

The Bell Rope



2017

A Publication of New Hope Presbyterian Church (PCA), Abbeville, SC

OUR MISSION IN WORSHIP

To glorify God by exalting Christ while using Biblical elements as interpreted in the rich tradition of the Reformed Faith. By Reformed, we mean that we are of the Calvinistic heritage and ever seeking to conform our beliefs and lives to the Word of God.

<p style="text-align: center;">GOD HONoured</p> <p>O GOD,</p> <p>Praise waiteth for thee, And to render it is my noblest exercise; This is thy due from all thy creatures, for all thy works display thy attributes and fulfill thy designs; The sea, dry land, winter cold, summer heat, morning light, evening shade are full of thee, and thou givest me them richly to enjoy. Thou art King of kings and Lord of lords; At thy pleasure empires rise and fall; All thy works praise thee and thy saints bless thee; Let me be numbered with thy holy ones, resemble them in character and condition. sit with them at Jesus' feet. May my religion be always firmly rooted in thy Word, my understanding divinely informed, my affections holy and heavenly, my motives simple and pure, and my heart never wrong with thee.</p>	<p>Deliver me from the natural darkness of my own mind, from the corruptions of my heart, from the temptations to which I am exposed, from the daily snares that attend me. I am in constant danger while I am in this life; Let thy watchful eye ever be upon me for my defense, Save me from the power of my worldly and spiritual enemies and from all painful evils to which I have exposed myself. Until the day of life dawns above let there be unrestrained fellowship with Jesus; Until fruition comes, may I enjoy the earnest of my inheritance and the firstfruits of the Spirit; Until I finish my course with joy may I pursue it with diligence, in every part display the resources of the Christian, and adorn the doctrine of thee my God in all things.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Taken from The Valley of Vision Submitted by: RE John Cook</p>
---	---

Since January of 2017 we have included in our order of worship an element entitled “The Confession of Sin” and “Assurance of Forgiveness”. But why? I hope this borrowed article below will help you to understand the significance of including this in our worship services.

~RE Barry Jones

What Are We Missing In Our Worship?
 by Jason Helopoulos

The Confession of sin and Assurance of Forgiveness is an element that has a long history in the worship of the church. It is pastorally sensitive, encourages the believer, exhorts the unbeliever, and is entirely biblical. Why should it be in our services? Because we love the gospel, we want to remind ourselves of it, and we want to encourage joyful worship.

We love the gospel, so there is an odd sense in which we should relish confessing our sins. We don't wallow in our sin, enjoy it, or are proud of it—just the opposite. It is something we want to be far from. It is our enemy and grieves us. But we relish confessing it, because we love the gospel. The gospel is good news, because we are sinners. No sin, no gospel. Not recognizing our sin while worshipping a holy God, at the very least, takes away from the proclamation of the gospel.

Pray without Ceasing

First and foremost, when we pray God says to “keep asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, that He may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, SO THAT WE MAY KNOW HIM BETTER.” Ephesians 1:17

Pray for our nation and its leaders; for true spiritual revival; for conviction of sin; and turning back to God.

Pray for our missionaries: Guillermo Salinas, Gary Alward, Rick Brawner, Stephen Speaks, Rob Hamby, Will Faires, Gary Watanabe, Paul Henry, Mo Montenegro, Ryan Culbertson, Brooks Cain, Mark Faires. Ministry of Calvary Home for Children.

Pray for Lillian Evans, Shirley Riggles, Terry Love, Joel Bailey, Rev. George Busch and Dr. Benson Cain in their various struggles.

Pray for New Hope : Session, Deaconate, Pastoral Search Committee and other various committees.

F.Y.I.

NOTE FROM THE SESSION

The Session and Deacons will meet May 17, 2017 at 7 pm. Please let the officers know of specific prayer request or any spiritual needs you may have.

Happy Belated Anniversary to Glenn and Jane Ellis. It was inadvertently left off the April Calendar.

Their anniversary was April 19.

May God continue to bless your marriage.

The Erskine College Alumni Association recently honored Dena Hodge with the 2017 Honorary Alumni Award during Alumni Day held on the Erskine campus.

The recipient is chosen by the Alumni Board and given to a person who is not an Erskine graduate but whose assistance, involvement and support are greatly appreciated.

She was surprised by the attendance of her children, Jay, Millie, Scott, Mayson, Callie and Cary for the presentation.

Congratulations Dena!

A Monthly Devotion

by John Latham

“SAFETY IN THE MIDST OF DANGER”

But the day of the Lord will come...and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2 PETER 3:10

When life hands us difficult circumstances and dangerous situations, we all need a safe hiding place. When you face the fire, where do you go to seek rescue?

A whole host of dangers lie in life's path, and at any time those dangers can threaten to overtake us. Many say we have a *multitude* of places to seek safety from life's challenges, but truly we have only one—Jesus Christ.

Consider the early pioneers who traveled across the vast plains of America. As they crossed the country, they often found themselves in a sea of grass for miles on end. In autumn, the grass turned brown and dry from exposure to the sun and lack of water. This condition caused a huge fire hazard, and the pioneers greatly feared seeing a wall of fire coming their way! They feared that they would have no escape as the wind blew the fire toward them faster than they could run. But the pioneers devised a way to survive this hazard. When they saw a wall of fire coming toward them, they ignited the grass behind them. The wind bringing the fire toward them also blew out the fire behind them, leaving a safe firebreak. The pioneers simply moved into the center of the blackened area, and when the larger wall of fire approached them, it went around them, leaving them unscathed. The pioneers' only safe haven in the midst of the fire was where the fire had already been.

We read in 2 Peter that “the day of the Lord will come...and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” Even as we read, the fire of God's wrath comes upon this world, and we have only one safe hiding place. When that fire comes, we need to run to the place where the fire has already been—the cross of Christ. Through faith in Christ we realize that the fire that fell upon Him should have fallen upon us, and we find the one place of escape.

Perhaps you face a wall of fire today. If so, seek the One who has endured the fire, for you'll find safety only in His presence.

God's will is our hiding place.

CORRIE TEN BOOM

Taken from: *New Every Morning* by D. James Kennedy

What Are We Missing in Our Worship...Cont'd from Page 1

We should also want to confess our sins weekly in corporate worship, because it is a good reminder. We need to be reminded weekly that not only were we sinners, but we still are sinners. We not only needed the gospel when we were dead in our sins (Eph. 2), but still need the gospel now. A church that recognizes the depth of its sin is a church that is wading into the deep end of the Gospel of grace. An individual worshipper who approaches a holy God by confessing their sin is engaging in biblical worship (i.e. Isaiah 6, Rev. 1, etc.). I need it weekly and so do you!

We also want to confess our sins weekly in corporate worship, because when we don't, we miss out on one of the most powerful encouragements and joyful moments of gathering together: the assurance of God's pardoning grace. If we aren't confessing sin, then there is no place for the assurance of pardon in our services. And, oh, how we rob ourselves if it isn't present! What joy ought to erupt from the hearts of God's people when we hear the words of assurance; *How lively it should make our praise in song!* I need the reminder each and every week, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1), "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool" (Isaiah 1:18), "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We are Gospel people, so we are a confessing people--quick to recognize our sin and quick to receive the assurance of God's grace in Christ Jesus. We need it not only in our closets, but also in our gatherings. We need it not only in the past, but also in the present. We need it not only sporadically, but weekly. We all need it. The flippant Christian needs to be reminded each week. The sluggard needs to be exhorted each week. The weary one needs to be comforted each week. The doubting soul needs to be assured each week. The unrepentant heart needs to be confronted each week. I need it each week. The people under our care need it each week. We need it together. For Christian worship, a confession of sin with its accompanying assurance of pardon is elemental.



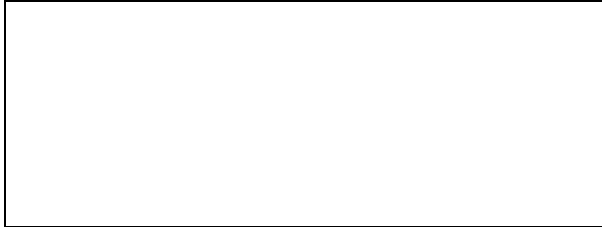
New Hope Presbyterian Church
 Presbyterian Church in America
 136 Highway 71
 Abbeville, SC 29620
 (864) 366-5684
 Email: newhopepca@wctel.net
 www.nhpres.org

"SATAN ALWAYS WANTS TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROGRESS OF GOD'S WORD ...HOWEVER... GOD'S WORD DOES NOT RETURN TO HIM VOID, AND SATAN CAN DO ONLY WHAT THE SOVEREIGN GOD ALLOWS HIM TO DO."
 ~R.C.Sproul

Session	Class of
John Cook	2019
Pat Hodge	2021
Barry Jones	2021
Wayne Sears	2019
Don Leslie	2021
Deacons	
Glenn Ellis	2017
Justin McCurry	2019

Opportunities for Worship & Service

- Sunday 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12:00 noon Church-Wide Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Ministry
- Wed. 6:30 p.m. Various Meetings & Ministries



A Poem

*Have you heard the tale of the aloe plant,
 Away in the sunny clime?
 By humble growth of a hundred years
 It reaches its blooming time;
 And then a wondrous bud at its crown
 Breaks into a thousand flowers;
 This floral queen, in its blooming seen,
 Is the pride of the tropical bowers,
 But the plant to the flower is sacrifice,
 For it blooms but once, and it dies.*

*Have you further heard of the aloe plant,
 That grows in the sunny clime;
 How every one of its thousand flowers,
 As they drop in the blooming time,
 Is an infant plant that fastens its roots
 In the place where it falls on the ground,
 And as fast as they drop from the dying stem,
 Grow lively and lovely around?
 By dying, it liveth a thousand-fold
 In the young that spring from the death of the old.*

*Have you heard the tale of the pelican,
 The Arabs' Gimel el Bahr,
 That lives in the African solitudes,
 Where the birds that live lonely are?
 And cares and toils for their good,
 It brings them water from mountain far,
 And fishes the seas for their food.
 In famine it feeds them--what love can devise!
 The blood of its bosom--and, feeding them, dies.*

*Have you heard this tale--the best of them all--
 The tale of the Holy and True,
 He dies, but His life, in untold souls
 Lives on in the world anew;
 His seed prevails, and is filling the earth,
 As the stars fill the sky above.
 He taught us to yield up the love of life,
 For the sake of the life of love.
 His death is our life, His loss is our gain;
 The joy for the tear, the peace for the pain.
 --Selected*

Submitted by: Dena Hodge