

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Prelude in C Major* J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God is creative,
weaving the fabric of creation into being.
God is attentive,
clothing the lilies of the field with splendor.
God is restorative,
tending to what has become frayed on the margins.
God is reconciling,
quilting different patches together, side by side.
God is life giving,
raising us up for the sake of each other.

* HYMN 667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O God, you have called us to be a community of care,
to share our love and allow others to love us,
for “a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”**
**Yet, though we value caring in theory,
it is not as easy in practice.**
**Giving and receiving care requires risk, vulnerability,
patience, and openness to the other—
and we aren’t always willing to embrace these things.**
Forgive us, O God.
**By your Spirit, help us to give and receive nurture,
that we might share in your life-giving work.**

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 240 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23, p. 435-436 (OT)

ANTHEM *They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* P. Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored,
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we’ll guard each person’s dignity and save each person’s pride,
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 9:36-43, p. 894 (NT)

SERMON “Celebrating the Gift of Nurturing Life”

* HYMN 250 “In The Bulb There Is a Flower”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

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

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?
A. **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in
life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Rhapsody On a Theme Of Paganini S. Rachmaninoff

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 761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Jazz Etude #2* M. Dvorak

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: Bonnie Runkle
Today’s greeters: Woody and Janet Ferrell
Today’s ushers: Laura Brown and Kim Presley

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.

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

Praying for Guatemalan Families

Saturnino (affectionately known as Nino) is the worship leader of El Divino Salvador. Our sister church does not have a full time pastor, so Nino leads the congregation several times a week. His messages are personal and powerful, as we experienced during our visits to the community. He shares his home with his wife, Basilia, a married daughter and her children, and his father. Though his house is small and faces significant structural challenges, his door is always open to anyone who needs a place to stay. Please pray for God to give Nino wisdom and discernment in his leadership of the church, as well as strength and love as he takes care of his large family in close quarters.



Basilia and Saturnino

Men's Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, May 14 at J.K's on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to eat and enjoy fellowship. Questions? Contact Bruce Rasmussen at (828) 633-0327.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, May 15 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, May 11.

Manna Food Bank

Due to some staffing changes and vacancies at MANNA Food Bank, the volunteer time slot we have enjoyed for many years--second Tuesdays at 4:15 PM--is currently unavailable. So, we will not be meeting at MANNA on Tuesday, May 10, as previously planned. But have no fear! Our fearless leader, Linda Lewis, is already working on arranging a new monthly time that works both for MANNA and our volunteers. Stay tuned ... the fun will begin again soon!

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.

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”

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022
11 o'clock



“Celebrating the Gift of Nurturing Life”

First in the Series: Everyday Easter People



“All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.”
(Acts 9:39)