

# Hope of the World

Matthew 25:45-46

1 John 3:14-18



# Dead Way of Life

- Does exactly what is expected
- Avoids places of discomfort
- Christmas is about Jesus going into a place of discomfort to do the unexpected out of love
- Jesus' Christmas gift to us is to put to death our dead way of life!



# New Life

- Caring for the least important
- Caring for those who can't pay us back
- Caring without expecting anything in return
- Jesus' Christmas gift to us is to model generosity for us!



# Hope of the World

- The church is the hope of the world
- The transformed life is the hope of the world
- Your life is the hope of the world!
- Jesus' Christmas gift to us is a transformed life!



# Life Application

- Bring your gift for Jesus

Then return to your seats for the blessing of the offering and the lighting of the Christ Candle

- Pray a blessing over the offering



**Lord, you are the One who calls us to care for those in need. We confess, we often expect the government or well-meaning do-gooders to do our work for us and think we are only passing off our responsibility to those being served. We often do not remember it is You we are serving.**

**Prayer of blessing over PDF offering**



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**Forgive us for our misplaced sense of responsibility. Lord, we do love You and Your people. We understand that in serving others we are truly serving You. We want to be present in the needs of those around us as our gift to You. So please, accept these birthday gifts and use them to reach those who are in need.**



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**Meet the needs of those who receive these funds richly and abundantly. May these offerings be used to not only meet physical needs, but may each recipient also be drawn closer to You so that what would have only met a short-term temporal need will be leveraged by the power of Your Spirit to have eternal treasure power. Help us not stop with these gifts,**





**Lord, but to give all things, our whole selves over to You, just as you have given Yourself to us. It is in Your mighty and wonderful name we pray, Amen.**



# Christ Candle

