

WORSHIP GUIDE

Hope Chapel Greensboro

June 11, 2023



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.

Cannons

It's falling from the clouds, a strange and lovely sound,
 I hear it in the thunder and the rain.
 It's ringing in the skies, like cannons in the night,
 The music of the universe plays.

*We're singing, You are holy, great and mighty,
 The moon and the stars declare who You are!
 I'm so unworthy, but still You love me,
 Forever my heart will sing of how great You are!*

Beautiful and free, the song of galaxies,
 Reaching far beyond the Milky Way.
 Let's join in with the sound, come on let's sing it out,
 As the music of the universe plays.

All glory, honor, power is Yours, amen...

Phil Whickem (2008)

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: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

**All: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

Psalm 59:16-17

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

John Newton (1779), NEW BRITAIN (1829)

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.

Our Father in Heaven:

We confess that we are prodigals.

We have run away from you

In pursuit of pleasures that do not satisfy.

We have spurned your love

And wasted your gifts,

Only to find ourselves alone, empty, and unfulfilled.

Please bring us to the end of ourselves,

And help us return to you,

That we might live in joy and freedom

As your beloved sons and daughters, Through Jesus 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.*

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7

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.

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)

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).



Abide with Me

Abide with me; falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth did smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close, Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

Henry Lyte (1847) Justin Smith (2007)

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 22:1-29

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 “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness

for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

¹⁷ "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' ¹⁹ And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' ²¹ And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." ²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?" ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen." ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes." ²⁸ The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth." ²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

Sermon

"Witness to Jewish Crowd"

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 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: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Dying, You destroyed our death;
rising, You restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*** institution of the elements ***

Minister: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: Merciful God, pour out Your Holy Spirit
on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking
we may be made one with Christ and one another.

All: Amen.

Minister: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, now and forever.
As our Savior taught us, so we pray,

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. 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

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound),
I am bound for promised land.*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face and in His bosom rest?

Samuel Stennett (1787), Christopher Miner (1997)

Community Life

Blessing & Sending

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Financial Update

Given Last Week:	\$22,531	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$321,530	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - June 4)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$299,403	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$22,126]	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

