

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

July 2, 2023



Ordinary Time

Preparation

*To all who are weary and need rest;
 To all who mourn and long for comfort;
 To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares;
 To all who fail and desire strength;
 To all who sin and need a Savior —
 This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ,
 the ally of his enemies, the defender of the guilty,
 the justifier of the inexcusable, the friend of sinners.
 Welcome!*

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.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
 Praising my Savior, all the day long!*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 Angels descending bring from above
 Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest
 I in my Savior am happy and blessed,
 Watching and waiting, looking above,
 Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Fanny Crosby, Phoebe Knapp (1873)

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

Created and Called. We believe that God created humans to be in relationship with Him, and to worship Him as their Creator. But it's more than that. He is also a loving Father who is calling, or inviting His children to come near. God's is both the Creator and the Invitor, and we respond to His grace!

Leader: I will sing of Your strength;

I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning.

For You have been to me a fortress

and a refuge in the day of my distress.

**All: O my Strength, I will sing praises to You,
for You, O God, are my fortress,
the God who shows me steadfast love.**

Psalm 59:16-17

To God All Praise and Glory

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation.

The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

He fills my soul with sweet relief and make my faithless murmur cease.

To God all praise and glory! (x4)

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing;

An ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.

And in my Father's tender care His love eclipses my despair.

When life is hard and days are long, I'll sing aloud His praises.

That all may hear the grateful song my joyful spirit raises.

My heart revived, my soul restored, my heart rejoices in the Lord.

Let all who claim Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory.

Let all who lean on the Spirit's strength declare the wondrous story!

Cast every idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord and Christ alone.

Johann Jakob Schutz (1675), trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1864), Music & Add. lyrics Brian Eichelberger (2017)

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:

We confess to You

our tendency to honor You with our lips

while our hearts are far from You.

We are content to appear righteous

instead of truly being righteous.

Forgive our sin and our self-love. Awaken us to Your glory.

Send Your Spirit to renew and change our hearts...

*** time for silent confession ***

Song of Lament

What is lament? The author Dan Allender says lament "is to cry out to God with our doubts, our incriminations of him and others, to bring a complaint against Him" and goes on to say that lament is "the context for surrender... it is inconceivable to surrender to God unless there is a prior, declared war against him... sanctification is a lifetime process of surrendering as more and more intense conflicts with God and others expose and dissolve our urgent preoccupation with the self. Lament is the battle cry against God that paradoxically voices a heart of desire and ironic faith in his goodness."

Our Song in the Night (Psalm 77) Michael Van Patter (2014)

Words of Forgiveness

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,"

¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!
 Try me and know my thoughts!
²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:7-12, 23-24

Passing of the Peace

The "passing of the peace": As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from Him. In response to His grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "May the peace of Christ be with you" and receive back the greeting "And also with you."

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

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).



Known and Loved *Tiarne Tranter, Jaywan Maxwell, Fiona Aghajanian (2022)*

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 26:1-8, 19-32

¹ So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

² "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. ⁵ They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?”

¹⁹ “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴ And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.”

²⁵ But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” ²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” ²⁹ And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

³⁰ Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. ³¹ And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Sermon

“Witness to Agrippa”

Jonah Hooper is Campus Minister at Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Winston Salem State University. He is Shadeeya’s husband and dad to Neriah and Jonah.

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

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth:
 And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary.
 Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
 at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and
 praise, joining our voices with your
 people on earth and all the company
 of heaven, who forever sing to the glory of your Name.

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** institution of the elements ***

Minister: Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has fed us at his Table,
let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: and forget not all God's benefits,

Minister: who forgives all your iniquity,

All: who heals all your diseases.

Minister: Who 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.**

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.

Until He Comes Again

By this we remember in faith, as we gather with bread and wine, we remember until He comes again.

By this we remember in hope, as we gather with bread and wine, we remember until He comes again.

*When He comes again like a thief in the night,
When He comes again all the wrongs will be right;
Oh the earth lifted up as heaven comes down,
We remember until He comes again.*

By this we remember in love, as we gather with bread and wine, we remember until He comes again.

*Ricky Vasquez, Ike Ndolo, Sandra McCracken,
Mitch Wong & Matt Maher (2022)*

Sending Song

Your Labor Is Not in Vain

Your labor is not in vain,
though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained;
Your planting and reaping are never the same,
but your labor is not in vain.

Your labor is not unknown
 though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan.
 The place of your toil may not seem like a home
 but your labor is not unknown.

*For I am with you, I am with you.
 I am with you, I am with you
 For I have called you, called you by name,
 Your labor is not in vain.*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
 the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
 for all that is old will at last be made new:
 the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you labored to build
 will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
 The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
 and all that is broken be healed.

Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell (2017)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: May the peace of God,
 which transcends all understanding,
 guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$9,850	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$365,375	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - June 25)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$347,766	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$17,608]	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

