



LIVING HOPE CHURCH
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

WORSHIP GUIDE
August 23, 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 Bob Kauflin, John Wyeth, Robert Robinson.
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*GATHERING MUSIC

Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

1. Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love
2. Hitherto Thy love has blessed me
Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace
Jesus sought me when a stranger wand'ring from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood
3. Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above
4. Oh that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord no longer tarry, bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me till I'm home with Thee at last

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

Psalm 100

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Congregation: Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Pastor: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

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 Edward
Osler and Joseph Haydn.
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***SONG OF PRAISE**

Come Thou Almighty King

1. Come Thou Almighty King
Help us Thy name to sing
Help us to praise
Father all glorious
O'er all victorious
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days

2. Come Thou Incarnate Word
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend
Come and Thy people bless
And give Thy Word success
Spirit of holiness on us descend

Chorus:

All glory be to the Father

All glory be to the Son

All glory be to the Spirit

The blessed Three in One

3. Come Holy Comforter
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour
Thou who almighty art
Now rule in every heart
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r
Chorus

4. To Thee great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see
And to eternity love and adore
Chorus 2 x

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer 104.

Q. What does God require in the fifth commandment?

A. That I show all honour, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all those in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to their good instruction and discipline, and also have patience with their weaknesses and shortcomings, since it is God's will to govern us by their hand.

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

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 author
unknown. Public Domain.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

How Firm A Foundation

1. How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled
2. Fear not I am with thee O be not dismayed
For I am thy God I will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee help thee
And cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand
3. When through the deep waters I call thee to go
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow
For I will be with thee thy trouble to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress
4. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine
5. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not I will not desert to its foes
That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never no never no never forsake

Please sign and pass the attendance registers.

+WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Law Of The Lord Is Perfect (Psalm 19:7-10)

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
Converting the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure,
Making wise the simple.

*Refrain: More to be desired are they than gold.
Yea, than much fine gold:
Sweeter also than honey
And the honeycomb*

2. The statutes of the Lord are right,
Rejoicing the heart:
The commandments of the Lord are pure,
Enlightening the eyes.
Refrain

3. The fear of the Lord is clean,
Enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true
And righteous altogether.
Refrain

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: Author unknown.

+Children Kindergarten and younger are dismissed for Worship Care.

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 20:1-12 in unison.

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be
long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you."

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Mark A. Forbes

*SONG OF RESPONSE

All I Have Is Christ

Refrain:

Hallelujah all I have is Christ

Hallelujah Jesus is my life

1. I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

2. But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Refrain

3. Now Lord I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

Refrain

*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.

TUESDAY, 8/25 - LHC Session Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 8/26

- 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.

SATURDAY, 8/29

- Large Group (Church-wide Gathering) at Betsy and Mark's (5 - 7 p.m.)
 - Bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share. Scan to sign up:



SUNDAY, 8/30

- Worship at 9:30 a.m
- Coffee and Connections after worship until 11:00
- Mission Team Update in the Fellowship Hall (11:00 - 11:30) All ages are welcome and we'll have some fun activities for the kids.

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR AUGUST:

Luke 13 - 20; 1 Timothy 1 - 6; 2 Timothy 1 - 4; Titus 1 - 4; Philemon 1
Proverbs 1 - 17; Ezra 1 - 10; Nehemiah 1 - 13; Esther 1 - 10

MISSIONS MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS: World Witness Bridge Europe Team

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: 8/7 - Donna Forbes; 8/8 - Pauline Styers; 8/10 - June Hunter, Mark Wingate; 8/11 - Jeff Shows; 8/20 - Howard Wellons; 8/25 - Josie Stone

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

LIVING HOPE CHURCH OF BELMONT
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