**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, April 14th, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

**Opening Song** – Living Hope

**Announcements**

**Gospel Greeting** – Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Gal. 1:3-5

**Call to Worship Song** – NTH 1 – All People That on Earth Do Dwell

**Call to Worship** – I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Ps. 121:1-2

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** –NTH 580 – Lead On, O King Eternal

**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, 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** – 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. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned; but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because He has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16-18

**Exhortation to Give** – Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:17-20

**Collection with Prayer** (Offertory: NTH 588 – Take My Life and Let It Be)

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Medley**

– Beneath the Cross

– NTH 707 – Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

**Scripture Readings** – OT: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 / NT: John 21:20-25

Ecclesiastes 12:9–14 (ESV)

9 Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. 10 The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. 13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

John 21:20–25 (ESV)

20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” 22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” 23 So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?” 24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. 25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exposition of John 21:20-25: “A Final Redirect from the Risen Jesus”

The Risen Jesus redirects us in two ways:

1. To follow Him instead of prying into His secret will for others. (John 20:20-23)
2. To the saving sufficiency of the written testimony of His apostles. (John 20:24-25)

**Prayer of Application**

**Hymn of Response** – NTH 578 – The Son of God Goes Forth to War

**Benediction** – The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26