

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* Eleanor Farjeon

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.  
**We come with burdens and questions to ask him.**  
Some of us come boldly, some of us come hesitantly.  
**May all of us open our hearts to him.**  
May our lives be healed and strengthened for service.  
**Let us worship God!**

\* HYMN 13 "The Mighty God with Power Speaks"

#### \* CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**Almighty God, you love us,  
but we have not loved you.  
You call, but we have not listened.  
We walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns,  
and apathetic in our place of comfort.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.  
God of grace, come to us in mercy,  
and help us to come home to you,  
that we might receive your forgiveness,  
and be changed.**

*Silent Prayers*

*Assurance of Pardon*

#### \* SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Hymn 205 (3 times, English-Latin-English) "Live in Charity"

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 121 (OT)

#### ANTHEM

*Because Of Love*

Joseph Martin

Into the darkness of a starless night,  
God spoke His truth and there was light.  
There in the shadows of our hiding place,  
God found a way to make it bright.

*Refrain:* Because of love, God gave us Jesus.  
Because of love, God sent His Son.  
Because of love, God opened heaven.  
Love is ours to live, joy is ours to give,  
Because of love.

Into the moments when we feel alone,  
God speaks His grace and there is hope.  
There, in the longing of our broken dreams,  
God finds a way to bring us home. *Refrain*

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-17 (NT)

#### SERMON

"Finding Courage"

*Fourth in the Series: Inward Work for Outward Living*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* HYMN 718 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH adapted from Luke 23:39-42

**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 Self Offering: Stories from the January Guatemala Team*

*Offertory His Eye Is On The Sparrow* Civilla Martin

*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 307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

#### \* CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *When the Saints Go Marching In* James Black

## 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:** Angela Lepro

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

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

**We welcome Ed Hillman** as our guest preacher today! An ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church, Ed currently serves as the head chaplain across the street at Givens Estates. Ed is an associate member at New Hope, and his wife Leslie is a member and a greeter. They have three adult children: Conrad, Lucy, and Luke.

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**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

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

### Today Is Our St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Today we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a traditional Irish meal in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. We will serve corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, and vegetarian shepherd's pie. If you are able, please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share. Another option is to leave a donation of any amount in the basket at the luncheon. The good news is you don't have to be Irish or have any Irish blood to attend! We hope you will join us.

### Ordering Easter Flowers

You are invited to purchase potted spring flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one for display in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Forms are available in the Narthex. Cost per order is \$8. **Deadline for ordering is April 2.**

### Pictorial Directory Updates

We are updating the church pictorial directory. For the next three Sundays, members and regular visitors are invited to come by the library immediately following worship to have your picture taken. If your contact information has not changed and you are happy with your current picture in directory, no action is required.

### 2023 Lenten Theme: Inward Work for Outward Living

Our inward and outward lives can frequently be disconnected. Outwardly, we often struggle to present a version of ourselves that we think others will like. Meanwhile, our inward lives can become the domain where the rougher edges of our more authentic selves are safely hidden. The inward and outward aspects of life also exist in our Christian spiritual practice. Do we have the inward spiritual nourishment we need to sustain our outward service? Join us this Lent as we tend to our inward lives for the sake of our outward living.

### Inward Work for Outward Living: Lenten Devotionals

This Lenten season's Inward Work for Outward Living devotional comes from *The Presbyterian Outlook* and was written by Editor Teri McDowell Ott. This devotional invites us to explore several aspects of our inward lives—our fears, wounds, joys, burdens, loves, and our need for honest self-examination—all for the purpose of strengthening both our inward and outward living. Pick up a copy in the Narthex, download it from the e-news, or contact Erin in the church office at (828) 274-0191 or officenewhope@gmail.com for a digital or printed copy.

### March New Members Class

This month we are ushering in a new class of people into membership at New Hope! Prospective members will be meeting with the Session on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 PM and then be presented in worship. Contact Kim at [pastornhpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastornhpc@gmail.com) for more information.

### Calling All Knitters!

The Deacons need help replenishing our supply of prayer shawls. Anyone who has experience with knitting or crocheting is invited to help with this project. Interested in sharing your gifts with yarn? Contact Bonnie Runkle, who is coordinating this effort, at [bonnie.runkle@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.runkle@gmail.com) Thank you for your help in providing comfort to those who need it.

**Worship bulletin announcements** for Sunday, March 26 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, March 22.

### 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.*

#### Session Members

Terri Carpenter (2025)  
Woody Ferrell (2025)  
Virginia Hebert (2024)  
Margaret Marsh (2023)  
Susan Maveety (2024)  
Andy Morse (2024)  
Jean Moxley (2024)  
Bonnie Runkle (2023)  
Nancy Spann (2025)  
Kim Wells (Moderator)

#### Deacons

Bill Carpenter (2024)  
Joy Lee Eppes (2023)  
Janet Ferrell (2025)  
Ann Moorefield (2024)  
Elaine Morse (2023)  
Karen Ward (2025)  
Ken Meeks (Pastor to the Deacons)

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](http://www.newhopepcusaasheville.org)

*New Hope*

*Presbyterian Church*

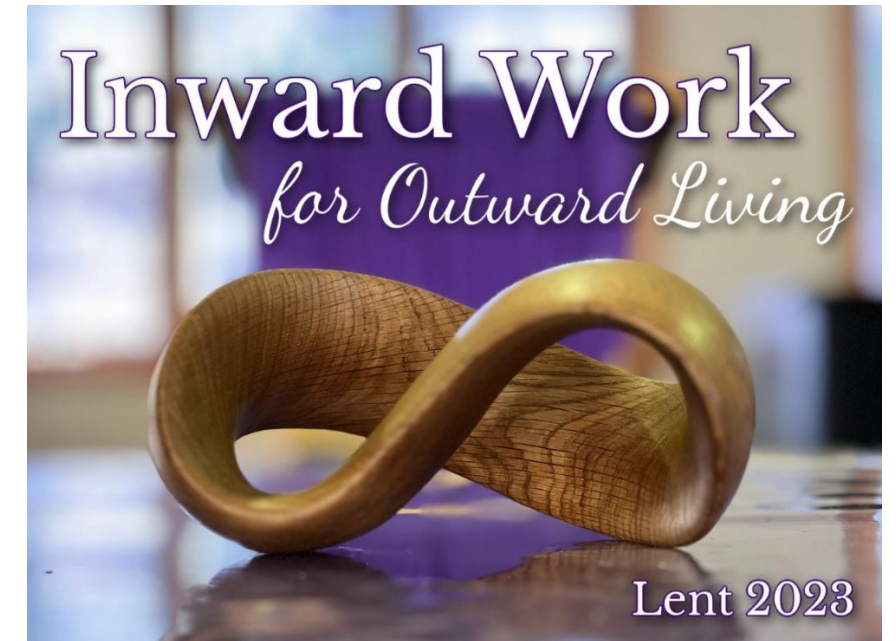
“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023  
11 o'clock



“Finding Courage”

*Fourth in the Series: Inward Work for Outward Living*



“He came to Jesus by night...” (John 3:2)