**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, March 21st, 2021 at 10:45 AM**

**Gathering Song** – Shout to the Lord

**Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship Song** – Reformation Hymn

**Call to Worship** – Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Ps. 115:1

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Opening Hymn** – NTH 457 – Come Thou Fount

**Reading of the Law** – Matthew 22:34-40

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

**Assurance of Pardon** – What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Rom. 8:31-34

**Confession of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Exhortation to Give** – But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in giving which is an act of grace also. 2 Cor. 8:7

**Prayer for Collection & Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Psalm 19:7-14 / NT: John 6:60-71

Psalm 19:7–14 (ESV)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

John 6:60–71 (ESV)

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” 70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

**Medley** – All to Jesus, I Surrender

– Lord, I Need You

**Prayer for Illumination**

An Exposition of John 6:60-71: “False and True Disciples”

Jesus’ words offend false disciples and enliven true disciples.

1. False disciples find Jesus’ words too hard to accept and walk away. (John 6:60-66)
2. True disciples find Jesus’ words life-giving and continue to follow Him. (John 6:67-71)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 94 – How Firm a Foundation

**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