**LIVING HOPE OPC ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**for Sunday, December 29th, 2024 at 10:45 AM**

***Mr. Benjamin Phelps (URCNA licentiate) exhorting***

**Opening Carol** – NTH 229 – Gentle Mary Laid her Child

**Gospel Greeting** – To all the saints in Christ Jesus . . . with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:1b-2

**Call to Worship Carol** – NTH 233 – To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

**Call to Worship** – The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! Psalm 99:1-3

**Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

**Carol of Praise** – NTH 225 – Once in Royal David’s City

**Reading of the Law** – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

*(Silent Confession of Sin)*

**General 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** – And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. – 1 Corinthians 6:11

**Exhortation to Give** – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. – 2 Cor. 8:9

**Collection with Prayer** – Offertory: NTH 217 – All My Heart This Night Rejoices

**Doxology** – NTH 732

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Carol of Preparation** – NTH 226 – As with Gladness Men of Old

**Scripture Readings** – OT Lesson: Psalm 20 / NT Lesson: Revelation 5

Psalm 20 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. 1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! 3 May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah* 4 May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans! 5 May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your petitions! 6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. 7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. 8 They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. 9 O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

Revelation 5 (ESV)

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Sermon** – An Exhortation from Psalm 20: “The Lord Will Answer His Anointed”

1. The people’s prayers. (Psalm 20:1-5)
2. The Lord’s certain answer. (Psalm 20:6-9)

**Prayer of Application**

**Carol of Response** – NTH 230 – Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

**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