

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

January 29, 2023



Preparation

*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 forgiveness;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors
and welcomes you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gathering Song

We sing as a way of engaging our voices, imaginations, words, and desires in the worship of God. We sing together, to God and to each other, because of our calling to be a people joined together in Christ.

O For a Thousand Tongues

O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

*Oh that I had a thousand tongues to sing Your praise,
My grateful heart would tell the stories of Your grace,
So with my life and every breath, I will worship You.*

He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

*Charles Wesley (1739),
Chorus: Michael Van Patter (2011)*

Welcome

We're glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to fill out a "Connect Card", available in a seat-back near you or online using this QR code. We would love the chance to connect with you and help you know more about our community.



Call to Worship

Leader: Declare God's glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.**

Psalms 96:3-4

Song of Praise

Almighty God

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears.
Wash us in the fountain of Your mercy,
Come with Your light, we cannot hide from You.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
With gratitude we raise our song to You.
Come and fill the praises of Your people,
In grace and truth, You make us new again.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open,
We long for more than what this world provides.
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us,
But Your river deep floods over everything.

To You all hearts are open, Almighty God...

Leslie Jordan, David Leonard, Sandra McCracken (2014)

Confession of Sin

Why do we confess sin? Worship both draws us to God and reveals where we are distant from him. Throughout Scripture, when people see or experience God they are faced with the reality of their own brokenness and shame. Likewise, we confess our sin, as a community and individually.

Glorious God:

We come here this morning in need of grace.
All week, a war has been raging in our hearts.

We have looked to people, situations, and experiences
To give us security, identity, and hope.
We have sought horizontally
What can only be found vertically.

Forgive us,
And awaken us
To the only glory that really satisfies:
The glory of the Lord Jesus Christ,
Our Savior and Redeemer.

*** time for silent confession ***

Words of Forgiveness

We are not alone. The Bible teaches that Jesus understands what it is to be human. Because He was fully man, He is compassionate and merciful toward us in our sin and failures. But not only can He sympathize with us, Jesus also has set us free from the power of sin by his death and resurrection.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24

Passing of the Peace

Why is the Greeting put after our Words of Forgiveness? The book of 2 Corinthians reminds us that part of God's goal in reconciling Himself to us was that we might likewise be reconciled with one another. But for healing and wholeness to take place in our relationships (which is what the Greeting enacts as we acknowledge one another in the peace of our Lord), we must first know the healing of our relationship with God through Christ. God's pardon of us sets us free to love and forgive one another without reservation or qualification!

Songs of Praise & Thanksgiving

Responding to grace: After being reminded of God's lavish grace and love toward us, we respond by celebrating with singing.

The Lion and the Lamb

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down;
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare His praise.
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah,
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles,
And every knee will bow before Him.
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains,
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Oh every knee will bow before Him.*

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings!
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free,
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty? Who can stop the Lord?

Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, Leeland Mooring (2015)

Giving of Tithes & Offering

What's the offering all about? The offering is a way for Christians to support the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. While many at Hope Chapel make their regular contributions through online giving and automated bill pay, offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us.

If you are a guest, please feel no obligation to give. Giving is for the members and regular attenders who desire to give to God and His church so that we can be a blessing to Him and our community in even greater ways.

Ways to give: You may drop a check or cash in the offering plate, give online at hopechapelgreensboro.org/give, or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).



Great Are You, Lord

You give life, You are love,
 You bring light to the darkness.
 You give hope, You restore every heart that is broken.
 Great are You, Lord!

*It's Your breath in our lungs,
 So we pour out our praise, pour out our praise.
 It's Your breath in our lungs,
 So we pour out our praise to You only.*

All the earth will shout Your praise,
 Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
 Great are You, Lord!

Leslie Jordan, David Leonard (2013)

Prayer of Renewal

Church, City, World. Corporate prayer is an essential part of the worship and work of God's people. We pray for specific needs— naming and sometimes lamenting the brokenness in the world— mindful to ask a powerful and merciful help for the Church, the city, the world, and for one another.

The leader will end each section of the prayer by saying "Lord, in Your mercy..." and the congregation responds with "...Hear our prayer".

Scripture Reading

Acts 4:1-31

What do we do during the Scripture Reading? Because the Word of God is one of the chief means through which God has chosen to speak to us, it is a principle and direct way we "hear from God" in worship. The public reading of Scripture, then, is a sacred act that deserves our full attention and focus. Especially in our age, we must discipline ourselves to listen to readings for longer periods of time, for God's Word is food for our soul.

¹ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

²³ When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

"Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?

²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers were gathered together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed'—

²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Sermon

“Who Holds the Power?”

Andy Koesters serves as Pastor to Churches and Families with Families Alive (familiesalive.org). He and his family worship with us regularly at Hope Chapel. This sermon is part of a series called “Witness: The Movement Continues”, where we are studying the book of Acts and its call to cultivate shalom. For past sermons, please visit our website.

Communion

***What Is Communion?** What we do during communion isn’t merely a symbolic act or a remembrance—it’s more than that. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 teaches us that we are actually communing with Christ Himself as we partake of the elements. We mysteriously “participate in the body and blood” of Jesus. As we take communion, let us remember that Christ is spiritually present in a special way for us in this sacrament. Let’s enjoy the feast!*

If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, please feel free to not participate and instead spend this time in prayer (“Prayers for Reflection” are included in this worship guide). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. PLEASE NOTE: All bread is gluten-free.

Communion Litany

Minister: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts! **All: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: You are holy, O God of majesty,
 and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
 He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the
 burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way,
 and though tempted, was sinless to the end.
 Baptized as Your own, he went willingly to his death
 and by Your power was raised to new life.

**All: In his dying and rising, You gave birth to Your church,
 delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
 and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

Minister: Sanctify this bread and wine, and use these elements
 to communicate to us the mercy of your Son,
 that we might be enabled to submit our lives to you.

**All: Grant that this sacrament would empower us to die
 to ourselves, and live for your glory, now and forever, amen.**

**** *institution of elements* ****

Minister: God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all,
 and will also give us all things with him.

**All: Therefore we praise you, God, with our hearts and our voices,
 now and forevermore! Amen.**

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for Those Searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life. Amen.

Prayer for Renewal and Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism, to love God and neighbor, and to a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, to pursue forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace, and to live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Sending Song

Seeds of the Kingdom

Jesus scatters the seeds of His Kingdom;
 Far and wide, He announces new birth:
 "I, the Lord of Creation, am making new
 every inch of the groaning earth!"

Like the smallest of seeds in the winter
 is the Kingdom of God as its sown;
 But the powers of hell shall against it fail
 when the Kingdom of God is grown.

*Though we wait for the Lord of the harvest,
 and we long for our King to appear,
 Even now in our hearts, by the Spirit's pow'r,
 the Kingdom of God is near!*

He has planted the seeds of His Kingdom
 in the hearts of the poor and the weak.
 He declares to the captives, "I bring good news:
 You shall be mighty oaks of strength!"

Through the city of God flows a river:
 from the throne of the Lamb waters pour.
 And behold, on the banks grows the Tree of Life,
 Where the nations are healed and restored!

Wendell Kimbrough (2017)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

What is the benediction? Benediction is a word with Latin origin (bene = "well," and dicere = "to speak"); a benediction is a word which "speaks wellness/goodness" to us, therefore properly understood as a blessing. The benediction in worship has ancient roots, going back to the worship of God's people in the Temple. When we utilize the benediction in our worship, we connect ourselves with an ancient practice of God's people and join with them together in worship of our one great God.

Minister: May Christ, who out of defeat
 brings new hope and a new future,
 fill you with his new life;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you,
 and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$5,701	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$43,845	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Jan. 22)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$30,732	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$13,113]	Greensboro, NC 27408

Online giving is available on our website: www.hopechapelgreensboro.org/give
 We also accept donations via Venmo: @HopeChapel.

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Want to connect with others?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

Visiting with us?
hopechapelgreensboro.org/i'm-new

