



HOPE CITY CHURCH

*"Helping people experience the Hope
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus"*

LOVE | *unconditionally* - **REACH** | *intentionally* - **TEACH** | *transformationally*

SERVE | *relationally* - **SEND** | *courageously*



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@hopecitychurchnorwalk



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TODAY @ HOPE CITY CHURCH

December 17, 2023

Thanks for joining us for our Worship Service! Our staff & volunteers have been praying for each of you and we can't wait to get to know you. If this is your first time with us, fill out a Connect Card & pick up a **welcome bag** from the connect center as a gift from Hope City Church. Welcome Home!

TEACHING SERIES



Hope In Time

Luke 1:5-25;57-66

Pastor Roy Halberg

GRACE COURTYARD SIGN-UPS | SERVE

As we continue to grow together in 2024, our Gathering in the Courtyard from 10:15-10:45a on Sundays is a great way to see others and connect with people



between services. We are looking for individuals willing to participate in this time by choosing a month to donate juices & chocolate milk for our Gathering in the Courtyard. **Scan the QR Code** here OR stop by the connect center to Sign Up.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to receive a box of 52 offering envelopes for 2024 for your giving, please text the word 'Offering Box' to 562.444.1211 by 12.24.23

THANK YOU

Michelle Perkins would like to thank everyone for their love and support during her time of loss. Thank you and God bless you all.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Victoria Arreola

Sat

Dec 23

THIS WEEK @ HOPE CITY

Ironmen Bible Study

Tue

Dec 19

6:30pm

Gonzalez Small Group (Gonzalez Home)

Serve Coffee to TLC Families (*On Campus*)

All activities will resume

Bible Studies (English & Spanish)

in January 2024

Hope City Kids | Adventure Club

Hope City Students

ADVENTURE CLUB FOR KIDS

[children 3 years old through 5th grade]

Join us every Friday at 6:30pm @ HOPE CITY CHURCH

Adventure Club will resume on January 5, 2024

Adventure Club Kids will meet in Room B105 For more information contact us at:

hopecitykids@hopecitychurch.la

HOPE CITY WOMEN CONFERENCE



Join us AT THE TABLE for a regional Charis Women Conference for women ages 14+ at Seal Beach Grace Church. January 26-27, 2024 | Friday 7-9p & Saturday 9-4p [Lunch included] Cost is \$40 if registration is received by Dec 17. Cost is \$50 after that date. Scan QR code to Register!



You're Invited to a Luncheon for

Patty Morris

for 40 years of service with Encompass World Partners In France

January 28, 2024 -@ Grace Church of Orange-12:30-2:00pm

Please RSVP BY 1/21/24... Scan the QR code or visit the link

Graceorange.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2053685



THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

For what the law was powerless to do ... God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. Romans 8:3

Have you ever really pondered the meaning of Christmas? Was it just God's attempt to give us a good example to show us the way to live? Was it simply the birth of a great teacher? Did that innocent little bundle of flesh and blood in the feeding trough really hold the answer for us all?

We can never fully understand the depths of all of God's mysteries, but we can understand a lot. He has clearly revealed why Jesus was sent to this broken planet. Though our proud society hates the idea of an atoning sacrifice, Jesus was sent into this world to die. Like the cattle around Him, the baby of Bethlehem was born for slaughter. He bore the brunt of a fallen world so we could escape its tragic direction. He descended deep so we could ascend high. He gave us the way out of the horrible implications of our rebellion.

God demonstrated for centuries that the human condition could not be fixed by humans. It could not even be repaired by an external work of God. No, there had to be a sacrifice to pay the price; there had to be a person to live the life; and it had to be perfect on both counts. Only God could do that. He clothed Himself in flesh to die, He was raised to live, and He put His Spirit within us. He doesn't just give us life; He is our life.

“Hope In Time”
Luke 1:5-25; 57-66
Pastor Roy Halberg
Hope City Church

→ Is it really true that “timing is everything”?

When *the fullness of the time* came,
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law
(Gal 4:4)

Hope Is Always Found In God's Time

1. The **SITUATION** in Elizabeth's life vv5-7 HOPE IS DISAPPOINTED

→ What do we learn about Elizabeth here?

- -She is married to a priest and is from a family of priests “daughter of Aaron” v5
- -Her name Elizabeth means “”promise of God”
- -She was “righteous” and “walked blamelessly...” v6
- -BUT ... she was “barren” v7
- -She and her husband were “advanced in years” 7

→ What conclusions might we draw from this list?

2. The **SETTING** for God to work in Elizabeth's life vv8-22 HOPE IS DEMONSTRATED

-it involved her husband's ministry

→ Note the irony: a man with unanswered prayer at the altar of incense

-it included an angelic message: Lots of information in those brief words

- “your wife, Elizabeth”=
- “will bear”=
- “a son”=
- “you will give him the name John”=

→ We too often struggle to take God at His word and believe His promises...
especially in the midst of disappointment and discouragement

→ God is at work behind the scene to accomplish His purpose thru His people in His time!!

3. The **SOLUTION** to the prayer of Elizabeth's life vv23-25; 57-66

HOPE IS DELIVERED

- Elizabeth becomes pregnant
- She recognized that “the Lord has dealt with me” and “looked with favor upon me”
- The Lord had taken away her “disgrace among men”

→ God had chosen to use her lifelong disappointment to reveal Himself ... to display His power ... to provide the waymaker who would introduce the Messiah ... to call His people back to Himself

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME

1. God's time isn't my time but His time is always the right time
HOPE IS ALWAYS FOUND IN GOD'S TIME

2. God uses the disappointments and times of waiting to build qualities into our lives that make us more like Jesus

→ to keep us _____ on Him . . .
to keep us _____ ...
to keep us living by _____ not by sight

3. God's delays do not always mean God's denials

- ❖ When we pray a prayer that is not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ When we pray a prayer and we are not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ When we pray a prayer and the timing is not **right**, God will say, “_____.”
- ❖ But, when we pray a prayer and all is **right**, God will say, “_____.”

4. You can always trust God's timing . . . do you?

You can always trust God's timing because Hope is always found in HIS time

→ I love this old chorus:

In His time, in His time
He makes all things beautiful in **His time**
Lord, please show me everyday
As you're teaching me your way
That you do just what you say
In Your time.

In Your time, in Your time
You make all things beautiful in **Your time**
Lord, my life to you I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to you a lovely thing
In Your time