

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* John Newton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 393 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

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 Hebrews 1:1-4, *p. 970-971 (NT)*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 26, *p. 437 (OT)*

SERMON “Psst, I’m Right Here Beside You—Listen Up!”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Joseph Scriven

Doxology Hymn 582

Prayer of Dedication

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

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 724 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Every Time I Feel The Spirit* 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: Joy Lee Eppes
Today’s greeters: Herschel and Linda Lewis
Today’s ushers: Jay and Susan Maveety

Today we welcome the Rev. Ken Meeks to the pulpit!

While Pastor Kim is away, our Parish Associate, Ken Meeks, a retired PC (USA) pastor and former General Presbyter of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, is here to preach and lead us in worship. Ken and his wife Jane joined New Hope fall of 2018. Ken also became Parish Associate for Visitation that fall. He spends approximately ten hours per week visiting our members, especially those who are homebound.

Today is World Communion Sunday! Each year on the first Sunday of October, we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. On this day, we are receiving the PC (USA)’s Peace & Global Witness Offering on behalf of those around the world.

Final Guest Preacher on October 10

Charlie Davidson will be our final guest preacher next Sunday, October 10. Kim will be in also be in worship as the liturgist.

Today’s Offering: Peace & Global Witness

During worship today, we will receive one of our denomination’s four annual special offerings: the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Seventy-five percent of this offering will go to PC (USA) peacemaking ministries at the national level, and twenty-five percent will remain with us for the peacemaking ministry of our choice. Please mark the memo line of your check with “Peace.” Thank you.

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 officenewhope@gmail.com.

New Class of Elders & Deacons

The officer nominating process is now under way for Elder and Deacon terms beginning in 2022. The Officer Nominating Committee: Bill Carpenter, Susan Lang and Margaret Marsh. They are anxious to receive recommendations from the congregation on members who may be called to serve the church as Elder or Deacon. Please email your suggestions to Bill Carpenter, Chair of the Nominating Committee at billcarpenter53@gmail.com or speak with any member of the committee. Your participation is very much appreciated.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, October 10 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, October 6.

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 bottom line, 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”

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 3, 2021
11 o’clock



“Psst, I’m Right Here Beside You—Listen Up!”



“Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity.”
(Psalm 26:1)