

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

**PRELUDE** *Here I Am, Lord* Dan Schutte

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me,  
welcomes the one who sent me.”

**We gather together in the presence of God,  
who welcomes us with open arms,  
who loves us unconditionally,  
and who bids us do the same to one another.**

God’s welcome calls the church into being.  
**Let us worship God!**

\* **HYMN 619** “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

#### \* CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**Creator God, you have made us wonderfully diverse,  
fashioning us with different gifts to share,  
and bringing us together to build one another up.**

**You call us to service in partnership with one another,  
yet sometimes we prefer to stay in our own silos.**

**We get absorbed in the needs of our own projects.**

**We think we have to do it all ourselves.**

**We begin to see others as competition for scarce resources.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**By your Spirit, remind us that you have called us,  
not as lone rangers, but as a people,  
that we might rejoice in serving you together.**

*Silent Prayers*

*Assurance of Pardon*

#### \* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 59 (2 times) “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 *(OT)*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 10:40-42 *(NT)*

**SERMON** “Welcoming the Whole Body of Christ”

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\* **HYMN 721** “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

*We will sing all four English verses plus the first Spanish verse.*

#### \* AFFIRMATION 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.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR REV. DR. KEN MEEKS

#### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Invitation to Self Offering*

*Offertory* *Joshua* Kim Ingram  
Rev. Ed Hillman, Soloist

We’ve heard about the battle of Jericho,

But just what do we really know

About the people marching ‘cross that land?

Mighty city, mighty foe, and oh what strength it took to go

And march once they heard the radical plan.

You best believe it was a radical plan!

*Refrain:* Joshua prayed and listened.

Joshua followed God.

Joshua led God’s people in the way that they should go.

Joshua prayed and listened.

Joshua followed God.

Joshua led God’s people right to the walls of Jericho.

Right up to the city gates

The people marched for Heaven’s sake

And listened as old Joshua gave the plan.

Perhaps inside they were a state

But not once did they hesitate

As Joshua said, “It’s time to make a stand!”

What courage as they followed God’s command. *Refrain*

*Solo:* Days one through six they woke at dawn

And marched around those mighty walls—

The Ark displayed, the trumpets clear and loud!

Day seven they marched seven times,

Then Joshua said, “The city’s yours!”

People wondered, “What would happen now?”

Lord knows that. *Refrain*

No time to grieve, you best believe

the walls came tumblin’ down!

\* *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 643** “Now Thank We All Our God”

#### \* CHARGE AND BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** *Let There Be Peace On Earth* Sy Miller

### END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE

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**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

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



**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:** Mike Leatherwood  
**Today’s greeters:** Woody and Janet Ferrell  
**Today’s usher:** Laura Brown and Kim Presley

**Celebration of Rev. Dr. Ken Meeks**

Today we are celebrating Ken! After 5 years of faithful service, Ken is stepping down from his role as Parish Associate. His new position title is Grandpa! Please stay on after worship for a cake reception in the Narthex. We are grateful that Ken and Jane will still be part of our church family going forward!

**Men’s Brunch Bunch**

Men’s brunch bunch will meet at 11:00 AM this Saturday, September 23, at Cracker Barrel (5 Crowell Rd in Asheville). Questions? Contact Bruce Rasmussen at (828) 633-0327.

**New Picture Directory Is Ready!**

A link to our new photo directory was sent out in last week’s e-news. If you would like a hard copy printed or a digital copy emailed to you, please email Erin at officenewhope@gmail.com or call her at (828) 274-0191.

**Gas Card Collection for Families of Detainees**

The family members of immigrants detained at Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, struggle to be able to visit their loved ones. We invite you to contribute \$25 Shell gas cards to this collection in support of family members driving to visit their detained relatives. Gas cards will be given to an organization in Lumpkin called El Refugio. Shell gas cards can be purchased at Publix as well as at the Shell gas stations located at 1297 Sweeten Creek (corner of Rock Hill), 3094 Sweeten Creek, and 4012 Sweeten Creek (corner of Airport Rd). Visit [elrefugiostewart.org/en/home](http://elrefugiostewart.org/en/home) to learn more. See the display table and gas card collection box in the Narthex.

**New Church Mailing Address**

The security of the checks you mail to the church is our highest priority. We have discovered that mail inside our new locked mailbox outside can still be accessed by slender hands. So, we have a new post office box for receiving checks. Using the PO Box will guarantee that the church receives all contributions as intended. If you mail checks to the church, or if your bank does that for you, please make note of the following new mailing address and/or change your bill pay information:

New Hope Presbyterian Church  
 PO Box 1346  
 Skyland, NC 28776

**Worship bulletin announcements** for Sunday, September 24 are due to Administrator Erin May by noon on Wednesday, September 20.

**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 (2023)
- 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)

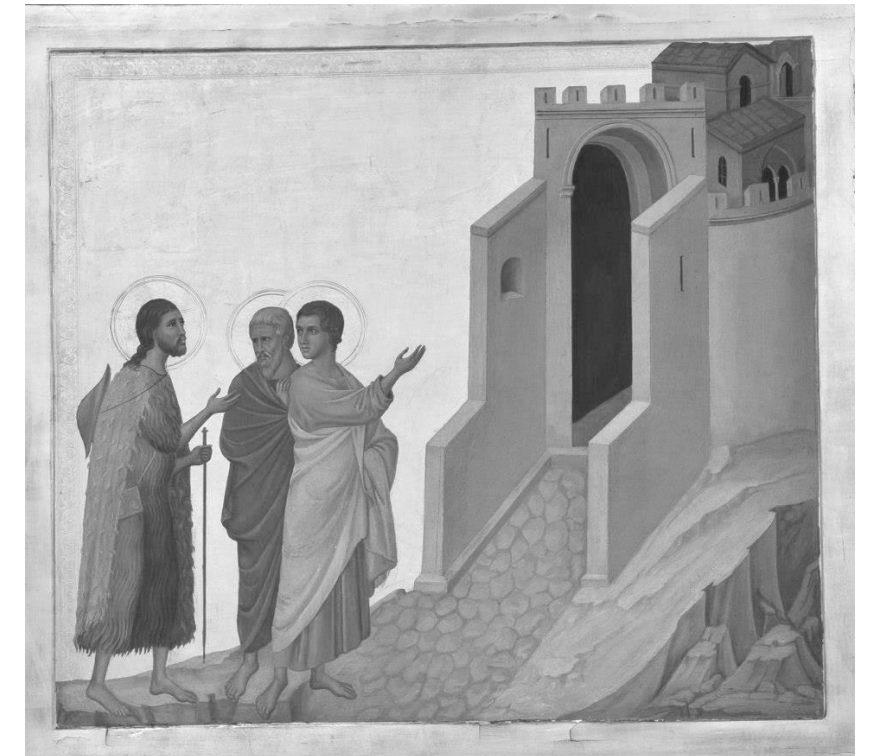
3070 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803 | (828) 274-0191  
 Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator  
 Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist  
 Janice Kominski, Pastoral Intern  
[www.newhopepcusaasheville.org](http://www.newhopepcusaasheville.org)

*New Hope  
 Presbyterian Church*  
 “Including, Renewing, Serving”

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
 September 17, 2023  
 11 o’clock



“Welcoming the Whole Body of Christ”



“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” (Matthew 10:40)