



**LIVING HOPE CHURCH**  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

WORSHIP GUIDE  
April 12, 2026

## Welcome

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Welcome to Living Hope Church! We are so glad that you are here and long to show you the love and hospitality of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Our Vision

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### Gathering of God's People

We are a gathering of God's people located in Belmont, NC. Each Lord's Day, God meets us as we gather for worship. We encounter Him in worship through the ordinary means of grace - prayer, the Word of God, and the sacraments. These means of grace are appointed by God for His people. They point us to Christ, sustain us and nourish us in our union with Him as a part of His Body.

### Growing in God's Word

We are committed to knowing God. God has revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We believe all of scripture points us to Him. Therefore, we are faithfully committed to the authority of His Word. We believe the Bible teaches us all things necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation. Growing in God's Word happens in community through preaching, small groups, Bible studies, Sunday School, Wednesday Night Fellowship, and special events.

### Going on God's Mission

We are a mission-minded congregation with a heart to obey The Great Commission, making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through community outreach and evangelism, supporting the planting of local churches and global missions, we are committed to faithful participation in the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until He returns.

## Children

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Worshiping together with their family is a wonderful way for children to learn to love Jesus. We value the children's participation and invite them to worship with us during the entire service. Children's Bulletins and crayons are available each Sunday to go along with our service. If kids need to leave the sanctuary, parents are welcome to stay with them in the children's room or parlor. We have Worship Care for children aged Kindergarten and younger which begins at the offertory. Parents are asked to walk them to the classroom located behind the sanctuary. The children will be cared for and taught by background checked volunteers. Please pick them up immediately following the service.

Gathering Music will begin a few minutes before the service.

#### HOW WE WORSHIP:

Throughout church history, the style of worship has been expressed in different ways. Each church or tradition has its own style. We believe that the worship of God is far more than style and not about our preferences. Worship begins with a heart to worship God through faith in Jesus Christ. The elements of worship are determined by God and revealed in His Word. When we meet God in worship there is a dialogue between God and his people: God speaks, and we respond. He promises to meet with us as we worship him in the way he has ordained.

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## TIME OF PREPARATION

*Personal Prayer of Preparation: Almighty God, you pour out the spirit of grace and supplication on all who desire it. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### *\*Come People Of The Risen King*

1. Come people of the Risen King  
Who delight to bring Him praise  
Come all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace  
From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in

*Chorus: Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice  
One heart one voice, O Church of Christ rejoice*

2. Come those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night  
Come those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight  
For His perfect love will never change  
And His mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace  
*Chorus*

3. Come young and old from ev'ry land  
Men and women of the faith  
Come those with full or empty hands  
Find the riches of His grace  
Over all the world His people sing  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The truth that cries through ev'ry age  
Our God is all in all  
*Chorus*

\*Please stand as you are able.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GOSPEL WELCOME

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 68:34-35

Pastor: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

Congregation: Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.

All: Blessed be God!

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION/ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:  
God initiates worship by speaking first to call his people into his holy presence. The Call to Worship compels us to turn from the world and focus our hearts and minds on worshipping God. Today, God graciously invites you to worship Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF  
INVOCATION/  
ADORATION::  
God has called us to worship, so we now respond by humbly praying for His Spirit to help us worship Him in spirit and in truth. We pray with confidence that he will meet us as He has promised through His Word, prayer, and the sacraments.

SINGING:

God delights in hearing his people sing. As we sing our faith, we give praise to God and he transforms our hearts so that we are more like His Son.

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

~ Martin Luther

Words and music by Jordan Kaufflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker. © 2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Jordan Kaufflin Music; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Matthew Merker Music; Messenger Hymns

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*Christ Our Hope In Life And Death*

1. What is our hope in life and death  
Christ alone Christ alone  
What is our only confidence  
That our souls to Him belong  
Who holds our days within His hand  
What comes apart from His command  
And what will keep us to the end  
The love of Christ in which we stand

*Chorus: O sing hallelujah  
Our hope springs eternal  
O sing hallelujah  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ our hope in life and death*

2. What truth can calm the troubled soul  
God is good God is good  
Where is His grace and goodness known  
In our great Redeemer's blood  
Who holds our faith when fears arise  
Who stands above the stormy trial  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

*Chorus*

3. Unto the grave what will we sing  
Christ He lives Christ He lives  
And what reward will heaven bring  
Everlasting life with Him  
There we will rise to meet the Lord  
Then sin and death will be destroyed  
And we will feast in endless joy  
When Christ is ours forevermore

*Chorus*

## \*CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection  
of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

### CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Through faith in Jesus Christ, God's Truth sets us free from the lies of the world, the flesh, and the devil. We affirm our faith each Lord's Day as we worship God to remind and strengthen us in our faith. This also unites our hearts with one another in the core beliefs of who God is and what He has done, is doing and will do.

*\*catholic means universal*

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

*As an expression of faith and unity, we join together in corporate prayer. Prayer is a means of grace by which God works His grace into our hearts. We lift up specific needs to our powerful and merciful God, asking for His help for one another, the Church, our city, our nation, and our world.*

PASSING OF THE  
PEACE:

As recipients of God's  
grace, we have  
received peace from  
Him. In response, we  
invite you to share that  
peace with one another  
with a greeting,  
handshake or a hug,  
being especially  
mindful of those you  
have not yet met.  
Christians have long  
greeted one another  
with the phrase, "May  
the peace of Christ be  
with you" and receive  
back the greeting "And  
also with you."

Words and music by Matt  
Boswell, Matt Papa. © 2016  
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Songs; Getty Music Publishing;  
Love Your Enemies Publishing;  
Messenger Hymns.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

*His Mercy Is More*

*Chorus: Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more  
*Chorus*

2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more  
*Chorus*

3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more  
*Chorus*

*Please sign and pass the attendance registers.*

## +WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### *I Stand Amazed (How Marvelous)*

1. I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene  
And wonder how He could love me  
A sinner condemned unclean

*Chorus: How marvelous how wonderful  
And my song shall ever be  
How marvelous how wonderful  
Is my Savior's love for me*

2. He took my sins and my sorrows  
He made them His very own  
(And) He bore the burden to Calvary  
And suffered and died alone  
*Chorus*

3. And with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see  
It will be my joy through the ages  
To sing of His love for me  
*Chorus*

+Children Kindergarten and younger are dismissed for Worship Care.

### THE OFFERING:

The offering is part of our worship of God as we give back to Him what He has so graciously given us. As David said in 1 Chronicles, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (29:14)

Online Giving Link:



Words and music by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel, Chris Tomlin. © Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs

SCRIPTURE:

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

PRAYER OF

ILLUMINATION:

The prayer of illumination asks the Holy Spirit to "turn on the light" in our hearts so that we understand and are transformed by God's Word as it is read and preached.

THE SERMON:

The preaching of the sermon is a means of grace and kindness from the Lord.

As it says in the Westminster Shorter Catechism Answer 89, "The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation."

**\*SCRIPTURE READING**

*Romans 3:23-24, 5:20-6:2*

3: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

5: 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON**

*Understanding Grace*

Rev. Rick Lewis

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

*Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace*

3. The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures  
*Chorus*

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

## \*BENEDICTION

### \*CHURCH'S DOXOLOGY (Psalm 72)

Now, blessed be Jehovah, God, the God of Israel  
Who only doeth wondrous works, in glory that exel  
Who only doeth wondrous works, in glory that exel

And blessed be His glorious name through all eternity  
The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, so let it be;  
The whole earth let His glory fill. Amen, so let it be.

## SOLI DEO GLORIA

### BENEDICTION:

The benediction is not a prayer; it is a pronouncement of blessing from God. You have worshiped and now you will go out into your week to labor. Go in peace and with the blessing of God's covenant promises upon you. You belong to Him and you will be his forever. No matter the difficulties and trials that may come, remember you are loved by God and He is always with you.

"The Church's Doxology" - Words - Psalm 72; Music by Holden, public domain.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY, 4/8

- LHC Dawn Prayer via Zoom - Join us from 6:30 - 7:00 a.m. as Mark leads us in scripture and prayer time for one another and LHC. Contact Mark for the Zoom link.

READING PLAN FOR APRIL:

Mark 1 - 9:32, 1 Corinthians 1 - 16, Psalm 72 -94, Joshua 1- 24, Judges 1 - 21, Ruth 1 - 4

MISSIONS WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS: Suzanne and Jeff Allers, World Witness

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

4/1- Alex Garcia; 4/18 - Trey Cherry, Betsy Forbes, Miller Valenti; 4/20 - Allie Cherry  
4/22 - Ken Darms, Sylvia Wellons; 4/27 - Kim Taylor

MONDAY, APRIL 20 - Outreach Baby Shower (It's a Boy!) - in the Fellowship Hall (12-1:30)  
Contact Betsy to help.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 - Spiritual Enrichment Night with Rosaria Butterfield  
Children's Program beginning at 6:30 for kids 2nd grade and younger with reservation.  
Contact Betsy if you'd like to help with the Reception Dinner (704-718-0026)

- 5:30 - Reception Dinner
- 6:30 - The Gospel Comes With A House Key
- 7:30 - Q & A Discussion

Scan to RSVP:





**LIVING HOPE CHURCH**  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

LEADERSHIP

Pastor

Mark Forbes  
704-685-1335  
mforbes@lhcbelmont.org

Session

Matt Adams  
Vinnie Cherry  
Artie Cooper  
Tim Daniels  
Jon Ford  
Bill Sevy

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Need prayer?

- We have elders available to pray with you after the service in the parlor. Exit the right door and turn right. Bill Sevy is serving this month.
- You may also scan the QR code to submit a prayer request.



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

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