**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, May 14th, 2023 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – O How Good It Is

**Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship Song** – The Steadfast Love of the Lord

**Call to Worship** – Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalm 95:1-3

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 498 – Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

**Reading of the Law** – Matthew 5:17-22

(Silent Confession of Sin)

**Corporate Confession of Sin** – Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature – prone to evil and slothful in good – and all our shortcomings and offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. O Lord, have mercy on us, who are ashamed and sorry for all the ways we have displeased you. Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of your dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father, send your purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech you, that we may henceforth live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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 5:18-21

**Exhortation to Give** – Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Psalm 96:8

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 703 – Loved with Everlasting Love)

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Song of Preparation** – NTH 535 – O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Zephaniah 3:14-20 / NT: John 15:1-17

Zephaniah 3:14–20 (ESV)

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

John 15:1–17 (ESV)

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of John 15:9-17: “Greater Love Has No One Than This”

Jesus loves us with the greatest love by laying down His life for us – and calls us His friends.

1. He commands us to abide in His love – and to love one another. (John 15:9-13)
2. He calls us His friends – because He reveals the Father’s will to us. (John 15:14-15)
3. He chooses us by His grace – and appoints us to bear fruit. (John 15:16-17)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 529 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**Benediction** – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. 1 Thess. 3:12-13