**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, October 16th, 2022 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Christ Our Hope in Life and in Death

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Call to Worship Song** – Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord

**Call to Worship** – But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than that of Abel. Hebrews 12:22-24

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 100 – Holy, Holy, Holy

**Reading of the Law** – Matthew 22:34-40

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**Corporate Confession of Sin** – Almighty God, we confess we have broken your commandments. We have sinned by selfishness, worldliness, unbelief and pride. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not walked humbly with you. Forgive us our sins and blot out our debts according to your tender mercies, according to your loving kindness. Cleanse us by the blood of Jesus your Son. Give us a humble and contrite heart that we might forgive others as you have forgiven us. We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Exhortation to Give** – Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. 1 Chron. 16:29

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– Psalm 23

– Jesus, Strong and Kind

**Scripture Readings** – OT: 1 Kings 18:20-29 / NT: Galatians 5:7-12

1 Kings 18:20–29 (ESV)

20 So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. 23 Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. 24 And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” 25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” 26 And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. 27 And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” 28 And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. 29 And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Galatians 5:7–12 (ESV)

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Galatians 5:7-12: “The Offense of the Cross”

The Cross of Christ offends self-justifying legalists.

1. But don’t let them hinder your obedience to the truth of the Gospel. (Galatians 5:7-8)
2. But don’t let their legalistic leaven ruin the Gospel for you. (Galatians 5:9-10)
3. But don’t let them remove the saving offense of the Cross from you. (Galatians 5:11-12)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 257 – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

**Benediction** – Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21