

LIVING HOPE CHURCH

ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

WORSHIP GUIDE

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 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 John Mason Neale, Thomas HelmorePublic Domain

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*GATHERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Hilary Yost, Bassoon

1. O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus:
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

2. O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Chorus

3. O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go
Chorus

4. O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Chorus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Summerville Family

*Please stand as you are able.

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.

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 40:3, 9-10, 16

Pastor: The Lord has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Congregation: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

All: But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is 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 worshiping 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

Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

1. Holy holy holy
In a manger lowly
Christ the Son now veiled in flesh
In our humanity
Kingdoms bow before Him
Heaven and earth adore Him
God here in person
Hail His majesty

2. Holy holy holy
Sings the virgin Mary
For He shall deliver us
From sin's captivity
Born to heal the nations
Born for our salvation
Oh magnify Him
Christ the Prince of Peace

3. Holy holy holy
Lord God Almighty
Heaven's angels sound His praise
With earth and sky and sea
Join the song of triumph
Glory in the highest
Let all creation
Crown Him King of Kings

Words and music by John Bacchus Dykes, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Reginald Heber.
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*CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

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

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."

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born
(Tune: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks)

1. To us a child of hope is born,
to us a son is giv'n.
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heav'n,
him all the hosts of heav'n,

2. His name shall be the Prince of peace,
forevermore adored,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the great and mighty Lord,
the great and mighty Lord

3. His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know.
Justice shall guard his throne above,
and peace abound below,
and peace abound below

4. To us a child of hope is born
To us a son is giv'n
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The mighty Lord of Heaven
The mighty Lord of Heaven

Words and music by
Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson. © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; Fellow Ships Music; So Essential Tunes; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Bethel Music Publishing

†WORSHIP OF GOD THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Come,Thou Long Expected Jesus
Ensemble: Betsy Forbes, Don and Robyn Piers, Jeff Shows, Natalie Sneed
Bassoon: Hilary Yost

Words for meditation:
Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

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: Charles Wesley.
Music: J. S. Bach
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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

Matthew 1:18-23

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Rev. Mark A. Forbes

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Hail To The Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed great David's greater Son
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free
To take away transgression and rule in equity

2. He comes with comfort speedy to those who suffer wrong
To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light
Whose souls condemned and dying were precious in his sight

3.He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth
And love, joy, hope, like flowers spring in his path to birth
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow

4. Kings shall fall down before him and gold and incense bring
All nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing
For he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore
Far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar

5. O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all-blessed
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove
His name shall stand forever - that name to us is Love

Words:James Montgomery
Music: Vollständige-Sammlung der gewöhnlichen Melodien. Public Domain.

*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 and OPPORTUNITIES

Be sure to pick up an Advent Devotional and Advent Wreath Guide if you haven't already.
All are invited to help trim the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee and Connections

WEDNESDAY, 12/2

- 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.
- Ladies Favorite Things Party at the home of Pauline Styers (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
    - Bring two of your favorite things (up to $10 each) wrapped and an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVP to Betsy or scan the QR code to sign up:

FRIDAY, 12/4 - Set up for Back To Bethlehem Lunch (let Betsy know if you can help) We're using nativities for the table centerpieces. If you have one we could use on Sunday, 12/6 let us know.

SUNDAY, 12/6 - Second Sunday in Advent

- Worship at 9:30
- Back to Bethlehem Lunch after worship - Church-wide event celebrating the birth of Jesus. Let us know you're coming:

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR DECEMBER:

Job 23 - 42; Hosea 1 - 14; Joel 1 - 3; Amos 1 - 9; Obadiah; Jonah 1 - 4; Micah 1 - 7; Nahum 1 - 3 Habakkuk 1- 3; Zephaniah 1 - 3; Haggai 1 - 2; Zechariah 1 - 14; Malachi 1 - 4; John 14 - 21 Revelation 1 - 22

MORE THAN A STORY READING PLAN: *"God Scatters The People" page 57*

NOVEMBER MISSIONS PRAYER FOCUS: Outreach North America

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS: 12/1 - Zack Williams, 12/7 - Brady Johnson, 12/8 - Beth Wingate, 12/9 - Michael Peche, 12/13 - Artie Cooper, 12/14 - Nora Sullivan, Don Piers, 12/15 - Carol Eizenhofer, 12/18 - Deborah Lentz, 12/20 - Mark Forbes, 12/31 - Owen Valenti

SAVE THE DATES:

12/9 - Outreach opportunity - help pack gifts for our ministry partner's Christmas Party (11:00 a.m.) Contact Betsy for more details
12/10 - Thursday Morning Bible Study Brunch (11:00 a.m.) at Christy Orr's
12/12 - LHC Drop in Christmas Party at Trey and Jena Jenkins' home (5:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
12/19 - Men's Ministry Fellowship Breakfast
12/20 - College Student Luncheon after worship (We'd love to have some homemade desserts - if you can provide one please contact Beth Wingate or Betsy Forbes.)
12/24 - Christmas Eve Service at 5:00

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