

GOD OF HOPE

God gives confident expectancy that His eternal promises to us will all be fulfilled. No room for despair!

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
Psalm 16 Psalm 39 Psalm 42, 43 Psalm 71 Psalm 146:3-6 Romans 15:13 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 Titus 1:1-4; 2:11-14 Hebrews 6:10-20 1 John 3:1-3	Be Not Afraid (Courtney) Solo By Faith Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery For I Am Saved by Grace (Lopez) SATB I Know Whom I Have Believed In Christ Alone It Is Well with My Soul It Is Well with My Soul (arr. Sterling) TTBB Jesus Shall Reign My Hope Is in the Lord O God, Our Help in Ages Past One Day, We'll Stand (Paige) SATB Rejoice, the Lord Is King Victory in Jesus



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* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

MUSIC

Romans 15:13; 2 Thess. 2:13 | *In the professional music world, many musicians believe music brings hope and comfort to people. That assumption gives them a sense of purpose in their work. There is some truth to that—music can help us express and process our emotions of sorrow, grief, or melancholy. But at its core, this assumption that “music gives hope” is actually a form of unfounded optimism. No matter what the music says or does in the moment, there is no assurance that things will actually get better. Whether hope is misguided is entirely dependent on the object of our hope, not just the feeling of hope. Biblical hope passes the “cynicism test.” Our future state is to be reunited with Christ and remade—resurrected in body and spirit. His appearing, and our eternity in His presence, are our blessed Hope as believers.*

Promotional Post: What are you hoping in? Something in your life to change? Arriving in the next life stage? Whether our hope is misguided is entirely dependent on the object of our hope, not just the feeling of hope. What hope does God offer His people through Christ?

Worship with us this Sunday the God of Hope. These passages will encourage your heart and prepare you for worship:

[Insert daily Scripture readings.]

SPOILERS

Use spoilers to illustrate that we know the end of the Story.

Spoilers. Nobody likes them... except maybe the person revealing them at the time. Whenever something hits pop culture, it has often been difficult to avoid inadvertently hearing or seeing a spoiler.

In recent years, with the advent of instant messaging and social media, the problem is even worse. It seems almost impossible to avoid spoilers. Whether plot details about the movie that you haven't seen, or the score of the ballgame you DVR'd to watch later, you often get information before you want it.

You are just quickly checking your social media feed when you come across a debate online about how the movie ended...

That text message that comes from a well-meaning friend who assumes you are watching the game live because your favorite team is playing...

And for those of you that watch the Olympics, the instant info is the worst. Since most events in prime time are delayed, sometimes many hours because of where they take place, it's easy to go to espn.com to check some scores and accidentally see who the medal winners for that much anticipated event are. Or someone who lives in the Eastern time zone posts about it two hours before you can even see it.

And now, the last couple of years, my phone force feeds me headlines with spoilers like this in my notifications!

For as much as we might despise spoilers in the entertainment world, when it comes to future things in the real world, and even in the world to come, we actually embrace the “spoilers.” We don't want surprises. We want to know how everything will turn out. We want a “living hope.”

And that is exactly what 1 Peter 1:3 says we inherit when we are born again—because Jesus is resurrected from the dead, there are things we know for certain. Oh, we might not have every detail. But we already know the end of our stories. And that knowledge works in us living hope—not a hope that nervously awaits what will happen; but instead, a hope that confidently expects the fulfillment of all God has promised, regardless of how hope-less things look like at this moment. As believers, we have no cause for worry or despair. So this morning as we worship, rejoice with confident expectation in God who gives you this hope. (James Tilson)

TROUBLING TIMES

Use current events to illustrate that we live in a troubled world. Many biblical accounts speak of people who faced troubling times yet chose to put their hope in God (a possible example is Hezekiah facing the Assyrians). As God's people, our hope is not in circumstances, governments, leaders, or anything else. God Himself is our hope in this troubled world and at all times.