

# **WORSHIP GUIDE**

**Hope Chapel Greensboro**

**June 25, 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.*

### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
 O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
 Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who over all things so wondrously reigneth,  
 Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
 Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
 Granted in what He ordaineth?

*Praise the Lord!, praise the Lord, oh my soul,  
 Praise the Lord!, praise the Lord, oh my soul, praise the Lord!*

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
 Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
 If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
 Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
 Gladly for aye we adore Him.

## 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: Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.**

Psalm 29:1-2

### Steadfast

I will build my house, whether storm or drought,  
On the rock that does not move.  
I will set my hope in your love, O Lord  
And your faithfulness will prove You are steadfast, steadfast.

By the word you spoke, all the starry host  
Are called out by name each night.  
In your watchful care I will rest secure  
As you lead us with your light. You are steadfast, steadfast.

I will not trust in the strength of kings  
On your promise I will stand.  
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,  
"Hallelujah to the Lamb!" You are steadfast, steadfast.

In the moment of emptiness, all was fulfilled.  
In the hour of darkness, Your light was revealed.  
In the presence of death, Your life was affirmed.  
In the absence of holiness, You are still God.

*Sandra McCracken, Leslie Jordan, Josh Silverberg (2016)*

## 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.*

Lord God, forgive us.

Lost in ourselves, we dwell endlessly  
on yesterday's embarrassment, anger and grief

Lord God, forgive us.

Lost in our domain, it is hard to see  
beyond yesterday's fighting, suspicion and fear.

Lord God, forgive us.

Lost in our fantasy, it is tempting to live in yesterday's illusions.

Lord God, forgive us.

Fill us with the security found in Jesus Christ,  
that we might be lost in the wonder and sanity of your hope.  
Lord God, have mercy on us, according to your loving-kindness.

*\*\* 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.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

I John 2:1-2

## 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.*

### All You Do Is God

You are full of compassion and abounding in love,  
 You create things from nothing, call what's not though it was.  
 You are light with no shadow, with no shifting or change.  
 You turn weeping to dancing and despair into thanks.

*You are good and all you do is good.  
 You are good and all you do is good.  
 You are good and all you do is good, all you do is good,  
 All you do is good.*

You release every captive, cut the shackles from slaves,  
 Those who hate you, you ransom, Give you blood for their shame.  
 With the bent stem, you're tender, shield the smoldering flame,  
 You bring home the unwanted, call the lost back by name.

You lift up, you, you revive, you, you restore, you, you increase, you,  
 You anoint, you, you fill up, you, you spill out, you, you release, you,  
 You make grow, you, you bring forth, you, you call out, you, you set free  
 It's who you are, It's who you were, It's who you will always be.

Your life is eternal, not in measure but kind,  
 Running over with healing, inexhaustible might.  
 You in us, and we in you, the delight in your face.  
 Resting here we enjoy you, and our joy is your praise.

*Nathan Partain (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](http://hopechapelgreensboro.org/give), or give through Venmo to @HopeChapel (note: contributions made through Venmo are not receipted for tax purposes).



**Behold** Taylor Leonhardt (2020)

## 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 24

<sup>1</sup> Now after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought charges against Paul to the governor. <sup>2</sup> After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began accusing him, saying to the governor,

“Since we have attained great peace through you, and since reforms are being carried out for this nation by your foresight, <sup>3</sup> we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. <sup>4</sup> But, that I may not weary you further, I beg you to grant us a brief hearing, by your kindness. <sup>5</sup> For we have found this man a public menace and one who stirs up dissensions among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. <sup>6</sup> And he even tried to desecrate the temple, so indeed we arrested him. <sup>8</sup> By interrogating him yourself concerning all these matters, you will be able to ascertain the things of which we are accusing him.” <sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.

<sup>10</sup> And when the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded:

“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense, <sup>11</sup> since you can take note of the fact that no more than

twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.<sup>12</sup> And neither in the temple did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself.<sup>13</sup> Nor can they prove to you the things of which they now accuse me.<sup>14</sup> But I confess this to you, that in accordance with the Way, which they call a sect, I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and is written in the Prophets;<sup>15</sup> having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.<sup>16</sup> In view of this I also do my best to maintain a blameless conscience both before God and before other people, always.<sup>17</sup> Now after several years I came to bring charitable gifts to my nation and to present offerings,<sup>18</sup> in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd or uproar. But there were some Jews from Asia—<sup>19</sup> who ought to have been present before you and to have been bringing charges, if they should have anything against me.<sup>20</sup> Or else have these men themselves declare what violation they discovered when I stood before the Council,<sup>21</sup> other than in regard to this one declaration which I shouted while standing among them, ‘For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today!’”

<sup>22</sup> But Felix, having quite accurate knowledge about the Way, adjourned them, saying, “When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case.”<sup>23</sup> He gave orders to the centurion for Paul to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from providing for his needs.

<sup>24</sup> Now some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.<sup>25</sup> But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and responded, “Go away for now, and when I have an opportunity, I will summon you.”<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and talk with him. But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul imprisoned.

## Sermon

### “Witness to Felix”

*Jim Osborne is a practicing physician and founding member/elder of Hope Chapel. Since 2008, he has been a regular part of the teaching team at Hope.*

*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.

**Come**

Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 If you're weary, heavy laden Come to me  
 If you're burdened by a load of sin Come to me

I will come into Your presence Come to You  
 I will come into Your presence Come to You  
 I am weary, heavy laden So I'm coming to You  
 I am burdened by a load of sin So I'm running to You

Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 I will give peace, I will give rest Come to me  
 I will forgive all of your sin Come to me

Yes, I'll come – You are my light And my light and salvation  
 Yes I'll come – You are my hope And redemption  
 Merciful Father, beautiful Savior I'm coming to You  
 Life-giving Spirit, glorious Lord I'm coming to You

Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 Will you come into my presence Come to me  
 I will come into Your presence Come to You  
 I will come into Your presence Come to You

*Angie Schinke (2016)*

## Sending Song

### He Set Me Free

*He set me free, He set me free,  
My Jesus came and rescued me!  
He set me free, gave me eyes to see,  
No bonds and chains shackle me!*

Through life's trials, when you lose your way,  
Look to him for strength today;  
He'll do the same for you as He did for me,  
Lay down your burdens at his feet.

On a hill so long ago  
He paid a debt He did not owe,  
And with his blood He covered me,  
Took away my sins, He set me free!

*Thad Cockrell (2001)*

## 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:	\$15,260	Gifts can be placed in the offering
Required to date:	\$350,760	plate on Sundays or mailed to:
(Jan. 1 - June 18)		Hope Chapel
Given to date:	\$337,915	908 N. Josephine Boyd St
Over/[Under]	[\$12,844]	Greensboro, NC 27408

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

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