

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Pass It On* Kurt Kaiser

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We are witnesses to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses to the life that can't be quenched.

We are witnesses to the way Jesus walks before us.

We are witnesses to the resilience of grace and truth.

We are witnesses to the Spirit and wisdom, and to mystery.

We are witnesses to wonder and awe, and to the sparrow.

We are witnesses for justice before the powers, and to the lowly.

We are witnesses to the healing in our stories.

We are witnesses to the One who is present with us now.

Let us worship God!

* HYMN 267 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to be witnesses,

to tell the story of God's faithfulness,

to speak of Christ's power to reorder the world,

**to allow the Spirit to do wonders through our bodies—
even in places that are hostile to us.**

Yet, we prefer to be comfortable in our own spaces:

the armchair, the couch, and the recliner on the patio,

the beauty we have access to, and the gentle breeze.

Witnessing that brings discomfort? Forget it!

Forgive us, O God.

Strengthen and embolden us with your Spirit,

accompany and companion us in Christ,

reassure and encourage us with your welcome,

that we might do your mighty acts of love.

Silent Prayers & Assurance of Pardon

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 240

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, p. 439-440 (OT)

ANTHEM *Morning Has Broken* E. Farjeon

Refrain: Morning has broken like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven

Like the first dewfall on the first grass

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning

Born of the one light, Eden saw play

Praise with elation, praise every morning

God's recreation of the new day. *Refrain*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 6:8-7:1, 7:51-8:1
p. 890-891 (NT)

SERMON "Stephen: Waiter and Witness"

* HYMN 275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Offering

Offertory His Eye Is On The Sparrow Traditional

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 543 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Jesus Loves Me* A.B. Warner

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: Woody Ferrell

Today's greeter: Margaret Marsh

Today's ushers: Bill Carpenter and Glenn Limbird

Men's Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, May 28 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.

Asheville Tourists Game June 3

It's that time again, a night at the ballpark with your New Hope friends! Please come and join us on Friday, June 3, at 6:35 PM. Tickets are only \$8.00. Cash only please. See Bill Carpenter in the Narthex after worship to purchase yours or email Bill at billcarpenter53@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

Pentecost Luncheon on June 5

Pentecost is coming up on Sunday, June 5, and we will be celebrating with a return to our fellowship luncheons downstairs in the Fellowship Hall! We have sorely missed this aspect of our life together over the last two years, so we are really looking forward to breaking bread together again. Ham and beverages will be provided, and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert. There will also be a donation basket. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

Praying for Guatemalan Families

Elvira and Cruz Rodriguez have lived in their house since the community of our sister church, El Divino Salvador, was able to purchase its own land 21 years ago. Elvira and Cruz have raised seven children, some of whom have received educational scholarships. Cruz has worked at the local finca all his life, picking coffee beans. Every time we visit, he hopes he can retire soon. Elvira enjoys cooking and making tortillas. Their family has struggled with illness and tragedy, but they rely on the strength they receive from God. Please pray for Cruz to earn enough to retire and for the mental and physical health of their family.



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.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, May 29 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, May 25.

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

New Hope Presbyterian Church

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 22, 2022
11 o'clock



“Stephen: Waiter and Witness”

Third in the Series: Everyday Easter People



“Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.” (Acts 6:8)