**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, September 17th, 2023 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Blessed Be Your Name in the Land

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – To the saints . . . faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:1b-2

**Call to Worship Song** – NTH 381 – Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

**Call to Worship** – One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 355 – We Are God’s People

**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.

**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** – Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Heb. 13:16

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 353 – I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord)

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– O How Good It Is

– NTH 359 – Blest Be the Tie That Binds

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Psalm 133 / NT: John 17:20-26

Psalm 133 (ESV)

A Song of Ascents. Of David. 1 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

John 17:20–26 (ESV)

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of John 17:20-26: “A United & Glorious Vision of God’s Love”

Jesus prays for us to know and reflect a spiritual unity, a heavenly vision, and a fatherly love.

1. A spiritual unity. (John 17:20-23)
2. A heavenly vision. (John 17:24)
3. A fatherly love. (John 17:25-26)

**Prayer of Application**

**Psalm of Response** – *Trinity Psalter* Psalm 133 (tune: “O for a Thousand Tongues”)

**Benediction** – May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 15:5-6

***Trinity Psalter* Psalm 133**

Behold how good a thing it is,

And how becoming well,

When those that brethren

are delight

In unity to dwell.

For it is like the precious oil

Poured out on Aaron’s head,

That, going down upon his beard,

Upon his garments spread.

Like Hermon’s dew upon the hills

Of Zion that descends,

The LORD commands His

blessing there,

Ev’n life that never ends.