

**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 10:45 AM**

**Prelude**

**Announcements (see below)**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. – 1 Tim. 1:2b

**Call to Worship Song** – Trinity Psalter Psalm 122 – Tune: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

**Call to Worship** – How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Ps. 84:1-4

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 12 – Exalt the Lord (based on Psalm 135, 1912 Psalter)

**Reading of Law** – Matthew 22:37-40

**Confession of Sin**

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone the things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare us, O God who confess our faults. Restore those who are penitent, O Lord; according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen

**Declaration of Pardon**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Jn. 3:16-17

**Confession of Faith (Nicene Creed, NTH p. 846)**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;

and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

who spoke by the prophets;

and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;

we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

and we look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Exhortation to Give** – As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 2 Cor. 9:9-11

**Doxology** – NTH 733

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Psalm 133 / NT: Colossians 4:7-18

Psalm 133 (ESV)

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.

Colossians 4:7–18 (ESV)

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. 10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

**Hymn -** NTH 355 – We Are God’s People

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of Colossians 4:7-18: “The Gospel Always Gets Personal”

Christ connects us personally through the Gospel.

1. Gospel representatives are commended to one another. (Col 4:7-9)
2. Gospel greetings are sent to one another. (Col 4:10-15)
3. Gospel resources are shared with one another. (Col 4:16-18)

**Prayer of Application**

**Closing Song** – NTH 342 – Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

**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

**Announcements - Ministry opportunities:**

**1**. As we are gathering now for public worship, our other ministries will continue to meet online for the foreseeable future.

2. This **Sunday** evening 5/17, the Scott’s will host a “Potluck Dinner Gathering” over Zoom at 5:30pm. This will be a time for fellowship as folks gather around their tables and have a nibble or beverage. Look for the Zoom invitation by 3:00pm on Sunday afternoon.

**3. Wednesday** evening we will again be having our Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship time starting at 7:00pm. Look for your Zoom invitation on Wednesday afternoon.

**4**. Reminder of office hours - **Tuesday**, Pastor Tony’s Office Hours are 9 AM-12 PM and **Thursday**, 12 PM-3 PM or by appointment. Please call Pastor Tony at (401) 932-1732 for prayer or pastoral needs.

**5**. We are once again participating in the Bright **Hope baby bottle campaign** from Mother's Day to Father's Day.  Due to the pandemic, we will not be distributing bottles this year.  If you choose to participate, you may make and/or decorate your own container to collect change (a fun project for little ones at home!).  At the end of the collection period, simply write a check (for the amount of change) made out **directly** to "Bright Hope Pregnancy Center" (**NOT** made out to Living Hope).  Please include "Living Hope Presbyterian Church - baby bottle campaign" in **memo** line of check and mail by Father's Day, June 21st to:

**Bright Hope Pregnancy Support Center**

**1036 Hamilton St.**

**Allentown, PA 18101**

Please let them know if you would like a receipt (they will send a receipt for donations of $5.00 and over).  If you have any questions, please email Mary Ann Truscott at kdtmat@rcn.com.

**6**. **From Dave Holmlund – Regional Home Missions** – “Even with social distancing, we want to press forward with Home Missions.  One way that we do this is through the annual Spring Offering, when we ask for each congregation to hold a special offering for home missions even as you pray to the Lord of the harvest to open up fields and raise up laborers for new church plants in our region.”  This year, here at Living Hope we will be taking that offering on Sunday, May 31st. If you send a check to the church, please indicate that the gift is the 2020 Spring Missions Offering.  You can also give through our secure Online Giving Portal, selecting **Home Missions – Spring Offering 2020**. The Philadelphia Presbytery website www.philadelphia.opc.org is also set to take online gifts for the Spring Offering even now.

**7**. The **Session** does want to thank everyone for the wonderful outpouring of Tithes and Offering during this time. As we slowly start back to gathering, we do still have financial needs. Please continue to either mail your gifts to the Church using the PO Box or by using the Secure Online Giving Platform.

Thank you.