**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP (with Communion)**

**for Sunday, January 7th, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Yet Not I But Christ through Me

**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** – Reformation Hymn

**Call to Worship** – Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple! Psalm 65:4

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** – NTH 524 – Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ

**Reading of Law** – A Summary of the Ten Commandments & Great Commandment

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**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** – 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

**Exhortation to Give** – “…Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35b

**Offering and Diaconal Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 521 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less)

**Doxology** – NTH 732 – Doxology

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– NTH 468 – My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

– Lord, I Need You

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Genesis 16:1-16 / NT: Galatians 4:21-5:1

Genesis 16:1–16 (ESV)

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!” 6 But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.” Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her. 7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.” 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her, “Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.” 13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. 15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Galatians 4:21–5:1 (ESV)

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.” 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. 1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Communion Sermon** – Christ in the OT 24: Genesis 16:1-16 (with Galatians 4:21-5:1): “Helping the God of Promise?”

The God of promise doesn’t need our help to fulfill His promise!

1. Trying to “help” God is folly. (Gen 16:1-6)
	1. Don’t try to take matters of the Gospel into your own hands!
2. Trying to “help” God has consequences that require His intervention. (Gen 16:7-16)
	1. Trust Christ to hear and see you in your afflictions.
3. Trying to “help” God would result in legalistic slavery. (Gal 4:21-5:1)
	1. So stand firm in the freedom Christ has won for you.

**Prayer of Application**

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

(Bread: NTH 264 – Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross / Cup: NTH 499 – Rock of Ages)

* Invitation, Warning, and Prayer of Consecration
* Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed
* Serving the Supper
* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Closing Hymn** – NTH 461 – Not What My Hands Have Done

**Benediction** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14