



LIVING HOPE CHURCH
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

WORSHIP GUIDE
August 30, 2026

Welcome

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

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

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 Johann Michael Haydn, Robert Grant.
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*GATHERING MUSIC

O Worship The King

1. O worship the King all glorious above
And gratefully sing His wonderful love
Our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise
2. O tell of His might O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm
3. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite
It breathes in the air it shines in the light
It streams from the hills it descends to the plain
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain
4. Frail children of dust and feeble as frail
In Thee do we trust nor find Thee to fail
Thy mercies how tender how firm to the end
Our Maker Defender Redeemer and Friend

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

*Please stand as you are able.

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

Isaiah 2:2-5

Pastor: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

Congregation: and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

Pastor: For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Congregation: He shall judge between the nations and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

All: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord

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

Praise The Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

1. Praise the Lord ye heavens adore Him
Praise Him angels in the height
Sun and moon rejoice before Him
Praise Him all ye stars and light
Praise the Lord for He hath spoken
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made

2. Praise the Lord for He is glorious
Never shall His promise fail
God hath made His saints victorious
Sin and death shall not prevail
Praise the God of our salvation
Hosts on high His power proclaim
Heaven and earth and all creation
Laud and magnify His name

3. Worship honor glory blessing
Lord we offer unto Thee
Young and old Thy praise expressing
In glad homage bend the knee
All the saints in heav'n adore Thee
We would bow before Thy throne
As Thine angels serve before Thee
So on earth Thy will be done

Words and music by Edward
Osler and Joseph Haydn.
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*CONFESSION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Day 40 Question and Answer 105-107

Q. What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

A. I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

Q. Does this commandment refer only to murder?

A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.

Q. Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

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 Augustus
Montague Toplady, Thomas
Hastings. Public Domain.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1. Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Cleanse me from its guilt and power
2. Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone
3. Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked come to thee for dress
Helpless look to thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die
4. While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyelids close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

Please sign and pass the attendance registers.

⁺WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Most Perfect Is The Law Of God

1. Most perfect is the law of God,
Restoring those that stray;
His testimony is most sure,
Proclaiming wisdom's way.
2. The precepts of the Lord are right;
With joy they fill the heart;
The Lord's commandments all are pure,
And clearest light impart.
3. The fear of God is undefiled
And ever shall endure;
The statutes of the Lord are truth
And righteousness most pure.
4. They warn from ways of wickedness
Displeasing to the Lord,
And in the keeping of his Word
There is a great reward.

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:



+Children Kindergarten and younger are dismissed for Worship Care.

Words and music: Author unknown.

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

Please open your Bibles to read Exodus 20:1-13 in unison.

Exodus 20:13

"You shall not murder."

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Human Life Is Precious

Rev. Mark A. Forbes

*SONG OF RESPONSE

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

1. My faith has found a resting place
Not in device nor creed
I trust the ever-living One
His wounds for me shall plead

Chorus:
I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me

2. Enough for me that Jesus saves
This ends my fear and doubt
A sinful soul I come to Him
He'll never cast me out
Chorus

3. My heart is leaning on the Word,
The written Word of God,
Salvation by my Savior's Name,
Salvation through His blood.
Chorus

4. My great Physician heals the sick,
The lost He came to save;
For me His precious blood He shed,
For me His life He gave.
Chorus

*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

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for Coffee and Connections and Mission Team Update. All ages are welcome and we'll have some fun activities for the kids.

WEDNESDAY, 9/2

- 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.
- Choir Rehearsal (6:15 - 7:30 p.m.) at LHC

SUNDAY, 9/6 - Worship at 9:30 a.m; Coffee and Connections after worship until 11:00

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER:

Luke 20- 24; Hebrews 1 - 13; Proverbs 18 - 31; Isaiah 1 - 66

SEPTEMBER MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS: World Witness Bridge Europe Team

SMALL GROUPS - Beginning and continuing this fall, meeting twice a month..
Contact the leaders to sign up.

- Coopers (*Gentle and Lowly*) - Sunday evenings
- Forbes (*The Gospel-Centered Parent*) - Sunday after worship
- Sevys (*The Sermon on the Mount*) - this group is currently full
- Winfrees (*Romans*) - Sunday evenings

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 9/2 - Jack Hayes and Katy-Barnes Hunter

9/9 - Brent Sneed and Mark Valenti; 9/13 - Whitney Buehler; 9/16 - Matt Adams

9/18 - Drew Summerville; 9/19 - Tammy Cherry; 9/20 - Jennifer Ford

9/24 - Erin Coomer; 9/25 - Melinda Shows; 9/26 - Natalie Sneed

SAVE THE DATES:

- 9/2, 9/9, 9/16 - Choir Rehearsals (6:15 - 7:30 p.m.)
- 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 - Fall Sunday School
- 9/17 - Ladies Gathering at the Garden (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.)
 - Join us as we explore Daniel Stowe Conservancy on Free Admission Night.
- 9/30 - Wednesday Night Fellowship begins (Dinner at 5:30; Classes begin at 6:15)
- 10/4 - 4 years of Living Hope!
 - Join us for a covered dish lunch after worship to celebrate God's faithfulness!



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

Need prayer?

- We have elders available to pray with you after the service in the parlor. Exit the right door and turn right. Elder Jon Ford 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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