faculty member there until 2018. He is also the author of *Leadership and Spirit* and *Becoming a Leader is Becoming Yourself*. Russ and his wife, Jean, live at Givens and together share six daughters and twelve grandchildren.

Men’s Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM on Saturday, October 2 at J.K’s on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to meet, eat, and enjoy fellowship together! Contact Bruce Rasmussen at (828) 633-0327.

Guest Preachers on October 3 & 10

We are delighted to be welcoming some guest preachers while Kim is celebrating her 50th birthday in England with family. Ken Meeks will be our guest preacher next Sunday, October 3 followed by Charlie Davidson on Sunday, October 10. Kim will be in worship as liturgist on Sunday, October 10.

An Evening at the Arboretum

Does an evening of music and strolling through the Arboretum interest you? If so, join us on Thursday, September 30 from 5:30-8:30 PM, at the Baker Event Lawn to enjoy music, fellowship and the beautiful gardens. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair and snacks. The Bent Creek Bistro will be closed, but you can place an order by 11:00 AM on the 30th to be picked up at the Baker Information Desk between 5:30-6:30 PM. There will be a place to purchase beverages. The event is free, but parking fees or a pass will be taken at the entrance. If you do not have a pass, please contact Margaret Marsh at margaretmarsh@bellsouth.net or by phone at (256) 565-8075, and she will make arrangements for you to ride with a pass holder. For more information go to www.ncarboretum.org, then click on Exhibits and Events. You will see a listing of the musicians—however, they may change. What a wonderful way to spend an evening together enjoying our beautiful mountains!

Experiencing Authentic Community: A Faith Formation Group

Over and over again, we have heard that we are the body of Christ. But what does this mean in terms of our everyday lived experience in community with one another? How would our community at New Hope be different if we internalized and acted on this truth together?

In her book *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans reminds us that church at its best is a place where after confession—after we acknowledge our questions, our doubts, our fears, our injuries, our pain

—we find healing and reconciliation together, in community. Can you imagine going that deep with your community here at New Hope?

After months of being physically distanced, and of connecting online, what yearnings do you have for community? And, how are we in community with the greater community beyond the walls of our church?

These are the kinds of questions that we will ponder and discuss in New Hope's first Faith Formation activity of 2021. We will meet in person, in the Fellowship Hall, where we can maintain the appropriate physical distance. Those who would like to join remotely may also do so. We will meet on five Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM, beginning on Thursday, October 21 and ending on Thursday, November 18. To register, please contact Erin at (828) 274-0191 or officewhopecusa@gmail.com.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, October 3 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, September 29.

New Hope COVID Policy

Mask Up! Whether you are vaccinated or not vaccinated you need to wear a mask while inside the church.

Please sanitize your hands upon entry. Hand sanitizer is available at all entry points and in various other locations around the building. Remember to keep your hands washed as needed.

Please stay away from church IF you are sick, have COVID symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID, or have been out of the country. Then, please wait two weeks before returning. We invite you to join us for worship online in the meantime!

Please do not move any of the chairs in the sanctuary. Our new seating layout took a lot of exact measuring and effort to set up, so we would appreciate it if you would refrain from moving seats.

Please observe a “touchless” Passing of the Peace of Christ. While individuals may use their own discretion about accepting hugs and handshakes outside of the sanctuary, during the passing of the peace we will refrain from touching so that those who aren't comfortable with that yet aren't put on the spot. (And, when you're outside the sanctuary, please ask before you hug someone to make sure they're comfortable.)

Please refrain from singing along with hymns for now. While we hope it won't be too much longer until we can include full congregational hymn singing and the choir in worship, we are easing into that by taking some baby steps first. For now, we'll have a small ensemble of singers leading each hymn in parts from up front. Of course, we'll still get to enjoy Rob's beautiful music as always!

Please do not let the Narthex get crowded. We will not be serving coffee or food after worship for now. As you leave the sanctuary, please make a conscious effort to help the Narthex not get too crowded by spreading into outdoor spaces to socialize if a lot of people are present.

Please refrain from using drinking fountains. If you're thirsty, you are welcome to get a glass of water to drink from the kitchen downstairs.

Please know that the Session may change this policy, either by loosening or tightening these restrictions, as circumstances change.

Bear with one another in love (Colossians 3:13-14). In any community, there are different opinions about how to go about doing things. We know that some folks wish we had more restrictions, while others wish we had fewer. The above is the Session's best discernment about how to care for our congregation in worship while taking this first step.

Glorify God and enjoy God! The PC (USA)'s Westminster Catechism teaches that our bottomline, main purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy God forever. Enjoyment is central to our life of faith! So, as we come together to worship in the sanctuary, let us glorify and enjoy God together!

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.

3070 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803 | (828) 274-0191
Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator
Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist
Ken Meeks, Parish Associate | www.newhopepcusaasheville.org

New Hope Presbyterian Church

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021
11 o'clock



“The Boundless Love of God”



“Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 8:39)