**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, July 12th, 2020 at 10:45 AM**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship Song** – Come into His Presence

**Call to Worship** – Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Ps. 29:1-2

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 198 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (based on Ps 24)

**Reading of Law** – Exodus 20:1-17

**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 form 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, and that we may henceforth live in your light and walk in your walk in your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Declaration of Pardon** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

**Confession of Faith** **(Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1)**

Leader: Christian, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**Exhortation to Give** – Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Isaiah 40:1-8 / NT: John 1:19-28

Isaiah 40:1–8 (ESV)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” 6 A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

John 1:19–28 (ESV)

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” 24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Medley**

–My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

– There Is a Redeemer

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of John 1:19-28: “The Voice Crying Out in the Wilderness”

John the Baptizer sets the stage for Jesus the Messiah and to bear true witness:

1. He is not the Messiah (John 1:19-20)
2. He is not Elijah or the Prophet (John 1:21)
3. He is the voice of repentance to prepare for His redemption (John 1:22-23)
4. He is the witness to His supremacy (John 1:24-28)

**Prayer of Application**

**Closing Song** – NTH 486 – God Be Merciful to Me (stanzas 1-4)

**Benediction** – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Rom. 15:13