

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

**PRELUDE** *Sweet By and By* S.F. Bennett

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We cannot do this alone.

**We dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.**

We come to share the radical welcome of Jesus.

**We come to share the healing grace of Jesus.**

We come to encourage each other with the gifts of the Spirit.

**We come to be amazed by the mysteries of the Spirit.**

We come seeking a place where we truly belong.

**We come remembering that we belong to God.**

We cannot do this alone.

**We dare not try this alone, so let us worship God!**

\* **HYMN 246** "Christ Is Alive"

#### \* CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**O God, you have created us.**

**We are wonderfully made, the works of your hands.**

**Yet, though we sometimes think too highly of ourselves,  
more often we think too little of ourselves.**

**We are self-conscious about the wonder that we are.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**By your Spirit, help us to shine as your people,**

**no flame brighter, no flame dimmer,**

**that together we might display your holy love  
to our hungry world.**

*Silent Prayers*

*Assurance of Pardon*

#### \* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

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**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

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

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 148, *p. 508 (OT)*

**ANTHEM** *Hymn of Promise* Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb, there is a flower

In the seed, an apple tree

In cocoons, a hidden promise

Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter

There's a spring that waits to be

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence

Seeking word and melody

There's a dawn in every darkness

Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future

What it holds, a mystery

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning

In our time, infinity

In our doubt, there is believing

In our life, eternity

In our death, a resurrection

At the last, a victory

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Acts 6:1-7, *p. 889-890 (NT)*

**SERMON** "How Waiters Changed the World"

\* **HYMN 700** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

Q. What is the highest purpose of humankind?

**A. The highest purpose of humankind is to glorify God  
and enjoy God forever.**

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Invitation to Offering*

*Offertory* *How Great Thou Art* Stuart K. Hine

*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 733** "We All Are One in Mission"

#### \* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** *Joshua Fit the Battle* Traditional

## 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:** Pat Koonts

**Today's greeters:** Herschel and Linda Lewis

**Today's ushers:** Herschel and Linda Lewis

### Sanctuary Flowers

Did you know you can bring flowers any Sunday to brighten up the Sanctuary? There is a sign-up sheet located in the Narthex. You can specify if you'd like them to be in memory or in honor of a loved one or in recognition of something else, and we'll print that in the bulletin. You can also bring in flowers just to bring in flowers! There are plenty of available dates left. Please consider signing up for one date per year.

### Fellowship Luncheon on May 22

Being together in fellowship and sharing a meal is a vital part of New Hope, and we have missed this aspect of our church life over the past few years! Next Sunday, May 22, we will have lunch together here at the church. Ham and beverages will be provided, and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert. There will also be a donation basket. No sign up is necessary, and everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

### Praying for Guatemalan Families

Pastor Roman Ardiano has been serving our Guatemalan sister church, El Divino Salvador, for the last four years. In our sister Presbytery, pastors often serve two small rural congregations at the same time, and this is true for Pastor Roman. He lives about an hour away, traveling to our sister church about twice a month by motorcycle. Pray that Pastor Roman remains safe as he travels the rural areas on his motorcycle, and for God to bless him with wisdom and compassion as he leads.



### Relieving Medical Debt in Western North Carolina

Over the last five years, the PC(USA) has been encouraging its churches and mid-councils to join its “Matthew 25” movement. Based on Matthew 25:31-46, this initiative invites churches and mid-councils who join the movement to focus on one or more of the following priorities: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Since the Presbytery of Western NC (PWNC) has made a commitment to be a Matthew 25 mid-council, it has been pursuing projects that further those three goals. Recently, the

PWNC has been working to eradicate systemic poverty by raising money to relieve medical debt in Western North Carolina through an organization called RIP Medical Debt. Last Tuesday, it was announced that our Presbytery had collected over \$27,000, which will eliminate \$2.7 million in medical debt in Western NC. New Hope contributed \$500 from our Outreach and Justice & Reconciliation budgeted discretionary accounts.

**Worship bulletin announcements** for Sunday, May 22 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, May 18.

**Vax up or mask up:** masking is now optional for those who are vaccinated.

**Please stay away from church if** you are sick, have any symptoms of illness, or have a known exposure to someone with COVID.

### 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  
Ken Meeks, Parish Associate | [www.newhopepcusaasheville.org](http://www.newhopepcusaasheville.org)

## New Hope Presbyterian Church

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 15, 2022  
11 o'clock



### “How Waiters Changed the World”

*Second in the Series: Everyday Easter People*



And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.”

(Acts 6:2)