

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Milonga Del Angel* Astor Piazzolla

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We continue along our Lenten journey.

We may have begun alone, but now we walk together.

We continue along our Lenten journey in community.

**We may have begun feeling alienated,
but now we are invited to accept each other.**

We continue along our Lenten journey going deeper.

**We may have begun learning to accept each other,
but now we are invited to cultivate true belonging.**

We continue along our Lenten journey, following Jesus.

We may have begun feeling lost, but now we have a Guide.

Jesus walks ahead of us, and also alongside us.

Let us worship God!

* **HYMN 20** “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of grace, in Christ you call us on a journey,
from loneliness to community,
from the margins to a place of belonging.**

Yet, we confess that sometimes community is hard.

It’s hard for us to grasp that we are truly accepted.

We struggle with being seen by others.

We aren’t sure if our gifts are worthy.

Forgive us, O God.

**By the power of your Spirit, help us open our hearts to
others, that we might be the body of Christ,
for one another, and for the world.**

Silent Prayers & Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 698 “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 137:1-6

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON “A Tale of Two Rivers”
Second in the Series: The Lenten Journey

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* **HYMN 623** “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Presentation

Questions to New Members

Profession of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Welcome

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Self Offering

Offertory *Heaven Medley* Arr. Rick Powell

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
And time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks eternal, bright and fair—
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore—
When the roll is called!

I will sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.

I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound for the promised land.
O who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

* *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 485** “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Down To The River To Pray* Arr. Phillip Keveren

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: Nan Riley
Today's greeters: Martha and Don Johnson
Today's ushers: Jean Harley and Linda Pressley

Transformation Village Cook Team

Last Saturday, our newly formed cook team of 18 church members, led by Terri Carpenter, served a meal of vegetable beef soup, cornbread, and brownies to the women and children at Transformation Village and Safe Haven. Both programs are part of the Asheville Buncombe County Christian Ministries (ABCCM). Thank you to everyone who participated. The meal was greatly enjoyed judging by the many requests the team received for seconds. The residents voiced their sincere gratitude for our congregation's meal.

Spring Flowers for Easter

We invite you to contribute toward the purchasing of spring flowers (excluding scented flowers due to allergy concerns) for the adornment of our sanctuary this Easter in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$8 each, and order forms are now available in the Narthex. Please place your fully completed form and money in one of the envelopes provided and place your envelope in the box. The deadline for placing orders is Palm Sunday, March 29. The names of honorees and memorials will be included in a bulletin insert on Easter Sunday, April 5, when the spring flowers are displayed.

Men's Brunch Bunch: Saturday, March 14 at 11:00 AM

The next Men's Brunch Bunch will meet at 11 AM on Saturday, March 14, at the Cracker Barrel located at 5 Crowell Rd in Asheville. Questions? Contact Greg Kramer at (281) 734-9457.

9:30 AM Sunday Morning Lenten Study

Our Lenten series, which began on February 22, is focusing on two topics: incarceration and grief. In the final class next Sunday, March 15, Dr. Heath Rada will share about navigating bereavement and grief with hope. Dr. Rada is a Presbyterian ruling elder and former Moderator of the PC (USA) General Assembly. Join us in the adult classroom downstairs.

Sunday Lunch Bunch Next Sunday, March 15

Following church next Sunday, all are welcome to join other members (and especially newcomers) for lunch at Olive Garden, located at 400

Airport Rd., 828-676-0621. Maps with directions will be in the container on top of the name tag table in the Narthex.

March 15 is Guatemala Sunday

Join us next Sunday, March 15, as we continue our journey through Lent. Elise, Vesper, Ed, Virginia and Susan will share their inspiring and spiritual journey to visit our sister church, El Divino Salvador.

A New Year of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Hosting

In 2025, our Presbytery hosted 460 disaster relief workers across the three host churches. These workers helped restore or rebuild approximately 30 homes and sites. On March 8 our church begins the 2026 season as we welcome four enthusiastic volunteers from Peace Presbyterian Church in Winterville, NC. This group, led by their pastor Rev. Sydne Allen, will likely be working on rebuilding a home or winterizing mobile homes still in disrepair from Helene, in partnership with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) or the Henderson County LTRG (long term recovery group). Interestingly, they come to New Hope from the Presbytery of New Hope, of which Rev. Allen is the newly installed moderator.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering has provided funding to address the natural disasters and the root causes of injustice, such as food scarcity and immigration, locally and around the globe. For example, monies we received from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance agency in 2025 helped us adapt our facilities for hosting disaster relief workers. You can read a moving story about the experiences of the young adult relief team we previously hosted from Salem, NJ, in a recent article published by the Presbyterian News Service: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/24/doing-justice-aftermath-disaster>. We will collect the OGHS denominational offering on Palm Sunday.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, March 15 are due to Administrator Lynne Petty by noon on Wednesday, March 11.

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 | Lynne Petty, Church Administrator

Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist

New Hope

Presbyterian Church

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
11 o'clock



“A Tale of Two Rivers”

Second in the Series: “The Lenten Journey”

