



**LIVING HOPE CHURCH**  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

WORSHIP GUIDE  
May 17, 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.

Words and music by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood. © 2019 Fellow Ships Music; So Essential Tunes; Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

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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

#### *King Of Kings*

1. In the darkness we were waiting without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eye

To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

*Chorus: Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory, Majesty*

*Praise forever to the King of kings*

2. To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died

*Chorus*

3. And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name in His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

*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

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Pastor: To the Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is his.

Congregation: To him is the kingdom, and he is exalted as head above all.

Pastor: Both riches and honor come from him, and he rules over all. In his hand are power and might, and in his hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

All: Now give thanks to our God and praise his glorious name.

## 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

**\*SONG OF PRAISE**

*Rejoice The Lord Is King (Darwall's 148th)*

1. Rejoice the Lord is King  
Your Lord and King adore  
Mortals give thanks and sing  
And triumph evermore

*Chorus:*

*Lift up your heart lift up your voice  
Rejoice again I say rejoice*

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns  
The God of truth and love  
When He had purged our stains  
He took His seat above

*Chorus*

3. His kingdom cannot fail  
He rules o'er earth and heaven  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus given

*Chorus*

4. Rejoice in glorious hope  
Jesus the Judge shall come  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home

*Chorus*

Words and music by Charles  
Wesley, John Darwall.  
Public Domain.

## \*CONFESSION OF FAITH

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

*Lily Sullivan, daughter of Jaime Sullivan*

## 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."

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*How Great Thou Art*

1. O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy pow'r thru'out the universe displayed

*Chorus: Then sings my soul. my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art how great Thou art*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze  
*Chorus*

3. And when I think that God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin  
*Chorus*

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art  
*Chorus*

## +WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### *Be Thou My Vision*

1. Be Thou my vision

O Lord of my heart

Naught be all else to me

Save that Thou art

Thou my best thought

By day or by night

Waking or sleeping

Thy presence my light

2. Be Thou my wisdom

Be Thou my true Word

I ever with Thee

And Thou with me Lord

Thou my great Father

I Thy true son

Thou in me dwelling

And I with Thee one

3. Be Thou my shield

And my sword for the fight

Be Thou my dignity

Be Thou my might

Thou my soul's shelter

And Thou my high tow'r

Raise Thou me heav'nward

O pow'r of my pow'r

4. High King of heaven

When vict'ry is won

May I reach heaven's joys

O bright heaven's Sun

Heart of my own heart

Whatever befall

Still be my vision

O Ruler of all

### 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 Eleanor  
Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth  
Byrne. Public Domain.

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**

*Philippians 3:17-19*

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON**

Rev. Mark A. Forbes

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE

### *Christ Be Magnified*

1. Were creation suddenly articulate  
With a thousand tongues to lift one cry  
Then from north to south and east to west  
We'd hear Christ be magnified

2. Were the whole earth echoing His eminence  
His name would burst from sea and sky  
From rivers to the mountain tops  
We'd hear Christ be magnified

Chorus: O Christ be magnified, let His praise arise  
Christ be magnified in me  
O Christ be magnified from the altar of my life  
Christ be magnified in me

3. When all creation finds its inmost melody  
And ev'ry human heart its native cry  
O in one enraptured hymn of praise  
We'll sing Christ be magnified  
Chorus

Bridge 1: I won't bow to idols, I'll stand strong and worship You  
And if it puts me in the fire, I'll rejoice 'cause You're there too

I won't be formed by feelings, I hold fast to what is true  
If the cross brings transformation then I'll be crucified with You

Bridge 2: 'Cause death is just the doorway into resurrection life  
If I join You in Your suff'rings then I'll join You when You rise

And when You return in glory  
With all the angels and the saints  
My heart will still be singing  
My song will be the same  
Chorus  
Repeat

## \*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

*Everyone is invited to join us for a luncheon in the fellowship hall following the service.  
If you haven't had your directory photo taken, please stop by the room behind the sanctuary.*

TUESDAY, 5/19 - LHC Session Meeting

WEDNESDAY, 5/20

- 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.

SUNDAY, 5/25

- Worship at 9:30

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR MAY:

Mark 9:33-16, 2 Corinthians 1-13 , Psalm 95 - , 1 Samuel 1-31, 2 Samuel 1-24

MISSIONS WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS: Please pray for our high school and college students.

MAY BIRTHDAYS: 5/17 - Sarah Koehler; 5/24 - Rick Hodges; 5/25 - Tim Daniels,  
5/27 - Sofia Garcia

SAVE THE DATES:

- 5/27 - Ladies Book Club
  - Dinner & Discussion of *Theo Of Golden* (6-8 p.m.) at the home of Jennifer Ford. Scan the QR Code to sign up for the Taco Salad Dinner.



- 5/30 - Men's Ministry Breakfast (7:30 - 8:30 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall
- 6/13, 7/18, 8/1 - Summer Large Groups (Church-wide gatherings, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)
- 6/17 and 7/15 - Wonderful Wednesdays - for kids and their families (more details coming)
- 6/24, 7 /8, 7/22 - *The Lord of Psalm 23* Ladies Bible Study (6:15 - 7:30 p.m.) at church
- 6/25, 7/9, 7/23 - *The Lord of Psalm 23* Ladies Bible Study (9:45 - 11:00 a.m.) at church with childcare available upon request



**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. Vinnie Cherry and Jon Ford are 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

LIVING HOPE CHURCH OF BELMONT  
[WWW.LHCBELMONT.ORG](http://WWW.LHCBELMONT.ORG)