

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

February 19, 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.

We Sing the Mighty Power

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known,
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be, you, God, are present there.

Text: Isaac Watts (1715), Tune: ELLACOMBE (1784)

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: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne
and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels,
numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
saying with a loud voice,

**All: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and might and honor and glory and blessing!"**

Leader: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

**All: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"**

based on Revelation 5:11-14

Song of Praise

We Sing Holy

God of ages, faithful to a thousand generations,
A thousand more will echo out Your praises, Your praises.

We bow in reverence and fall before the matchless son of heaven,
And join the angel's song within Your presence, in your presence we sing...

*Holy! You're holy! You stand alone and there is none who's
Worthy, so worthy to receive all honor and all
Glory, all glory! Forever seated high upon Your throne,
It belongs to You alone, so we sing holy! We sing holy!*

Behold the glory, we wonder in Your radiance and beauty,
Breathing in the air of grace and mercy, Your grace and mercy, we sing...

Be Lifted high, lifted high, Oh King of majesty,
Be glorified, glorified, throughout eternity!
Be Lifted high, lifted high, Oh King of majesty,
Be glorified, glorified, throughout eternity!

Chris Clayton Jonathan Turner (2021)

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.

Almighty God,
you have called us to glorify your name
through our love for you and for one another.
We confess that our praise is more on our lips than with our lives.

We profess repentance while we resist change;
We talk of peace while we prepare for war;
We sing of love but we curse our enemies;
We pray your will be done but insist on our way.

Have mercy upon us, tender God,
and cleanse and forgive our selfish ways.
May Jesus Christ, who came long ago,
come once more into our lives.
Help us to be at peace with you,
one another, and ourselves as members of your kingdom,
which is now at hand—through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*** 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.

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Passing of the Peace

Song of Praise & Thanksgiving

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

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesus, priceless treasure, source of purest pleasure, friend most sure and true:
 Long my heart was burning,
 Fainting much and yearning, thirsting, Lord, for You.
 Yours I am, O spotless Lamb,
 So will I let nothing hide You, seek no joy beside You!

Let Your arms enfold me: take me in and hold me – keep me ever near.
 Though the earth be shaking,
 Every heart is quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
 Fire may flash and thunder crash;
 But, though sin and death assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

In our times of sadness, then the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in;
 Though the clouds will gather,
 Those who love the Savior can have peace within.
 Though we bear much sorrow here,
 Still in You lies purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

Gone, all worldly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
 Gone, all empty glory! Jesus is my story; O, my soul, rejoice!
 Pain or loss or shame or cross
 Shall not from my Savior move me, since He chose to love me.

*Johann Franck (1653), trans by Catherine. Winkworth (1863)
 music & add. lyrics by Michael Van Patter (2018)*

Giving of Tithes & Offering

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).



Come and Tear Down the Walls

Every wall I've built up, every wall I've built up.
Cause You deserve every piece of my heart,
Every piece of my heart, every piece of my heart.

*Lord, I am trusting that You are a faithful Father
And all that you have, it is good.
You're a generous giver,
Your love's like no other,
Won't you come and break through to me ...*

Over and over and over again,
I am bringing my heart to You with open hands.
Closer and closer, You're drawing me in,
As the depths of my heart lay before You again.

Jenny Wahlström, Mark Alan Schoolmeesters (2016)

I Belong to You

I've been captured by a love I can't explain,
And now You have me and I'm forever changed.
I've abandoned everything I've ever known;
Now I surrender, my life is not my own.

*I belong to You, I belong to You
I belong to You, I belong to You*

My life is not my own- to You, I belong;
I give myself, I give myself to You.
My life is not my own- to You, I belong;
I give myself, I give myself to You.

William McDowell (2011)

Scripture Reading

Acts 6:8-15, 7:1, 7:54-60

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.

^{6,8} And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹ Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹² And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³ and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

⁷¹ And the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

^{7:54} Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Sermon

"Witness of Stephen"

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.

Satisfied By Grace

Once more, like children, we are come to banquet with our God;
 May each one feel himself at home, and feast upon Your love.

While we receive the bread and wine, as emblems of Your death,
 Lord, raise each soul above the sign, to feast on Christ by faith.

*We've come with starving hearts and thirsty souls, satisfied by grace,
 Jesus, You've made us whole.
 And as we take and eat body and blood: new! You're making us new
 By Your steadfast love, Your steadfast love.*

We would not come as strangers, Lord, who only see the sign,
 But, as the objects of Christ's love, would feel were one in Him.

Like free-born sons, we would be free from every legal chain.
 Praise Him who brought our liberty, and ever with Him reign.

*We've come with starving hearts and thirsty souls, satisfied by grace,
 Jesus, You've made us whole.
 And as we take and eat body and blood: new! You're making us new
 By Your steadfast love, Your steadfast love.*

William Gadsby (b. 1773), Bobby Kier, Justin Ruddy (2011)

Sending Song

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
 Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum;
 Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
 What Father so tender is calling us home?
 He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn';
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us!
His blood was the payment His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell (2016)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: Now may the God of peace,
who through the blood of the eternal covenant
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with
everything good for doing his will, and may he work
in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **All: Amen.**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$14,012	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$87,690	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - Feb. 12)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$71,452	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$16,237]	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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hopechapelgreensboro.org/community

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

